

## **FEDERAL CATEGORIES**

### **1. Provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles**

Activities in this category must be principally for transportation rather than recreation. Successful projects are those that connect people to places in their communities, i.e. construct walking and biking trails to link communities, shopping, schools, businesses, and parks. Amenities that enhance these facilities such as lighting, landscaping or street furnishings are also eligible activities.

All bicycle facility projects must be designed and constructed to meet the criteria outlined in the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials' (AASHTO) *Guide for Development of Bicycle Facilities*. All pedestrian facilities must comply with AASHTO's *A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets*. For example, a shared use path must have a minimum width of 10' (14' overall clearance) and sidewalks must have a minimum width of 5'. All pathways must provide logical beginning and end points or connections that can serve as transportation independently or as part of a system.

*Refer to Rule §11.208 Project Nomination (17) and (18) for additional documentation requirements for projects in this category.*

### **2. Provision of safety and education activities for pedestrians and bicyclists**

Activities in this category include all types of programs and materials that promote increased safety of non-motorized cyclists and pedestrians.

Eligible activities may include but are not limited to:

- ☑ Producing brochures and other promotional material,
- ☑ Training and development,
- ☑ Instruction in schools, institutions and groups to promote bicycle and pedestrian safety is also eligible.
- ☑ Programs must be consistent with local ordinances on bicycle and pedestrian travel.

### **3. Acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites**

Activities in this category may include the purchase or donation of real property that possesses significant aesthetic, historic, natural, or scenic value. Acquisition of the real property should enhance the transportation user's experience of the surface transportation system and contribute to the system. Planning, transaction fees for surveys, appraisals, relocation costs, legal costs, and purchase costs are also reimbursable. Funds can cover the acquisition of real property listed in or eligible for listing in the *National Register of Historic Places*.

**A current certification by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) of the Texas Historical Commission (THC) must accompany the nomination in order for historic properties to be considered for the transportation enhancement program.**

*Refer to Rule §11.208 Project Nomination (15) for additional documentation requirements for projects in this category.*

### **4. Scenic or historic highway programs including providing tourist and welcome center facilities**

Activities in this category include projects that protect and enhance the natural scenic aspects and the historic, cultural or archaeological aspects of scenic or historic highways. Projects do not have to be included in a federal scenic or historic highway program, but must relate to recognized or established scenic or historic sites. Facilities may consist of new construction or rehabilitation in adaptive reuse. Projects that incorporate tourist and welcome centers should

be operational during the periods that visitors would normally utilize those facilities. The hours of operation must be included on the nomination form.

### **5. Landscaping and other scenic beautification**

Activities in this category include landscape construction activities that enhance aesthetic or ecological resources along highways and other transportation corridors. The landscape design may include elements for specialized paving surfaces, walls or retaining walls for erosion control. Landscaping may also include street furnishings such as benches, tables, trash receptacles, and pedestrian lighting. Undertakings such as statues, murals, gateway signs, flags, and monuments are not eligible.

### **6. Historic preservation**

Activities in this category include all aspects of historic preservation that have a significant relationship to transportation, such as identification, evaluation, documentation, acquisition, protection, management, rehabilitation, restoration, and stabilization of historic properties. Historic properties are sites, structures, objects, landscapes, or districts included in or eligible for inclusion in, the *National Register of Historic Places*.

The following activities are not considered eligible:

- Acquisition of historic artifact collections and exhibits,
- Activities required to eliminate or mitigate the effect of a transportation project on any historic real property,
- Reconstruction or construction of replicas, or
- Preservation projects arising from the deferment of maintenance.

In order for the total cost of exterior restoration to be considered eligible, the entire interior must have a current or historic relationship to the surface transportation system. Projects proposing restoration of historic buildings must include existing and proposed floor plans showing the function of each room on each floor. Funding of exterior restoration will be based on the percentage of the interior space being utilized for transportation related activities. For example, if 75 % of the interior of a building will be used as a transportation museum, then funding for the exterior restoration will be limited to 75 %.

### **7. Rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, structures, or facilities including historic railroad facilities and canals**

Activities in this category include historic transportation buildings and other structures and facilities related to the operation, use, construction or maintenance of any mode of surface transportation. The types of historic structures and facilities eligible under this category include, but are not restricted to, tunnels, bridges, trestles, canals, viaducts, stations, rails, non-operational vehicles, and other transportation features related to the operation, passenger and freight use, construction, preservation or maintenance of any mode of surface transportation (exclusive of aviation).

Rehabilitation defines the process of returning the property to a condition that allows a contemporary use while preserving the significant historic features. Subsequent conversion costs for non-transportation related activities or tenant improvements are not eligible.

Eligible activities may include interior and exterior restoration to the original state and adaptive reuse for transportation purposes. Interior restorations of historic transportation

structures serve a function of interpreting transportation history. **Adaptive reuse is allowable provided the real property will benefit the general user of the surface transportation system and not simply individuals having a specific business in the facility.**

Projects proposing to restore historic brick street must include glazing factor results from a current engineering study in their nomination package. The uncovering of, or new installation of clay brick is not allowed on United States (U.S.) or State highways.

### **8. Preservation of abandoned railway corridors, including conversion and use for pedestrian and bicycle trails**

Eligible railway corridors include only those that have been authorized for abandonment, have abandonment proceedings pending before the Surface Transportation Board (STB), or are purchased from or donated by the legal owner of the property. Property that has been approved for or has applied for rail-banking status will not be considered for funding.

Preservation of an abandoned rail corridor must lead to the development of a pedestrian or bicycle facility, or greenbelt and is not intended to solely preserve the rail corridor for future use. Trails must be designed and constructed in accordance with AASHTO's *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*, *A Policy Guide for Geometric Design of Highways and Streets* and ADA requirements.

It is advisable to have an environmental analysis of the property done prior to considering a project of this nature for nomination. Rail corridor environmental mitigation costs can be significant and are not allowable reimbursement costs under the program.

### **9. Control and removal of outdoor advertising**

Activities in this category include the control and removal of abandoned or nonconforming signs, billboards, displays, and devices. This is in addition to exercising effective control of outdoor advertising through the removal of illegal signs. This category may include compilation of an inventory of nonconforming outdoor advertising displays. Removal of billboards that conform to local, state, and federal requirements and controls are not eligible.

Non-conforming signs may be acquired for removal with federal funds if:

- The sign does not qualify for removal under another program,
  - The sign is not within state right-of-way, and
  - Approval has been given from the current property and sign owner where the sign is located.
- Effective controls must be considered in order to prohibit new signs from being erected.

### **10. Archeological planning and research**

Activities in this category include archaeological planning and research on sites related to transportation. It also includes experimental projects for archaeological site preservation, interpretation, and improvement of methods of identification, evaluation, and treatment of archaeological sites. Eligible activities include problem-oriented analyses and syntheses using data derived from (though not limited to) transportation-related archaeological projects, the development of national and regional research designs to guide future surveys, data recovery, and synthetic research. Nominations must have the approval of the SHPO (directed through THC). All work must be done in compliance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation*, or *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation Projects*, or the *National Register Bulletin Number 36: Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Historical Archeological Sites* and must be managed under the direction of qualified professionals who are educated and experienced in archaeology.

Project sites must be associated with transportation facilities. The project must produce a useable product (such as a report, database, or site identification system).

### **11. Environmental mitigation**

**Activities in this category may include:**

#### **a) Environmental mitigation to address water pollution due to highway runoff**

Activities in this category include programs designed to minimize pollution associated with storm-water runoff from transportation facilities. Eligible mitigation projects include those that incorporate aesthetic and ecological considerations and promote recharge.

#### **b) Environmental mitigation to reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality while maintaining habitat connectivity**

Mitigation can consist of, but is not limited to, constructing fences, constructing wildlife tunnels or bridges, and planting native vegetation as sight buffers or grazing deterrents.

*Refer to Rule §11.208 Project Nomination (16) for additional documentation requirements for projects in this category.*

### **12. Establishment of transportation museums**

Activities in this category may include new construction or rehabilitation and reuse of historic or non-historic structures to house transportation exhibits such as trains or automobiles that were instrumental in the development of the surface transportation system. Museums may incorporate an aviation element provided that other surface transportation modes are included. Acquisition of historic artifact collections and exhibits are not eligible under the state program.

A Project must produce a useable facility that is open to the public, meets accessibility requirements, and returns all profits derived from the facility back to the operation and maintenance of the facility. Items eligible for reimbursement are fixed assets only.

*Please see the FHWA website for specific federal requirements regarding transportation museums.*