



**U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration**

**Alternative Transportation in the Parks and Public Lands Program
Project Proposal for Fiscal Year 2006 Funds – Planning Project**

BASIC PROJECT INFORMATION	
Project Title:	
Project Sponsor(s):	
Park or public land unit(s) involved:	City/County(ies) and State(s) involved (if applicable):
Federal Land Management Agency managing the above unit(s): <input type="checkbox"/> Bureau of Land Management <input type="checkbox"/> Bureau of Reclamation <input type="checkbox"/> Fish and Wildlife Service <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Service <input type="checkbox"/> National Park Service	Qualified Participant(s) involved: <input type="checkbox"/> Bureau of Land Management <input type="checkbox"/> Bureau of Reclamation <input type="checkbox"/> Fish and Wildlife Service <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Service <input type="checkbox"/> Local Government <input type="checkbox"/> National Park Service <input type="checkbox"/> State Government <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Government
General Type of Project: <input type="checkbox"/> Planning (Implementation projects, including equipment, please use the alternate form)	<input type="checkbox"/> New project <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing project
Dollar amount of assistance requested:	Percent of total project cost:
Provide a basic summary of what the requested financial assistance would fund (Use no more than 1000 characters):	

Attach the budget for the proposed planning project, including a detailed breakdown.

Describe the timeframe for implementing the project and funding needs per year.

CONTACT PERSON

Name:

Phone:

Position:

E-mail:

Address:

REQUIREMENTS

- If a State, tribal, or local government entity is proposing the project, the applicant has the consent of the Federal land management agency or agencies affected.
- The project is consistent with the metropolitan and statewide planning process.
- The project is consistent with agency plans.
- If this is a planning project, it will analyze all reasonable alternatives, including a non-construction option.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Please attach your responses to the evaluation criteria questions (attached). Your responses should total no more than 10 pages in at least ten point font.

Alternative Transportation in the Parks and Public Lands Planning Evaluation Criteria

Glossary of Terms

Alternative Transportation: Moving visitors by means of any mode of transportation other than that of the automobile.

Alternative Transportation System: Modes of transportation that include, buses, boats, canal boats, ferries, trains, multi-modal trails, trams, trolleys, vans and bicycles.

Carrying Capacity: The number of individuals who can be supported in a given area within natural resource limits, and without degrading the natural social, cultural and economic environment for present and future generations.

Deferred Maintenance: A backlog of infrastructure maintenance at an existing facility.

Federal Land Management Agency: An agency that manages Federal Lands and in this particular instance more specifically; the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service:

Life-cycle: The economic life-span of transportation infrastructure (e.g. purchase, maintenance, rehabilitation, retirement)

Rolling stock: Vehicles that are used to transport people.

Site: A park, refuge, or recreational area under the jurisdiction of a Federal Land Management Agency.

Transportation infrastructure: Roads, trails, buses, vessels, bikeways, park and ride lots, transit stations, transfer facilities, tracks, guideways, bridges, signal systems, and other elements that contribute to the transportation system.

Transportation System: An interconnected system of roads, ferry services, transit facilities, boats, pedestrian facilities, bike-ways, park and ride lots, and other infrastructure designed to move people from one destination to another.

Volume to Capacity Ratio: The ratio of the number of vehicles to the capacity of the roadway.

Planning Evaluation Factors:

1. Demonstration of Need

- a. **Describe the site's current and anticipated transportation problem or opportunity. Cite documentation in agency plans and other reports. Describe how the project is the most effective solution for meeting identified management goals and objectives for the site.**

In addition to a narrative, please provide as much quantitative information as possible, such as:

- vehicles per day
- current road level of service
- air quality attainment status
- congestion levels
- parking shortages
- current transit ridership and trails usage
- volume to capacity ratio – vehicles per hour at major roads
- motorized/non-motorized facility condition

Rating

Purpose and Need

3 points: The transportation need and problem has been clearly and concisely identified and documented in agency management plans or other reports. Goals, objectives, and performance measures related to the project are clearly stated. Significant improvements are needed to maintain and improve public use opportunities and visitor experiences.

- 2 points: Transportation need or problem has been identified in agency management plans or other reports. Goals, objectives, and performance measures related to the project are stated. Limited opportunity to maintain or improve either public use opportunities or visitor experiences.
- 1 point: Only anecdotal or informal evidence available. Goals and objectives are not articulated. Possible opportunity to maintain either public use opportunities or visitor experience.
- 0 points: No information presented on the purpose and need for the project. No apparent impacts identified related to public use visitor experience.

Severity of the Problem

- 3 points: Very poor level of service (applicable to roads, parking, trails, transportation facilities, transit facilities), high volume to capacity ratio, parking shortage, high current transit ridership, air quality non-attainment area. The current trails/pedestrian infrastructure lacks connectivity, the high levels of road traffic negatively impact pedestrian and bicycle users.
- 2 points: Poor level of service (applicable to roads, parking, trails, transportation facilities, transit facilities), parking shortages, air quality non-attainment area, peak period congestion, no existing transit riders. The poor quality of the trails/pedestrian infrastructure limits or discourages public use.
- 1 point: Periodic congestion. Limited quantitative information on travel conditions, parking demand, or other measures of transportation capacity problems. People have difficulty finding the trails/pedestrian infrastructure.
- 0 points: No information presented on the severity of the problem.

b. What natural, cultural, historic, or scenic resources are impacted by the current transportation situation?

Rating

- 3 points: Significant impact on natural, cultural, historical, and scenic resources.
- 2 points: Moderate impact on natural, cultural, historical, or scenic, resources.
- 1 point: Limited impact on natural, cultural, historical, or scenic, resources.
- 0 points: No impact on natural, cultural, historical, or scenic, resources.

c. Indicate how many people visit this public land unit each year. Please include information on seasonal or cyclical visitation that is relevant to the proposed project.

Rating

- 3 points: High visitation level
- 2 points: Moderate visitation level
- 1 point: Low visitation level
- 0 points: No information provided

2. Protection of Resources

- a. How will this planning study proposal assess the protection and/or improvement of cultural, historical, scenic, and natural resources? Describe the loss of resources that has occurred or could occur due to the current transportation system and any documentation that quantifies this adverse effect and recommends mitigation. Describe how this planning study proposal assess environmental benefits (habitat connectivity, reduces pollution including noise pollution, air pollution, and visual pollution).**

Rating

- 3 points: The planning study proposal will address in a thorough manner the adverse impacts of the current transportation system on multiple types of resources and recommend mitigation.
- 2 points: This planning study proposal will address the adverse impacts of the current transportation system on one type of resources and recommend mitigation.
- 1 point: The planning study proposal contains limited documentation regarding the assessment of impacts to resources.
- 0 points: The planning study proposal does not have information pertaining to protection of resources.

b. Are there existing studies that document the adverse impact of the current transportation system on multiple types of resources (natural, cultural, historic, and scenic) and do those studies recommend mitigation?

Rating

- 3 points: There are existing studies that document the adverse impact of the current transportation system on multiple types of resources (natural, cultural, historic, and scenic) and studies recommend mitigation.
- 2 points: There are existing studies that document the adverse impact of the current transportation system on at least one type of resource without recommendations for mitigation.
- 1 point: Only anecdotal or informal evidence of adverse impacts is available.
- 0 points: The proposal does not have information pertaining to protection of resources.

c. Describe how this planning study proposal will assess an area's ability to handle increased levels of visitation or "carrying capacity".

In addition to a narrative, please provide as much quantitative information as possible, such as:

- How many visitors can the site currently accommodate with existing transportation system?
- What percent of that capacity is the site operating at during peak periods?

Rating

- 3 points: The planning study proposal addresses carrying capacity issues and has a methodology for assessing carrying capacity.
- 2 points: The planning study proposal considers carrying capacity issues and sites future concerns with carrying capacity.
- 1 point: There planning study proposal contains limited information regarding carrying capacity or it is not identified as an issues.
- 0 points: No information is provided regarding carrying capacity.

3. Financial Sustainability and Operational Efficiency

a. Explain how this planning study proposal will analyze all possible alternatives and if it will provide cost estimates and benefit estimates (such as resource impacts mitigated and congestion level reduced) for each alternative, including a non construction alternative, before deciding to recommend construction of an alternative transportation system. Explain how the planning analysis will demonstrate that any proposed implementation of an alternative transportation system is the most cost effective way to meet the site's transportation need.

Rating

- 3 points: The planning study proposal will analyze all possible alternatives, provide cost estimates and benefit estimates for each alternative, including a non construction alternative, and explain how the planning analysis will demonstrate that any

proposed implementation of an alternative transportation system is the most cost effective way to meet the site's transportation need.

- 2 points: The planning study proposal is less comprehensive in analyzing all possible alternatives, provide cost estimates and benefit estimates for each alternative, including a non construction alternative, and explain how the planning analysis will demonstrate that any proposed implementation of an alternative transportation system is the most cost effective way to meet the site's transportation need.
- 1 point: The planning study proposal is vague on analyzing all possible alternatives, provide cost estimates and benefit estimates for each alternative, including a non construction alternative, and explain how the planning analysis will demonstrate that any proposed implementation of an alternative transportation system is the most cost effective way to meet the site's transportation need.
- 0 points: No information is provided regarding the assessment of alternatives.

- b. Explain how the planning study proposal considers financial planning for this proposal (economic analysis, operational funding, and maintenance funding, funding of replacement equipment and operating revenues such as transportation fees), Describe any innovative financing or joint development support of this proposal. How will planning project impact site's deferred maintenance backlog.**

Rating

- 3 points: The planning study proposal comprehensively addresses financial planning (economic analysis, operational funding, and maintenance funding, funding of replacement equipment and operating revenues such as transportation fees), describe innovative financing or joint development support and will describe impact on site's deferred maintenance backlog.
- 2 points: The planning study proposal is less comprehensive in addressing financial planning (economic analysis, operational funding, and maintenance funding, funding of replacement equipment and operating revenues such as transportation fees), describe innovative financing or joint development support and will describe impact on site's deferred maintenance backlog.
- 1 point: The planning study proposal is vague in addressing financial planning (economic analysis, operational funding, and maintenance funding, funding of replacement equipment and operating revenues such as transportation fees), describe innovative financing or joint development support and will describe impact on site's deferred maintenance backlog.
- 0 points: No information is provided regarding the financial plan.

4. Public Benefits

- a. Describe any current transportation mobility issues (reduces congestion, intermodal connectivity, improves public access, including access for those with disabilities) and how will the methodology measure the extent of this problem and the ability of potential alternatives to mitigate or solve the problem. Are methods in which visitor experience can be improved are proposed to be assessed in the planning study proposal?**

Rating

- 3 points: Severe mobility problem impeding public access
- 2 points: Limited duration mobility problem impeding public access
- 1 point: Moderate existing mobility problem, but projected future problems
- 0 points: No documentation of transportation mobility issues.

- b. Describe any current transportation safety issues and how the planning study proposal will assess the extent of this problem and the ability of potential alternatives to mitigate or solve the problem.**

Rating

3 points: Documented safety issues and accident rates impacting the public.

2 points: Limited documentation of current safety issues.

1 point: No current safety issues, but future safety problems are anticipated.

0 points: No documentation of safety issues.

- c. Describe how this planning study proposal will assess energy efficiency aspects of transportation including non-motorized transportation.**

Rating

3 points: The planning approach addresses energy efficiency for several alternatives.

2 points: The planning approach addresses energy efficiency for a build alternative compared to a no-build.

1 point: The planning approach only considers energy efficiency for a build alternative.

0 points: Energy efficiency not addressed.

- d. Describe the coordination and partnering activities with federal, state, tribal and local government agencies, and gateway communities. If applicable, describe any economic, mobility, or other benefits to the gateway community.**

Rating

3 points: A signed memorandum of agreement, council resolution, or other mutual agreement between the site and adjacent communities/entities.

2 points: Documentation showing consensus and support for the project.

1 point: Limited documentation showing support for the project by other entities.

0 points: No documentation is provided showing support for the project.

- e. Planning efforts include partnership moneys or will leverage funding for planning, design development, or implementation of a project.**

Rating

3 Points: Documentation of project funding commitments from non-governmental sources.

2 Points: Documentation of local funding from other agencies planned or programmed for planning, design, development, etc.

1 Point: Limited documentation of funding availability.

0 points: No documentation is provided showing funding availability.

**Alternative Transportation Planning in the Parks and Public Lands
Planning Evaluation Criteria**

	Measure	Points	Weight
Demonstration of Need	Purpose and Need	(0-3)	50%
	Severity of the Problem	(0-3)	
	Natural Resources Impacted	(0-3)	
	Visitation Level	(0-3)	
Protection of Resources	Levels of Resources Impacted	(0-3)	15%
	Studies and Documentation	(0-3)	
	Carrying Capacity	(0-3)	
Financial Sustainability and Operational Efficiency	Alternatives Evaluation Approach	(0-3)	20%
	Financial Planning Approach	(0-3)	
Public Benefits	Transportation Mobility Issues	(0-3)	15%
	Safety Issues	(0-3)	
	Energy Efficiency	(0-3)	
	Coordination/Partnering	(0-3)	
	Funding Leverage	(0-3)	