



RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM (RTP)

Introduction and Application Process

FFY 2016 & 2017

Santa Fe MPO TCC; 10/27/14, 2014

Santa Fe MPO, Market Station

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What is the RTP?

The Recreational Trails Program is a Federal reimbursement program that provides funding to eligible entities within New Mexico to ***develop and maintain recreational trails*** and related facilities for both ***non-motorized*** and ***motorized*** uses.



Eligible Entities

- Local governments
- Tribal governments
- Transit agencies
- School districts
- State/Federal natural resource and public land agencies
- NMDOT, MPOs, & RTPOs
- Non-profits if partnered with an eligible entity as the project sponsor

See p. 7 of RTP Guide

Eligible Projects & Activities

- Maintenance & restoration of existing trails
- Development & maintenance of trail-side & trailhead facilities
- Construction of new trails
- Planning, design & certs (NMDOT reserves right to not fund this for State/Federal land agencies)
- Purchase and lease of equipment
- Educational programs

See p. 8 of RTP Guide for more information



FFY16/17 Program Summary

- Reimbursement program; sponsoring entities must be able to pay all costs up front
- Requires a local match of 14.56% of total project cost
- Statewide competitive process for approximately \$1.4 million annually
- With unspent funds remaining from previous years, the total for this application cycle is approximately \$5.2 million*
- Selected projects will be funded under two separate agreements as follows
 - FFY 2016: Design and Certifications**
 - FFY 2017: Construction

*Total amount awarded in this application cycle is at the discretion of NMDOT

**See page 6 of the RTP guide for exceptions



Application Process

- Project Feasibility Form (PFF) Process
 - RTPOs are required to follow this for all NMDOT/federal-aid funds
 - RTP applicants should work with RTPO and NMDOT staff before applying to discuss feasibility, funding levels, phasing, and more.
- If feasible, sponsoring agency can apply for RTP funds
- Application includes:
 - Project Identification Form (PIF)
 - RTP Application
 - Resolution of Sponsorship (indicating match, maintenance, budget)
 - Letter(s) of Support (if needed)
 - Basic map of project location

MPOs may use the PFF process or their own internal process



Requirements of Project Sponsor

- Indicated via Resolution (or State/Federal land agency letter):
 - Agree to local match (14.56% of total project cost)
 - Agree to pay for costs up front (the RTP is a reimbursement program)
 - Agree to pay for any costs exceeding award amount
 - Agree to project maintenance
- Sponsor very strongly encouraged to attend NMDOT's T/LPA project process training ("*Cradle to Grave*")
- Sponsoring agency will enter into a Cooperative Project Agreement with NMDOT
 - Work completed before execution of agreement is not reimbursable
- Compliance with Federal and State regulations:
 - ADA compliance and trail design standards (see pages 10-11 and page 34 of RTP Guide)—**Additional ADA information on next slide**
 - Environmental, ROW, ITS, utility, and railroad clearances required
 - Sponsoring agency will work with NMDOT Design Center and District

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Requirements



- Projects located on US Forest Service (USFS) lands must comply with the [Forest Service Trails Accessibility Guidelines \(FSTAG\)](#) and [Accessibility Guidebook on Outdoor Recreation and Trails](#).
- Projects located on State or Federal natural resource or public land agency (other than USFS) lands and Tribal/Local Public Agency projects that are **NOT** located within or connected to a Federal-aid highway right-of-way must comply with the Access Board's [Final Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas](#), published on September 26, 2013, under the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) of 1968.
- Urban trails located within or connected to a Federal-aid highway right of way are required to meet standard ADA requirements as outlined in NMDOT design guidelines (NMDOT Design Centers provide this information and standard drawings are available at www.dot.state.nm.us/en/Standards.html).



RTP Timeline (FFY16/17)

- Sept. & Oct. 2014: MPOs/RTPOs issue calls for project
- Nov. 2014: PFFs due to RTPO planners
- Nov. & Dec. 2014: RTPO planner schedules PFF meetings
- Feb. 1, 2015: MPO/RTPO or State/Federal agency submits complete RTP applications to NMDOT RTP Coordinator
- March 2015: Recreational Trails Advisory Board (RTAB) rates, ranks, and recommends projects for funding; see RTP Guide for scoring criteria
- April 2015: RTP award letters sent; projects added to TIP/RTIP
- April/May 2015: Orientation webinar for award recipients
- Aug. 2015: STIP approved by FHWA
- March 15, 2016: FFY16 construction funds must be obligated
- March 15, 2017: FFY17 construction funds must be obligated



Contacts for Questions

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 - Contact Keith for application questions
- Aaron J. Detter
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 - Contact Aaron for general RTP questions



RTP-funded trail at Hyde Memorial State Park