

Department of Transportation (DOT)

Federal Highway Administration

The Supporting Statement A

Transportation Alternatives and Recreational Trails Annual Report

OMB Control No. 2125-XXXX

Introduction: Transportation Alternatives and Recreational Trails Annual Report, new information collection clearance request.

Part A. Justification.

1. Circumstances that make collection of information necessary:

Statutory law under 23 U.S.C. 133(h)(8), as amended by section 11109(b)(1)(I) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58), requires that, for each fiscal year, States report the number and cost of Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and Recreational Trails Program (RTP) project applications and number and cost of TAP and RTP project selections, along with descriptive details about selected projects. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is responsible for sharing this information with the public on its website. This information is not available to the Federal government except by the States' provision, necessitating this information collection.

This information collection supports the Department of Transportation's goal of Safety, helping to reduce surface transportation-related fatalities and serious injuries. The TAP and RTP programs implement infrastructure and programming that makes mobility for all surface transportation users safer.

2. How, by whom, and for what purpose is the information used:

The information collected in the TAP and RTP report is for public consumption. Section 133(h)(8) (B) of title 23, U.S.C., requires that the Secretary of Transportation make this report "available to the public, in a user-friendly format on the Web site of the Department of Transportation." The public may use this information as they see fit. Congress and several advocacy organizations use the information from this report to analyze the programs. For example, organizations may want to understand the demand for TAP and RTP projects, how much of the TAP and RTP set-aside is being used by each State, and which types of projects are being selected by each State. Some members of the public have used these reports for research into the TAP and RTP set-aside. Report review has also allowed FHWA to identify and rectify a few mistakes in the TAP and RTP programs made by States, such as verifying project eligibility or ensuring that projects were selected under the correct category.

3. Extent of automated information collection:

All collections are submitted electronically using an Excel spreadsheet.

4. Efforts to identify duplication:

The statute in 23 U.S.C. 133(h)(8) requires the States to report on project *applications received* and project *selections*. FHWA's Fiscal Management Information System (FMIS) collects data on *obligations* for TAP and RTP projects: when the projects receive approval to proceed. FMIS does not have information on project applications or project selections. The information required by statute is not available unless the States collect it and provide it to the Federal government. The information in Statewide Transportation Improvement Programs (STIPs) does not include project applications, only projects selected to be funded. STIPs may group projects, such as RTP projects, and may not have the level of detail required for individual projects under 23 U.S.C. 133(b)(8).

5. Efforts to minimize the burden on small businesses:

Not applicable.

6. Impact of less frequent collection of information:

Annual collection is required per 23 U.S.C. 133(h)(8).

7. Special circumstances:

Not applicable.

8. Compliance with 5 CFR 1320.8:

The 60-day Federal Register notice intended to solicit comments from the public on this information collection was published on February 9, 2026, at 91 FR 5798. There were 5 comments received.

FHWA received comments from four State Departments of Transportation (DOTs) (Washington, Florida, Texas, and North Carolina) and one anonymous commenter.

FHWA received a comment from the Texas DOT supporting the Estimated Average Burden per Response included in the 60 Day Federal Register Notice. FHWA also received a comment from the Washington DOT questioning the accuracy of the Estimated Average Burden per Response included in the 60 Day Federal Register Notice. These estimates are meant to capture an average across 50 States and the District of Columbia, which vary widely in how long they take to prepare the TAP and RTP annual report. It may not be accurate for any individual State DOT but reflects the variety in preparation time nationally. For example, if a State has no applications or selections in a year, the reporting time could be as low as one hour. Smaller States with fewer applications or selections also may have low reporting times. Larger States with many applications or selections will require more time.

These comments also included several suggested changes to the TAP and RTP reporting process, which are listed below and include FHWA's response.

- 1) Eliminate the requirement for States to provide the annual TAP and RTP report to FHWA.
 - FHWA is required under 23 U.S.C. 133(h)(8) to work with States and MPOs (responsible for carrying out 23 U.S.C. 133) to complete the TAP and RTP annual reports. This requirement can only be eliminated by changing the law.
 - This suggestion came from the Florida DOT.
- 2) Increase the usefulness of the TAP and RTP annual report to include documentation of obligated projects, documentation of completed projects, and before-and-after photographs.
 - Per 23 U.S.C. 133(h)(8) and to minimize the burden on States for completing the required TAP and RTP annual reports, States are only required to document specific data

- regarding project applications and projects selections. States are not required to include obligation data or data on completed projects. Requests for this information should be directed to the appropriate State DOT.
- This suggestion came from an anonymous commenter, the North Carolina DOT, and the Washington DOT.
- 3) Clarify the purpose and use of the report.
 - The purpose of the report is to comply with 23 U.S.C. 133(h)(8), which requires FHWA to publicly post a report on TAP and RTP project applications and project selections.
 - This suggestion came from the North Carolina DOT and the Washington DOT.
 - 4) Improve guidance on TAP and RTP annual report preparation, including how to document ADA-compliant ramp installation.
 - Each year, FHWA makes updates to the TAP and RTP reporting instructions following any feedback provided by States. FHWA also offers annual reporting office hours with States to answer questions about the reporting process and regularly responds to inquiries about report preparation.
 - The report is for TAP and RTP project applications and project selections for the given fiscal year. Other project phases are not documented in the report. This is stated in the reporting instructions and restated throughout the document. Documentation for the installation of multiple ADA-compliant ramps is addressed in row 28 of the FY 2025 TAP and RTP example template. Specific questions about the annual report template can be directed to the FHWA Division office in each State.
 - This suggestion came from the North Carolina DOT.
 - 5) Prepare reports by individual Transportation Management Areas (TMAs) instead of States.
 - In accordance with 23 U.S.C. 145(a), the Federal-aid program is a federally assisted State administered program. Per 23 U.S.C. 104(b), Federal-aid funds are apportioned to the State DOT. The State DOT serving as a pass-through entity is responsible for ensuring all Federal funds administered by its subrecipients (i.e., MPOs) comply with all applicable Federal requirements (See 23 U.S.C. 106(g)(4); 2 CFR 200.329; 2 CFR 200.332).
 - This suggestion came from the North Carolina DOT.
 - 6) Use the Fiscal Management Information System (FMIS) and Statewide Transportation Improvement Programs (STIPs) to prepare reports.
 - Annual reporting on TAP and RTP project applications and project selections is required under 23 U.S.C. 133(h)(8). The FMIS provides information for obligated Federal-aid projects. The FMIS does not have data on applications received or selected. Of the applications received, many are not selected and those selected may not be obligated for one or more years after selection.
 - The information in the STIPs does not include project applications, only projects selected to be funded. Additionally, STIPs may group similar projects, such as TAP and RTP projects (and may not have the level of detail required for individual projects in accordance with 23 U.S.C. 133(h)(8)).
 - This suggestion came from the Washington DOT.
 - 7) Create a web platform for reports.
 - A web format for creating, collecting, and sharing the TAP and RTP annual reports could improve usability for FHWA, State DOTs, MPOs, and other users reading the annual reports. Developing a web submission format will require significant time and resources and may be explored in the future.
 - A web platform is not implementable for the FY 2025 report collection because it is more complex, necessitates more requirements gathering, and needs more security than the current Excel format.
 - This suggestion came from the Texas DOT.

The 30-day Federal Register notice intended to notify the public this information collection was submitted to OMB for review and approval was published on June 26, 2026, at [91 FR 38760].

9. Payments or gifts to respondents:

Not applicable.

10. Assurance of confidentiality:

Not applicable.

11. Justification for collection of sensitive information:

Not applicable.

12. Estimate of burden hours for information requested:

FHWA estimates the average burden for a respondent is 40 hours, but may range from 1 to 100 hours. Some States do not solicit or receive applications in a given year, which makes TAP and RTP Report collection very quick. Others may require significant time investments to identify and collate application and selection data. Most States can copy and paste information they receive from project applications or from State documentation used to make project selections. The report does not require the States to generate new information that they do not already have available.

Project Stage	Respondent	Task	No. of Respondents	Frequency of Responses	Average Time (hours) per Response	Total Annual Hour Burden
Report Preparation	State Agencies and District of Columbia	Fill application and selection data into report template.	51	Annually	40	2040
Report Updates	State Agencies and District of Columbia	Respond to FHWA comments and edits to report	51	Annually	1	51
	TOTAL		51			2091

Total labor cost for application preparation, grant funding agreement preparation, and periodic reporting is estimated as \$117,367.83 (2091 hours x \$56.13).

Total Labor Cost			
Respondent	Total Burden Hours	Mean Wage Rate ¹	Total Labor Cost

¹ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics occupational employment and wage statistics <https://data.bls.gov/oes/#/industry/000000>. May 2024 national mean hourly wage rate for occupation class Engineers (17-2000) that is cross-industry and includes private, federal, state, and local government is \$56.13.

State and District of Columbia DOTs	2091	\$56.13	\$117,367.83
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13. Estimate of total annual costs to respondents:

FHWA estimates there is no cost to respondents beyond labor hours for collection.

14. Estimate of cost to the Federal government:

Labor Group	# of Hours	# of Staff	Hourly Rate ²	Cost
Federal Highways HQ GS 14-10	100	1	\$ 89.95	\$ 8,995
Federal Highways HQ GS 13-3	100	1	\$ 62.45	\$ 6,245
Federal Highways Division Staff	2	51	\$ 49.82	\$5,082
Total				\$20,322

FHWA headquarters staff develops the report template and instructions, provides office hours for FHWA division offices and States, and answers questions throughout the reporting period. FHWA division staff provides initial review of reports and liaises with State staff as needed. FHWA headquarters staff spends time reviewing and correcting received reports, before sending the reports back to States for finalizing. Headquarters staff also routinely meets with division office or State staff to answer questions and support accurate reporting. The Federal Government does not incur costs beyond staff time.

15. Explanation of program changes or adjustments:

Not applicable.

16. Publication of results of data collection:

After receiving the collection, the program office will review the reports for consistency and accuracy and work with States and FHWA division offices to make updates, which may take 8-10 weeks. The report will then receive all reviews required by FHWA for public posting, which may take several weeks or months. The final report will then be posted on FHWA's website.

17. Approval for not displaying the expiration date of OMB approval:

Not applicable.

18. Exceptions to certification statement:

Not applicable.

² OPM Salary Table 2026. <https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/salary-tables/pdf/2026/DCB.pdf>. Division Staff Salary is estimated as base hourly rate for GS 12-5, with a 20% locality pay.

