

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: June 23, 2023

To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

From: Guy Smith, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Parks

Subject: Permission to apply and accept TAP Grants

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

The Executive Director of the Department of Parks is seeking retroactive authorization to submit one or more Transportation Alternatives Program grant applications, and to accept related grant awards.

POLICY

State statute provides that the County Board may accept donations and grants for any public governmental purpose within the powers of the county.

Wisconsin State Statutes:	59.52 (19)
Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances:	
Specific Adopted Budget:	
Specific Adopted Budget Amendment:	
Specific Adopted Capital Project:	

BACKGROUND

The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) is a legislative program administered by the State of Wisconsin's Department of Transportation that was authorized in Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (or "FAST Act"), the federal transportation act that was signed into law on December 4, 2015. TAP projects within the jurisdiction of a Transportation Management Area (TMA) are selected at the regional level by TMAs, which are metropolitan planning organizations with a population over 200,000. Milwaukee County Parks has had a successful experience utilizing TAP grants to address the popular Oak Leaf Trail system, one of the most popular transportation alternatives to vehicular travel in our region.

In 2021 the Milwaukee County Board granted permission for Park to apply to the CMAQ (Congestion and Air Quality Mitigation) program for grant funded for project along the Oak Leaf Trail. Specifically, these included:

1. Hampshire ramp access to enhance bike commuting and access to UWM (current access points are relatively far from UWM and the school and neighbors have requested a ramp here)

- a. Estimate of \$1,600,000
- b. Includes remediating an old tunnel that is under the trail and posing a structural issue. This project addresses two issues at once (potential trail failure and increased access)
- 2. Bring multiple OLT segments up to modern standards (width and pavement quality, wayfinding signage and counters) to enhance commuting use and evaluation
 - a. Budget under development and flexible based on exact segments chosen for focus, currently \$3,560,000
 - b. Note: CMAQ rules say that trail reconstruction is not eligible, but Parks is inquiring since these segments are currently below standard

Since that time, Parks was rerouted from CMAQ to the TAP grant program, and successfully received funding awards for each project. In order to be fully in compliance with County Board policy and TAP agreement regulations, Parks is submitting this report and related resolution for clarifying action on the grant source.

Related File No's:	21-614
Associated File No's (Including Transfer Packets):	
Previous Action Date(s):	8/9/2021

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This request aligns to the strategic plan by enhancing the county's fiscal health and sustainability. Parks is looking to be as efficient and creative as possible to fund improvements to existing infrastructure.

FISCAL EFFECT

The TAP awards for the subject projects are:

Oak Leaf Trail Access Ramp to University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee	\$ 1,305,244.80
Oak Leaf Trail Modernization	\$ 2,665,620.00

totaling \$3,970,864.80 in grant funding and requiring \$1,086,190 in local match. Local match requests have been submitted through department requests for the 2024 capital budget.

TERMS

Construction must be awarded by September 15, 2025.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

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PREPARED BY:

Sarah Toomsen, Manager of Planning & Development, Milwaukee County Parks

APPROVED BY:

Guy Smith, Executive Director Milwaukee County Parks



ATTACHMENTS:

- Resolution
- Fiscal Note
- Project Area Maps
- Grant Award Letter

CC:

David Crowley, County Executive
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
Sheldon Wasserman, Supervisor District 3, PC Chair
Steven Shea, Supervisor District 8, PC Vice Chair
Felesia Martin, Supervisor District 7, PC Member
Juan Miguel Martinez, Supervisor District 12, PC Member
Steve Taylor, Supervisor District 17, PC Member
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Mgr, Office of the County Clerk
Aaron Hertzberg, Director, Department of Administrative Services
Joseph Lamers, Fiscal & Budget Director, DAS
Vince Masterson, Fiscal & Strategic Asset Coordinator, DAS
Pamela Bryant, Capital Finance Manager, Comptroller's Office
Justin Rodriguez, Capital Finance Analyst, Comptroller's Office
Kelsey Evans, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk
Ciara Miller, Research & Policy Analyst, Office of the Comptroller
Anthony Rux, Budget & Management Analyst, DAS-PSB