



Santa Fe Metropolitan Planning Organization

"Promoting Interconnected Transportation Options"



STAFF MEMORANDUM

Date: October 22, 2014
From: Keith Wilson, MPO Senior Planner
To: All Eligible Lead Agencies (including Municipality, County, Tribal Governments and School Districts)
Re: **FFY2016 and FFY2017 Recreational Trails Program – Call for Projects**

The Santa Fe MPO is soliciting applications for projects to be considered for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2016 and 2017 Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Funding within the MPO Planning Area (See the Planning Area Map on the Website). All project applications that are located within the MPO Planning Area must be submitted to the Santa Fe MPO. All supporting documents and forms for this process are available for download from the MPO Website at: <http://santafemppo.org/documents/tip/recreational-trails-program/>

The New Mexico (NM) Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is a federal reimbursement program funded through the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) enacted July 1, 2012, as codified in 23 U.S.C. 206.

The RTP provides funding authority to the states to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreational trail uses. Examples of trail uses include hiking, bicycling, in-line skating, equestrian use, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, off-road motorcycling, all-terrain vehicle riding, four-wheel driving, or using other off-road motorized vehicles.

The goals of the NM RTP are to:

1. Improve the health and quality of life for New Mexicans by increasing trail-related recreational opportunities within and around communities.
2. Provide funding through a transparent, accessible program to communities and government agencies for the development of recreational trails and related educational programs for a variety of users.
3. Fund projects that result in "on-the-ground" benefits to users.
4. Meet the federal requirements regarding expenditure of 30% of funds on non-motorized trails, 30% on motorized trails and 40% on diversified trails.

In New Mexico, the estimated set aside of RTP funds on an annual basis is \$1,429,831. In addition, there are currently unspent funds remaining from previous years. Thus the total amount available in this application cycle for FFY2016 and FFY2017 is approximately **\$5.2 million**, although the total amount awarded in this application cycle is at the discretion of the NMDOT.

PLEASE NOTE NEW PROCESS: All Agencies are required to complete and submit electronically a Project Feasibility Form (PFF) to the Santa Fe MPO prior to submitting a RTP Application. Following receipt of the PFF the MPO will set up a meeting with the Agency and NMDOT representatives to determine the project eligibility and feasibility to meet the funding deadlines. If the project meets these criteria, then the Agency may submit a RTP Application Package to the MPO. The Deadline to submit a PFF electronically to Keith Wilson

at kpwilson@santafenm.gov is **Friday November 21st, 2014 at 5:00PM** (PFF's can be submitted at any time before this deadline).

Project Applications **must** follow the New Mexico Recreational Trails Program Guide and include a Project Identification Form (PIF), RTP Application, Resolution of Sponsorship, Letter(s) of support regarding right(s) of way (if needed) and a basic map of the project location. The deadline to submit RTP Project Applications is **Friday January 23rd, 2015 at 5:00PM** with applications submitted electronically to Keith Wilson at kpwilson@santafenm.gov. This will allow MPO Staff to review applications and request additional information if needed before submitting the Applications to NMDOT by February 1st, 2015

MPO Staff is available to meet or assist with the completion of the PFF and Project Applications (See staff contact information at end of memo).

Application Schedule Summary

Monday October 20, 2014 – Release of Call for Projects

Friday November 21st, 2014 – Deadline to Submit Project Feasibility Form Electronically to the Santa Fe MPO at kpwilson@santafenm.gov (5:00PM)

Friday January 23rd, 2015 – Deadline for Agencies to Submit RTP Project Application Electronically to the Santa Fe MPO at kpwilson@santafenm.gov (5:00PM)

Friday January 30th, 2015 – Deadline for the Santa Fe MPO to Submit RTP Project Applications to the NMDOT RTP Coordinator (5:00PM)

Documents to Download from <http://santafemmo.org/documents/tip/recreational-trails-program/>

- Santa Fe MPO Planning Area Map
- NMDOT Recreational Trails Project Selection Guide
- RTP Project Feasibility Form (PFF)
- RTP Application Form
- NMDOT Project Identification Form (PIF)
- RTP Sample Resolution of Sponsorship

MPO Staff Contact

Keith Wilson

MPO Senior Planner

kpwilson@santafenm.gov or 505-955-6706