

09.02.2026 Multi-Use Trails Applicant Training
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Will the recording be posted so we can share with others that could not attend today?
I'm asking as we have staff working in the field. Thank you

A: Yes the recording will be available on the website at [Multi-Use Trails Program - Alaska DOT&PF](#)

Q: Are there slides that are not being shown? We still see the agenda

A: There are no slides with this training.

Q: Can you update us with the amount available to Safety and Education once that is known since that is unknown today?

A: Yes. DOT&PF will update the program website when the amount available for Safety and Education projects is known.

Q: Can you remind everyone their SAM is to be renewed every year

A: SAM.gov entity registration must be renewed at least annually and must be active before an award can be issued. A Unique Entity ID does not replace the requirement for an active SAM.gov registration. Instructions are available on the DOT&PF website.

Q: Does Environmental Aspects include a material purchase? Such as grooming drags

A: An equipment-only purchase, such as a grooming drag, may qualify for streamlined environmental review when it does not involve installation, construction, or ground disturbance. Applicants must still provide enough information for DOT&PF to determine whether the project qualifies under Stipulation 1 of the Programmatic Agreement:

[Programmatic-Agreement-for-Multi-Use-Trail-Applications.pdf](#)

Q: Where can we find the latest SCORP Plan?

A: The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan can be found here:

<https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/scorp.htm>

Q: Does a project that is multi-use in the summer and Nordic Ski only in the winter, is it eligible?

A: Yes. A trail may support different recreational uses during different seasons. The application should clearly identify the permitted uses by season and demonstrate that the project provides a public recreational benefit.

Q: We may be proposing upgrading an existing trail, but we also would like to explore an extension of this trail. Can we include costs of Planning and Design for the extension, even when we don't plan to ask for funds for this extension during this year's opportunity?

A: Planning and design may be eligible when directly associated with a specific project that is otherwise eligible under the Recreational Trails Program. However, a stand-alone planning or feasibility study for a potential future trail is not expressly listed as an eligible project type under 23 U.S.C. § 206.

Because the proposed extension would not be included as an implementation project in this application, contact DOT&PF before including those costs. The applicant should be prepared to define the extension, demonstrate that it will be an eligible recreational trail project, and explain how the proposed planning and design will lead to implementation.

Q: Can organizations submit more than one application?

A: Yes.

Q: Since my projects were selected for FY2026 funding but were not processed in time for funding this year, I was told I would need to reapply this year. (I'll be doing that! 😊) But was this the same for all FY 2026 projects? I know I was told about having to reapply, but other notified projects from my organization have not gotten this same notification / information. Will they also have to reapply for FY2027 funds? I'm hoping to let them know.

A: Applicants selected for FY2026 funding do not need to reapply for FY2027 unless DOT&PF specifically notifies them otherwise. DOT&PF is continuing to process the FY2026 awards and will work with recipients to establish appropriate project timelines. Please contact us directly if you have questions about the status of a particular FY2026 project.

Q: Is there any difference in scoring for first time applicants vs current or past applicants?

A: No separate scoring preference is given to first-time, current, or previous applicants. All applications are evaluated using the published scoring rubric. [Multi-Use-Trails-Scoring-Rubric.pdf](#)

Q: What about writing the RTP grant. Admin cost writing the grant?

A: Costs incurred to prepare and submit the application are not eligible for reimbursement under this funding opportunity.

Q: Are marking winter trails included within this grant application?

A: Trail-marking activities may be eligible under RTP. However, DOT&PF also administers a separate Winter Trail Marking Program specifically for purchasing and placing winter trail

markers. Applicants should review that program first or contact DOT&PF to determine the most appropriate funding source. [Winter Trail Program - Alaska DOT&PF](#)

Q: The manual suggests that DOT will support completion of environmental review. Can you share more about how that collaboration will work?

A: Applicants complete the Environmental Compliance Checklist and provide the requested project information and supporting documentation. DOT&PF reviews the materials, determines whether the project qualifies under the Programmatic Agreement, and prepares or coordinates any additional environmental documentation required for FHWA authorization. Applicants remain responsible for obtaining applicable landowner approvals and permits.

Q: Public notice requirement due 9/29/26 - guidelines state that requirement can be done either on site, newsletter or community bulletin. How long does the notice need to be publicized after it is posted?

A: The public notice must be posted no later than September 29, 2026, and remain publicly available for at least **30 calendar days**. Keep documentation showing where and when the notice was posted and include it with the application.

Q: Is planning and design eligible or this grant is only for construction?

A: The program is not limited to construction. Planning, design, engineering, permitting, and environmental work may be eligible when they are necessary components of a specific project that is otherwise eligible under 23 U.S.C. § 206. General trail planning, master plans, or feasibility studies that are not tied to an identified eligible project are not clearly eligible as stand-alone projects. Applicants considering a planning- or design-focused application should contact DOT&PF before applying.

Q: Can the 10% match be met with administrative expenses?

A: Match must consist of eligible, necessary, reasonable, and adequately documented project costs included in the approved budget. Direct administrative costs may count when they are specifically attributable to the project and approved by DOT&PF. Unrecovered allowable indirect costs may count as match only with prior DOT&PF approval. General organizational administration unrelated to the project cannot be used as match.

Q: Could you discuss the environmental review checklist? Can DOT provide advice or technical assistance in completing those many consultations & compliance requirements?

A: DOT&PF can provide general guidance on completing the checklist and identifying required information. Applicants remain responsible for project-specific coordination,

supporting documentation, landowner approvals, and permits. Questions may be submitted to dot.rtp@alaska.gov.

Q: How "shovel-ready" do proposed project need to be?

A: Projects do not need to have final engineering plans completed when the application is submitted. However, the application must identify a specific project location, scope, intended trail use, landowner authorization or pathway to authorization, anticipated environmental requirements, schedule, and reasonable cost estimate.

RTP funds may support planning and design necessary to advance an eligible trail project, but an application based only on a general concept, or an undefined future trail may not be sufficiently developed or eligible. Contact DOT&PF before applying if planning and design would be the project's primary purpose.

Q: We have a property and a rough idea of where we want the trails, including GIS shapefiles, but don't have any engineering plans/designs, etc. prepared. could we use these funds for that planning?

A: The program is not limited to construction. Planning, design, engineering, permitting, and environmental work may be eligible when they are necessary components of a specific project that is otherwise eligible under 23 U.S.C. § 206. General trail planning, master plans, or feasibility studies that are not tied to an identified eligible project are not clearly eligible as stand-alone projects. Applicants considering a planning- or design-focused application should contact DOT&PF before applying.

Q: Just to clarify, if we have an indirect rate of over 15%, we can charge that negotiated rate?

A: Yes. If your organization has a current federally negotiated indirect cost rate, submit the Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement with the application. The approved rate must generally be accepted, although the amount charged will depend on the agreement's applicable cost base, the approved project budget, and whether the underlying costs are allowable. Organizations without a negotiated rate may elect the de minimis rate of up to 15% of modified total direct costs. 2 CFR 200.414

Q: What kind of technical assistance is available for project scoping and budget assessment.

A: DOT&PF can provide general guidance on project eligibility, application requirements, and required budget information. Applicants remain responsible for developing their project scope, quantities, cost estimates, and supporting documentation. Questions may be submitted to dot.rtp@alaska.gov.