

The SAFETEA-LU specifies twelve (12) activities that are eligible for the Transportation Enhancement Program. These activities are exclusive. Exclusive means that only the twelve activities are eligible for the program.

Transportation Enhancement Activities

1. Provision of facilities for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Only special projects beyond ordinary street sidewalks will be considered. The facility must meet all design standards of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO).

Examples:

- Construction of bicycle or pedestrian facilities
- Pedestrian streetscape improvements
- Bicycle parking racks

2. Provision of safety and educational activities for bicyclists and pedestrians.

These projects include non-construction safety-related activities and the reasonable costs to provide safety and educational activities such as bike/pedestrian safety training, cost of facilitators and classes.

Example:

- Safety and educational activities for pedestrians and bicyclists

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

This TE activity includes the purchase of scenic easements for the “viewshed” of a highway designated as a “scenic road or byway.” The scenic easement must encompass the entire view as seen from a moving vehicle on the roadway, must remove all advertising of any kind within view, must provide for permanent ownership of the scenic easement by the public entity making the application, and meet any and all Federal requirements for Right-of Way acquisition. The scenic easement must also restrict all future use of the property to ensure the scenic easement will be kept in the correct condition to continue to qualify as a scenic easement. The purchase of a historic site may be considered a complete “stand-alone” project. To be eligible, it must have an approved linkage to historic transportation. Also, the applicant must provide for the perpetual maintenance of the site. The site’s historic value must be preserved.

Examples:

- Acquisition of right of way on a scenic byway route or parkway
- A scenic or historic site that improves the aesthetic, historic, or environmental aspects of the transportation system

4. Scenic or historic highway programs (including the provision of tourists and welcome center facilities).

A project in this category can be applied only to a roadway that has been designated a “scenic byway” by both the State of Mississippi and the Federal Highway Administration; OR, a roadway that has been designated as an historic road or trail by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History or the US Department of the Interior. Tourist and welcome center projects must be along roadways designated as scenic or historic or have adequate linkage to historic or scenic transportation criteria in the immediate vicinity.

Examples:

- Restoration of historic roadway

- Facilities for visitor appreciation, or interpretative plaques on historic highways

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

This category includes landscape planning, design and installation projects that improve the appearance or ecology of transportation related facilities.

This can not be treatment of an existing transportation facility that is designed as ordinary erosion control.

Example:

- Landscaping of roadways or interchanges

6. **Historic preservation.**

These projects must enhance the transportation system by giving citizens a better appreciation of the historical significance of the project or area. The historical district, site, building, structure, landscape, or object must be listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places or be a contributing part of a National Register (or eligible) Historic District.

Examples:

- Relocation of historic bridges
- Interpretative plaques within a historic district

7. **Rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, structures, or facilities.**

The projects considered in this category include all historic transportation buildings, structures, or facilities associated with the operation, construction, or maintenance of any mode of transportation. The historic property must be listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places or be a contributing part of a National Register (or eligible) Historic District. The MDOT has made a policy decision that operation of facilities will not normally be funded as a TE project.

Example:

- Rehabilitation and operation of historic rail stations

8. **Conversion of abandoned railway corridors to trails.**

This TE activity includes the planning, acquisition, rehabilitation, and development of abandoned railway corridors for pedestrians and non-motorized vehicles. The created trails must be open to the public.

Example:

- Abandoned railway corridor that will be converted to a bicycle trail and links to a transportation system

9. **Inventory, control and removal of outdoor advertising.**

This category includes the removal of existing outdoor advertising signs or displays from an area that can be seen from the viewshed of a transportation facility. Local ordinances must be passed that will guarantee advertising will never again be placed in view of the facility being protected with the project. Certified copies of the ordinance must accompany the application.

10. **Archaeological planning and research.**

This TE activity includes the planning, research, or interpretation of sites associated with

transportation facilities under the direction of a professional historian, historical architect, architectural historian, or archaeologist.

Examples:

- Research on sites eligible for transportation enhancement funds
- Experimental projects in archaeological site preservation and interpretations
- Planning to improve the identification, evaluation, and treatment of archaeological sites

11. Environmental mitigation of runoff pollution and provision of wildlife connectivity.

Applications to address water pollution will be accepted for two conditions: 1) If proposed construction of a highway facility will create water pollution endangering a sensitive area; or 2) Highway runoff is already causing a problem. Applications, which will assist in reducing wildlife deaths on roadways such as fencing, underpasses, or mitigation, are eligible for funding.

Examples:

- Wetland that filters runoff from a highway
- Endangered species road crossing tunnel

12. Establishment of transportation museums.

Transportation museums established using TE funds must meet the following definition of a museum. The facility must; (1) be a legally organized not-for-profit institution or government-entity; (2) be essentially educational in nature; (3) have a formally stated mission; (4) have one full-time paid professional staff member who has museum knowledge and experience and is delegated authority and allocated financial resources sufficient to operate the museum effectively; (5) present regularly scheduled programs and exhibits that use and interpret objects for the public according to accepted standards; (6) have a formal and appropriate program of documentation, care, and use of collections and/or tangible objects; and (7) have a formal and appropriate program of presentations and maintenance of exhibits. The museum must be related to surface transportation. The legislation governing the TE program specifically refers to TE activities "relating to surface transportation." Therefore, TE funds are not to be used to preserve aircraft or create an airport or air museum.

Example:

- Inactive rail repair facility operated as a public educational facility