



Nebraska ♦ Department ♦ of ♦ Roads

# Transportation Enhancement Program

## What is Enhancement?

The Nebraska Department of Roads Transportation Enhancement Program provides funding to local, regional and state government entities to construct and restore transportation facilities that are not eligible for funding through other programs. Examples of projects that would be eligible include pedestrian/bicycle trails, development of scenic byways, restoration of historic transportation facilities, and other projects directly related to the historic, current, or future transportation infrastructure. The funding maximum per project is \$500,000.00.

## What types of projects are eligible for enhancement funds?

Projects must fall into one or more of the following activities related to surface transportation:

- facilities for pedestrians and bicycles
- safety and educational activities for pedestrians and bicyclists
- acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites
- scenic or historic highway programs (including tourist and welcome center facilities)
- landscaping and other scenic beautification
- historic preservation
- rehabilitation of historic transportation buildings, structures, or facilities (including historic railroad facilities)
- preservation of abandoned railway corridors (including conversion and use as pedestrian/bicycle trails)
- archeological planning and research
- environmental mitigation to address water pollution due to highway runoff or reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality while maintaining habitat connectivity
- establishment of transportation museums

The Nebraska Transportation Enhancement Program reserves the right to prioritize categories for funding.

## Who may apply for enhancement funds?

Most state and local governmental agencies or political subdivisions within the State of Nebraska are eligible to apply. This includes local units of government (villages, cities & counties), natural resource districts, Nebraska state agencies, the University of Nebraska, and tribal governments. Certain other governmental entities may also be eligible to apply. Please contact the NDOR Transportation Enhancement Administrator at (402) 479-4881 for clarification.

We recognize that many fine private nonprofit and civic organizations will have a strong interest and support for use of these funds. Therefore, we encourage interested advocacy groups to work with appropriate local, regional and state governmental units (including the NDOR's eight district offices) to develop project applications. However, funds can only be awarded to a government entity that must assume responsibility for ownership and maintenance.

Proof must be provided that your project will meet at least three initial criteria to qualify for enhancement funding:

- The project must fit within the eligibility activities;
- The applicant must provide at least a 20% non-federal cash match of total project costs;
- The government entity must commit to provide future maintenance of the project.

## Select Committee

A 12-person enhancement selection committee has been in place since 1994. This committee prioritizes projects and sets program policies. Project recommendations are then given to the Director of the Department of Roads for approval. This committee is made up of members of federal, state and local government agencies as well as citizen representatives with expertise in different enhancement categories.

## Application Process

The application process is intended to establish communication between the Department of Roads and applicants. Therefore, we have established the following process:

**Step 1:** Complete Intent-to-Apply Form. Please provide a description of the proposed project including such information as (if appropriate): length, width, surface type, and beginning and ending points for trail projects; the historic or current transportation function and proposed scope of work for historic restoration projects; and location and purpose of proposed landscaping projects. Also, include information on what program eligibility requirements the project will fulfill and the source and current status of matching funds in the space provided.

*Additional forms may be downloaded from [www.dor.state.ne.us/trans-enhance/](http://www.dor.state.ne.us/trans-enhance/)*

Send completed form to: R. James Pearson  
Transportation Enhancement Administrator  
Nebraska Department of Roads  
PO Box 94759  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

**Step 2:** If your project meets requirements for eligibility, the applicant will be asked to continue by filling out a full application form. An application packet with instruction booklet will be mailed to the contact person on the Intent-to-Apply Form. NDOR or their representative will conduct site visits to the proposed project location.

**Step 3:** Select Committee meets to review project applications and make funding recommendations to the Director of the Department of Roads.

**Step 4:** Notification by the Department of Roads on the funding status of your project.