



## Taking it Off the Streets Transportation Dollars for Trails



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My name is Ann Mahaney. I'm a Transportation Planner at Caltrans in the Division of Local Assistance.

Local Assistance distributes Federal and state funds go to cities and counties for transportation projects.

I coordinate the State Bicycle Transportation Account.

I'll describe how the BTA works and as an example of how an agency might see their trail project compete with other transportation projects for available funds.

Many transportation funding programs have similar expectations for applicant projects ... that they provide transportation over recreation – the agency must see their project through the eyes of a fund evaluator.



## Bicycle Transportation Account



Photo Courtesy of Bikes Belong

The Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA) provides state funds for projects that improve safety and convenience for bicycle commuters.

The Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA) is one source of state funding specifically for bicycle transportation projects.

Projects must improve safety and convenience for bicycle commuters.

The BTA is a program that was established in the 1970s in the Streets and Highways Code. It is one of the many funds administered by The California Department of Transportation.

List of criteria for eligibility. Could apply to many other funding programs for trail funding.

A broad range of projects could fit this description.



## Eligible Applicants for the BTA

- ✓ Cities and counties
- ✓ A city or county may apply for funds on behalf of another local agency



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Cities and counties are eligible to apply for BTA funds.

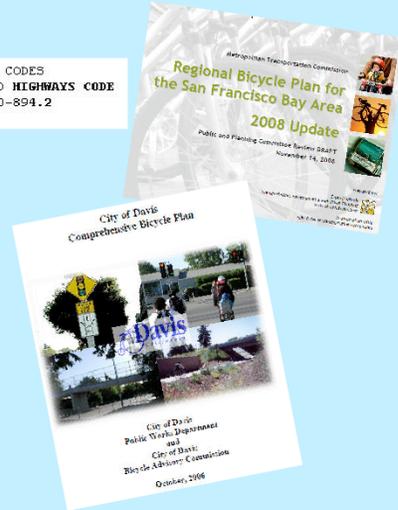
A city or county may apply for funds on behalf of another local agency that is not a city or county.



## Program Eligibility

- ✓ Agency prepares and adopts a Bicycle Transportation Plan
- ✓ Compliance with Streets and Highways Code Section 891.2
- ✓ Approval by Regional Transportation Planning Agency

CALIFORNIA CODES  
STREETS AND HIGHWAYS CODE  
SECTION 890-894.2



To be eligible for BTA funds, a city or county must prepare and adopt a Bicycle Transportation Plan (BTP) that complies with Streets and Highways Code Section 891.2, and has been approved by the local agency's regional transportation planning agency.

Projects eligible for BTA funding must be listed in the adopted plan.

If a trail project is in an adopted transportation plan - either a local or regional agency's, the likelihood of funding from any fund source increases.



## Funding Criteria



- ✓ Local Agencies must provide a minimum 10 percent match - based on the total project cost.
- ✓ BTA may be used with federal and other state funds.

Most fund sources require that the sponsoring or implementing agency provide some of the funding.

Many projects include a mix of multiple funds.



## Funding Considerations

- ✓ The BTA provides \$7.2 per year
- ✓ No applicant shall receive more than \$1.8M



**The Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA) provides \$7.2 million in state funds for projects that improve safety and convenience for bicycle commuters.**

Most fund types have annual limits or allocations.

Some funds must be approved by the California Transportation Commission.





## Tips

- ✓ Designed with current standards or best practices
- ✓ Well thought-out plan for construction phases

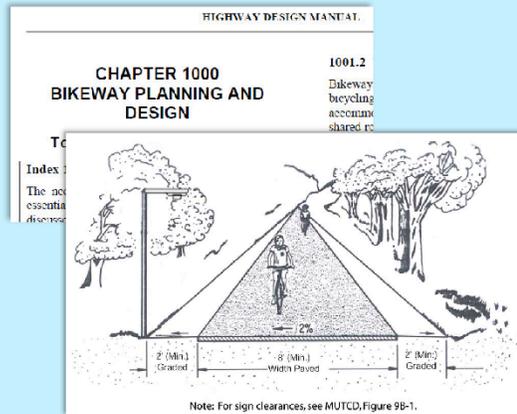
Estimated 6.3 million dollars is needed to complete construction of the Regional Parks  
recent phases of the Bodega Bay Pedestrian and Bicycle Trail (BBT) Project including the  
Creek Bridge Trail (completed in 2008), proposed Coastal Prairie Trail Segments 1B & 1C,  
Coastal Trail-Segments 3D-2, 5B & 6B and North Harbor Coastal Trail-Segments 2B & 3D-1.  
Following is a summary of funding received and currently available to Regional Parks for these



## Bicycle Transportation Project Standards

- ✓ All bikeway projects shall be designed and constructed in accordance with applicable standards.

**California  
Manual on Uniform  
Traffic Control Devices**  
for Streets and Highways  
FHWA's MUTCD 2003 Edition,  
as amended for use in California



All bikeway projects must be constructed in accordance with the minimum design standards in the Highway Design Manual, Chapter 1000.

Any traffic control devices must follow the current California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

These two documents are currently being updated. There are many changes and additions throughout for Complete Streets and new applications for bicycle and pedestrian safety.

BTA projects must be in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) by the BTA application submittal date.



# Federal Guidance

Address <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/biksped/fhwa-guid.htm>

U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration

Environment

**FHWA Guidance - (Updated October 22, 2008)  
Bicycle and Pedestrian Provisions of Federal Transportation Legislation**

This page was revised on October 22, 2000 to:

1. Replace references to TEA-21 and SAFETEA-LU that are codified into Federal surface transportation law.
2. To make technical corrections and clarifications.
3. To include references and links to other policies or guidelines and to new links.

On this page:

1. [Introduction](#)
2. [Policy: Mainstreaming Nonmotorized Transportation](#)
3. [Inherently Safe Projects](#)
4. [General Funding Requirements](#)
5. [Summary of Eligibility Issues](#)
6. [Summary of Matching Funds Requirements](#)
7. [Planning](#)
8. [Streamlining Procedures](#)
9. [Project Selection](#)
10. [Design Guidance](#)
11. [Conclusion](#)
12. [Appendix One - Title 23 U.S.C. § 217](#)
13. [Appendix Two - Funding Sources](#)
14. [Appendix Three - Planning Guidance](#)

Some helpful resources. Sometimes a gap between policy development and implementation.

These information sources can be referenced.



# General Funding Requirements

Fig. 1 Bicycle/Pedestrian Funding Opportunities

	NHS	STP	HS/P	SRTS	TEA	CMAQ	RTP	EIA	TE	BEI	402	PLA	TCSP	JOBS	ELH	BYW
Bicycle and pedestrian plan	*	*														
Bicycle lanes on roadway	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Paved Shoulders	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Signed bike route	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Shared use path/trail	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Single track hike/bike trail							*									
Spot improvement program	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Maps	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Bike racks on buses	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Bicycle parking facilities	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Trail/highway intersection	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Bicycle storage/service center	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Sidewalks, new or retrofit	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Crosswalks, new or retrofit	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Signal Improvements	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Curb cuts and ramps	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Traffic calming	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Coordinator position	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Safety/education position	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Police Patrol	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Helmet Promotion	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Safety brochure/book	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Training	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*



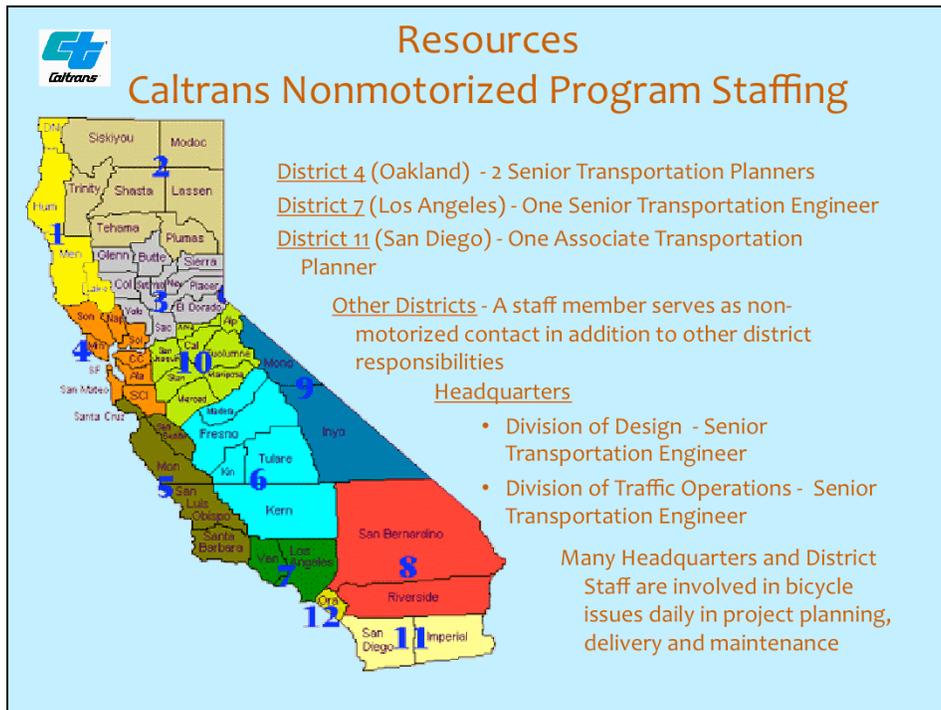
Model for using multiple fund sources and strategies for projects “outside the box”



## Local Resources

- ✓ Local Agency Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinators
- ✓ General Plans - Circulation Element
- ✓ Bicycle Transportation Plans
- ✓ Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plans
- ✓ Bikeway Maps
- ✓ Environmental Documents
- ✓ Bicycle Advocates

This is a list of local resources that can also help in planning and designing and funding for bike and ped facilities as well as trails.



Caltrans has many staff in HQ and in the Districts that can provide expertise on standards for safety and design. Coastal districts are aware of the requirements for the California Coastal Trail. These districts also work with regional and metropolitan planning agencies to coordinated plans and projects.



## Nonmotorized Program

✓ Promote Bicycling Internally and Externally



✓ Develop & Maintain Partnerships



✓ Headquarters & District Teams



### Headquarters & District Teams

Complete Streets	Highway
Design Manual Revision	Project Development
Procedures Manual Update	
Policy Development	
Caltrans Building Standards for Bicycle Commuters	

### Program Management

Meetings  
Workshops

### Conferences

Letters

### Funding

Seminars

### Reports

Legislation

California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices / Highway Design Manual

Conditions on State Highways and Work Zones



## Nonmotorized Program Planning Activities

✓ Bicycle Facility Design and Operation





## Caltrans Bike Program Contacts

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916-653-2750



## On The Web

### Google Search Terms

#### Caltrans BTA

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LocalPrograms/bta/btawebPage.htm>

#### Caltrans Bicycle Program

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/bike/>



and ... Ride Smart





Thanks