



# Northeast Council Of Governments (605)-626-2595

April 2013

## TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM FUNDING

The South Dakota Department of Transportation has announced that Letters of Intent are now available for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). TAP is a grant program that uses federal transportation funds set aside by Congress for specific activities that enhance the intermodal transportation and offer safe alternative transportation options.

TAP was authorized by the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act (MAP-21), signed into law July 6, 2012. TAP replaces and reforms the previous Transportation Enhancement Program and merges it with the Safe Routes to School, Scenic Byways and Recreation Trails programs. The Recreation Trails Program is being administered separately by South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks.

TAP builds upon the former Transportation Enhancement Program by expanding travel choices, strengthening the local economy, improving the quality of life, and protecting the environment.

About \$2.1 million is available through a competitive grant process that is being administered by the South Dakota Department of Transportation's Office of Project Development. The maximum amount for each grant is \$400,000 in federal funds. SDDOT may approve a larger amount for phased projects. A minimum amount of \$50,000 is required for infrastructure projects. All grant requests require an 18.05% local match for each project.

Letters of intent, applications, qualifying criteria and other resources can be found online at <http://www.sddot.com/services/transalt/default.aspx>

The TAP Letter of Intent deadline is May 1, 2013, and TAP applications are due on June 15, 2013. If you are interested in submitting a TAP application, please contact the NECOG offices at 626-2595.

## SOUTH DAKOTA GF&P RECREATIONAL TRAILS GRANT

The State of South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks has recently announced that applications are now being accepted for the Recreation Trails Program (RTP) Grant.

The grants will be available for trail projects sponsored by municipalities, counties, state parks, civic organizations or tribal governments. The Recreation Trails Program provides up to 80% reimbursement for approved trail projects. Eligible projects include construction of new public trails, rehabilitation of existing public trails, development of trail-related facilities, and educational programs that relate to recreational trails. The application deadline is Friday, May 3 2013.

RTP funds are provided to the state through the Federal Highway Administration and are apportioned to states by Congress to fund both motorized and non-motorized public recreation

trail projects. The amount of funds available is based upon the number of recreational vehicles licensed in each state.

The application is available online at the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks website, <http://gfp.sd.gov/agency/partnerships/rtp.aspx>

Please contact the NECOG office at 626-2595 if you are interested in applying for a Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant.

## SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday May 29, 2013

NECOG will be hosting a meeting discussing the results of the regional issues survey that many of you recently completed. We will also be joined by representatives of the Governor's Office of Economic Development. Further details on this meeting will be provided in early May.

## DOT GIS ROAD PROJECT

NECOG is close to finishing collection of over 350 responses from towns, townships, and counties in our region on changes to their local road system. Information provided will allow staff during the next three months to make updates to the existing road layers and to forward that information on to the DOT. We would like to thank everyone who assisted in reviewing their local maps and returning them to our office.

## NECOG – DC SMALL BUSINESS LOANS

The NECOG Development Corporation is a non-profit organization that operates a

Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) program which assists small businesses and entrepreneurs to gain access to funding. Located in Aberdeen, NECOG-DC services a twelve county area which includes: Beadle, Brown, Campbell, Day, Edmunds, Faulk, Hand, McPherson, Marshall, Potter, Spink, and Walworth.

Don't think your project qualifies? Call and find out. Some recent projects we've been involved in include: manufacturing, a clothing store, a spec building, and additional operating capital. Funds can be used for both the purchase of an existing business or the startup of a new business. NECOG-DC can also fund projects that include: acquisitions, renovations, inventory, equipment, and on a limited basis working capital.

NECOG-DC provides direct loans to eligible applicants. As a secondary lender, NECOG-DC usually requires the participation of a local bank. If local financing is not available, NECOG-DC will look at financing the entire project.

Applications are considered on a case-by-case basis and all loan decisions are made by the NECOG-DC Board of Directors.

If you would like additional information, an application, or have a question regarding the NECOG-DC loan fund, please contact the RLF Manager, Rich Galbraith, at (605) 626-2595 or via email at [rich@necog.org](mailto:rich@necog.org).

### CONTACT US AT:

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