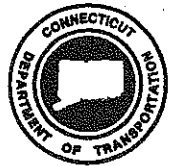


STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



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Phone:

April 21, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

The Department of Transportation (Department) is pleased to forward to you a copy of the recently updated Policy Statement for the Administration of the Federal Transportation Enhancement Program (Policy No. P&P-8). As indicated in the Statement, the Department is committed to administering the Transportation Enhancement Program.

The Department believes that the revised Policy Statement will provide for an improved Program that benefits all of Connecticut's residents, businesses and visitors. The Department has been working actively with the Regional Planning Organizations and various non-motorized transportation interest groups, as well as other State agencies in this process. We hope to have your continued support in this initiative as we move forward.

Thank you for your time, comments, encouragement and collaboration in this effort.

Very truly yours,

Thomas J. Maziarz
Bureau Chief
Policy and Planning

Enclosure



CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

POLICY STATEMENT

POLICY NO. P&P - 8
April 11, 2011

SUBJECT: Administration of the Federal Transportation Enhancement Program

This policy statement specifically concerns the administration of the federal Transportation Enhancement Program by the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation (Department).

The Transportation Enhancement Program provides funding to help expand transportation choices and enhance the transportation experience. Federal regulations define categories of eligible activities. These include pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and safety programs, scenic and historic highway programs, landscaping and scenic beautification, historic preservation, and environmental mitigation. All activities must be transportation related, but they can also support broader community goals such as sustainable and livable communities.

The Department fully recognizes the benefits of, and public support for, activities that enhance our communities, as well as our transportation system. This policy affirms the Department's commitment to use the Transportation Enhancement Program to both serve the goals of the State's long range transportation plan, and to promote healthy, safe, livable communities.

The Department also recognizes that project costs are rising, and many municipalities and Regional Planning Organizations face an increasingly difficult time raising funds to match federal dollars. Many gaps exist in planned multi-use trail systems. The gaps are proving difficult to complete due to funding problems, design challenges, and the heavy reliance on individual towns to shoulder the burden of constructing segments within their towns. With the implementation of this Policy Statement, updating guidelines, streamlining processes, and more collaborative partnerships, the Department is anticipating a more focused, cooperative, competitive and efficient program that will address the issues.

The Department is committed to administering the Transportation Enhancement Program in a manner that continues the following principles:

- pursue a fair distribution of funds for regional and municipal projects through a competitive process
- pursue and encourage focused, cooperative, and efficient processes for developing projects
- assure that municipal and regional projects are adequately funded so that projects are not delayed, scaled back, or terminated at the construction phase due to insufficient funds

Program Goals:

- The Transportation Enhancement Program should be consistent with the mandates, issues and recommendations of the State's Long Range Transportation Plan to promote livability and sustainability; support community character through context sensitive solutions; and support nonmotorized transportation users.
- The Transportation Enhancement Program should give more emphasis to bicycle and pedestrian initiatives. Of special importance are initiatives that (1) address gaps in major multi-use trail networks and modal integration with transit, and (2) improve pedestrian and bicycle access to, and accommodations at, transit centers.

To help achieve these goals, the Department will reserve 50 percent of the Transportation Enhancement Program funds for bicycle and pedestrian projects to be administered by the Department. The remaining 50 percent will be made available for enhancement projects proposed by regions and municipalities. The latter will be selected through a process to be developed in cooperation with the regions.

To achieve cost savings and reduce project delivery time, management of the Transportation Enhancement Program will also be improved through emphasis on the following:

- building upon and supporting the vision established in the Connecticut Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan
- working with municipalities, regions, and stakeholder groups to form partnerships to advance enhancement projects that help achieve community visions
- streamlining the project development processes, wherever possible, to reduce project scoping, design, and contracting time
- updating the program guidelines as needed and in cooperation with the regions
- coordinating more closely with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection on permitting and environmental issues relating to enhancement projects
- communicating regularly and openly with all necessary parties concerning project development issues



James P. Redeker
Acting Commissioner