

# Memorandum

**REPORT TO:** Gallatin Valley MPO - Transportation Policy Coordinating Committee

**FROM:** Jeff Butts, MPO Manager

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Transportation Alternatives (TA) Grant Awards for the Improvement of Multimodal Facilities and Safe Routes to School Program within the Bozeman Urbanized Area

**MEETING DATE:** June 25, 2025

**AGENDA ITEM TYPE:** Grant

**RECOMMENDATION:** **Consider the motion:** *I move to approve Transportation Alternatives (TA) Grant Awards for the Improvement of Multimodal Facilities and Safe Routes to School Program within the Bozeman Urbanized Area.*

**STRATEGIC PLAN:** 4.5 Housing and Transportation Choices: Vigorously encourage, through a wide variety of actions, the development of sustainable and lasting housing options for underserved individuals and families and improve mobility options that accommodate all travel modes.

**BACKGROUND:** The TA Program is a federal initiative designed to support bicycle, pedestrian, ADA accessibility, and community enhancement projects. It is a competitive program divided into statewide and MPO-specific funding streams. MPO-specific funding is allocated to the Bozeman Urbanized Area. Jurisdictions within the Gallatin Valley Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) apply either directly to the statewide funding pool or, if located within the Bozeman Urbanized Area, to the Gallatin Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).  
The Gallatin Valley MPO is responsible for allocating \$1,399,044 in TA funding specifically for eligible projects within the Bozeman Urbanized Area.

**Project Applications**  
The MPO conducted a call for projects from January into April 2025, receiving three grant applications:

1. **Bozeman Safe Routes to School** : A collaborative effort between the City of Bozeman, Bozeman School District, and Western Transportation Institute (WTI), featuring 48 educational and encouragement activities at eight BSD7 elementary schools over two years. The total project cost is \$69,824.80, with a TA Federal Share of \$60,454.31 and a local match of \$9,370.49.
2. **ADA Upgrades and Pedestrian Crossing Safety Improvements** : This project encompasses 21 ADA ramp upgrades, seven ADA transit stop improvements, four pedestrian crossing enhancements, and the construction of two segments of missing sidewalks located throughout

the city of Bozeman. The total cost for this project is \$789,674, consisting of \$683,700 from the TA Federal Share and a local match of \$105,974.

3. **Flanders Mill Sidewalk Infill:** This project involves the design and construction of 2,520 linear feet of city-standard concrete sidewalk along the west side of Flanders Mill Road, from Baxter Lane to Oak Street. The project totals \$751,935, with the TA Federal Share providing \$651,025 and a local match contributing \$100,910.

Collectively, these applications utilize nearly all available funding, leaving an unused balance of \$3,773.69.

#### **Scoring and Recommendation**

The MPO established a scoring committee to review the grant applications. Committee members individually scored each application before convening virtually on April 18, 2025, to discuss and finalize scores. The committee awarded the following scores (out of a possible 300 points):

- **Bozeman Safe Routes to School** : 265 points
- **Pedestrian Crossing Safety Improvements**: 277 points
- **Flanders Mill Sidewalk Infill**: 280 points

All projects were determined to be eligible. A minor concern was raised regarding funding allocated for snacks within the Safe Routes to School initiative, though this did not impact overall eligibility and there is no action needed to address it at this phase. The Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) recommended approval of all three applications during their meeting on June 11, 2025.

The scoring committee recommends funding all three projects. The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) will be notified of the final funding decisions. Grant awards will be presented to the State Transportation Commission later this year before contracts are executed with the successful applicants. The complete grant applications are attached as a single document for reference. Staff will present additional details during the meeting.

**UNRESOLVED ISSUES:** None.

**ALTERNATIVES:** As suggested by the Committee.

**FISCAL EFFECTS:** The recommended grant awards total \$1,395,279.31 of the available \$1,399,044, leaving an unallocated balance of \$3,773.69.

Attachments:

[Complete TA Grant Applications.pdf](#)

Report compiled on: June 3, 2025