



**REGION 1 PLANNING COUNCIL  
MPO POLICY COMMITTEE**

**MPO RESOLUTION 2023-15**

- RE:** **Transportation Alternatives Program Funds**
- WHEREAS** the Federal Highway Act of 1962, as amended, and the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964, as amended, provide for an urban transportation planning process; and
- WHEREAS** the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) currently authorizes funding to improve our nation’s transportation system for highways, highway safety, public transit, alternative non-motorized forms of transportation, and freight; and
- WHEREAS** the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and its predecessors, require a Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) as well as a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP); and
- WHEREAS** the Region 1 Planning Council is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Rockford Urban and Metropolitan Area, and the MPO Policy Committee has the specific responsibility to direct and administer the continuing urban transportation planning process: and
- WHEREAS** under agreement with the State of Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) a portion of the funding authorized under the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside of the FAST Act is annually allocated for use in the MPO metropolitan planning area, said funds hereafter referred to as TAP funds; and
- WHEREAS** the MPO has a current TAP apportionment balance of \$641,000 in available TAP funds to program within the MPO planning area; and
- WHEREAS** it is the responsibility of MPO Policy Committee to determine the appropriate uses for TAP funds in accordance with applicable Federal and State guidelines; and
- WHEREAS** the MPO conducted a competitive selection process to develop recommendations for project(s) selection from October 24, 2022 and closed on December 9, 2022; and
- WHEREAS** the resulting FY 2023 Transportation Alternative Program – Project Submittals, provided in “Attachment A”, were discussed at July 18, 2023 Transportation Alternatives Selection Committee the for project(s) selection and programming of MPO TAP funds and
- WHEREAS** the resulting FY 2023 Transportation Alternative Program – Project Submittals, provided in “Attachment A”, were discussed at the August 17, 2023 MPO Technical Committee for project(s) selection and programming of MPO TAP funds; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The MPO Policy Committee, upon deliberation at their August 25, 2023 meeting, hereby selects from the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) projects for programming of MPO TAP:

- Thirty-five percent of the MPO TAP funds from the FY 2023 call for projects, in the amount of \$216,871 to the City of Belvidere for the Kishwaukee Overlook;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

The MPO Policy Committee amend the Fiscal Year 2024-2027 MPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the purpose of the addition of project(s) selected by the MPO Policy Committee for the programming of MPO TAP funds, "Attachment B".

We hereby certify the foregoing has been approved by a majority of the MPO Policy Committee Members on this 25<sup>th</sup> day of August 2023.

  
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 Chairman Joseph V. Chiarelli  
 MPO Chair

  
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 Mayor Clint Morris  
 MPO Vice-Chair

Number of members authorized to vote   7  

Ayes   7  

Nays   0  

Abstain   0

## **Attachment A:**

Date: August 17, 2023

To: Members of the MPO Technical and Policy Committees

From: Melisa Ribikawskis, Associate Planner

Re: FY 2023 Transportation Alternative Program – Project Submittals

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### **Program Purpose**

The Region 1 Planning Council, in its capacity as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Rockford metropolitan area is responsible for programming various federal and state transportation funding programs. The MPO has recently conducted a competitive Call for Projects to program the Transportation Alternatives (TA) set-aside sub-allocated to our region under the Surface Transportation Block Grant program.

The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) was authorized under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act and provides funding for programs and projects that expand transportation choices with a focus on non-traditional transportation projects. This single funding source serves to enhance the transportation system and provide funding for surface transportation projects including bicycle and pedestrian facilities; safe routes to school programs and projects; scenic viewing areas and overlooks; and transportation-related community improvement projects that may include historic preservation, wildlife mortality mitigation, water and environmental quality improvements.

The funding available for FY 2023 Call for Project is \$641,000.

### **Call for Projects**

The call for projects opened on October 24, 2022 and closed on December 9, 2022. The MPO received applications for one project from the City of Belvidere.

### **Attachments**

1. City of Belvidere – Kishwaukee Overlook
2. Project Evaluation – Final Scores



Attachment #1

City of Belvidere – Kishwaukee Overlook

The City of Belvidere has submitted a project for the construction of a scenic overlook on the Kishwaukee River in downtown Belvidere. The project will include an ADA compliant pedestrian sidewalk from North State Street to the Kishwaukee River which includes terracing to the river’s edges, pedestrian lighting and landscaping.

The proposed project has a total project cost of \$273,988.80 with the City requesting \$216,871 of TAP funds. Cost breakouts are provided below:

	TAP	LOCAL CONTRIBUTION	TOTAL
Phase I Engineering	\$0	\$2,900	<b>\$2,900</b>
Right-of-Way & Utilities	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Construction & Construction Engineering	\$216,871	\$54,217.80	<b>\$271,088.80</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$216,871</b>	<b>\$57,117.80</b>	<b>\$273,988.80</b>

Analysis Highlights

*Regional Significance & Document Consistency:* The project will improve the quality of life for residents and appeal to visitors by providing additional opportunities to enjoy the outdoors.

*Project Readiness:* Preliminary engineering for this project has been completed and design engineering will begin once funds have been secured. The local match for this project will be paid for by the City Capital funds, however the City does not have capacity for future maintenance of this project.

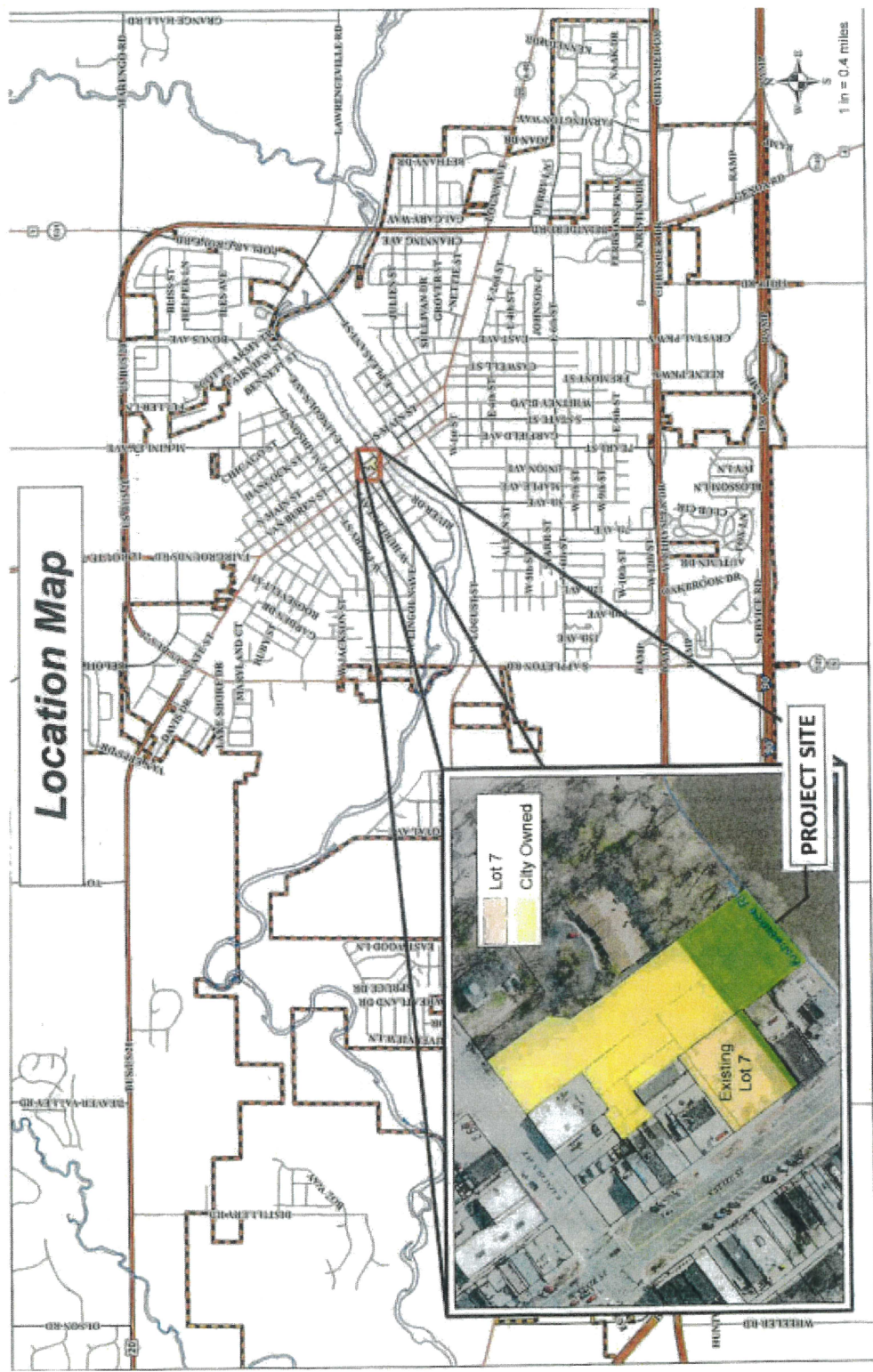
*Demand:* This project is located in downtown Belvidere and within the commercial corridor and close to significant regional employers. The project location is within a ½ mile of local parks and is adjacent to stops for RMTD fixed routes.

*Connectivity:* The proposed project will connect downtown to the Kishwaukee River’s edge for all users and provide a safe pedestrian access to the river that is ADA compliant.

*Economic Impact:* This project is located within an Opportunity Zone, Enterprise Zone and within the limits of the Belvidere North State Street Historic District as well as aligning with the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Winnebago, Boone and McHenry Counties in order to promote the region as a destination to live, work, and play.



*Additional Considerations:* The project is located within or adjacent to census defined block groups with concentrations of Title VI and Environmental Justice populations. The tiered overlook will also eliminate steep slopes and corresponding erosion along the existing riverbank



AERIAL PHOTO OF THE PROJECT AREA LOOKING WEST



Attachment #2

### Project Evaluation – Final Scores

The MPO has reviewed the project applications for completeness and has verified that the projects are located within the MPO Adjusted Urbanized Area. MPO staff has confirmed that all eligibility criteria detailed in the *Transportation Alternatives Program Guidance* have been met.

After reviewing applications for completeness and eligibility, the MPO collected data needed to evaluate and score applications using the MPO Project Evaluation Criteria (found in *Transportation Alternatives Program Guidance*). Five evaluation criteria are used to score the projects based on MPO evaluation process to select and prioritize projects to receive TAP funding. The total possible score that any project can receive is 100 points. The applicant projects have been evaluated against the criteria and project scores are provided below.

#### PROJECT SCORES

PROJECT NAME	REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE	PROJECT READINESS	DEMAND	CONNECTIVITY	ADDITIONAL CONSID.	FINAL SCORE
<b>CATEGORY MAX. SCORE</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100</b>
Kishwaukee Overlook	4	16	11	4	6	41

**Attachment B:**

R1PC MPO Transportation Improvement Program (FY 2024 - FY 2027):