

Transportation Enhancements

Executive Summary of
Nationwide Spending as
of FY 2008

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Prepared by
National Transportation
Enhancements Clearinghouse

Background and Introduction

Transportation Enhancements: Summary of Nationwide Spending as of FY 2008 is a report prepared annually by the National Transportation Enhancements Clearinghouse (NTEC). This report provides an overview of how states spent Transportation Enhancements (TE) funds from fiscal year (FY) 1992 through the end of FY 2008 – the period of time since TE was established as a dedicated funding source in the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1991.

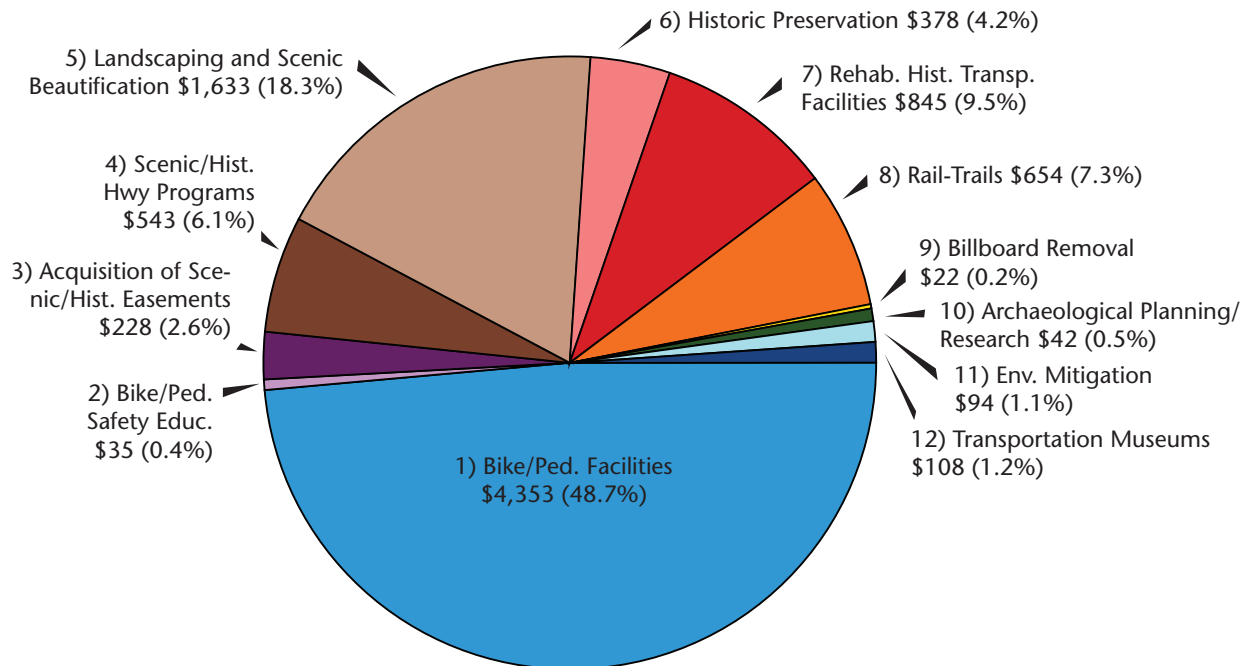
The majority of projects that use TE funds are small-scale projects with an average Federal share of \$369,621. They are most often initiated at the local level by city or county governments or community-based organizations. Projects can also be initiated by state DOTs, other state agencies, federally-recognized tribal governments, or federal agencies.

Using data from the Federal Highway Administration’s Fiscal Management Information System (FMIS) and state TE programs, the report examines notable patterns within TE spending, including the distribution of these funds across the 12 eligible TE activities. NTEC evaluates how states use TE funds, and assesses the status of TE spending at the national level.



Distribution of TE Programming by Activity

(FY 1992 through FY 2008, Federal funds in millions)



Project Count for Each Activity:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
12,186	199	369	1,018	5,127	1,180	1,969	1,274	62	190	353	247

Major Findings

The Transportation Enhancements program has been active for 17 years as of FY 2008. More than **\$9.2 billion** has been made available by Congress to the states for TE activities since 1992. Of these funds, **95% have been programmed** (current and future spending) by state DOTs for more than **24,000 projects**. The national TE obligation rate (which represents only current spending) is **80.4%**, which is comparable to other Federal-aid highway programs. However, this high rate is partly due to the rescission of available funds from state TE programs, as shown in the figure below.

In FY 2008, the twelve TE activities were funded at similar percentages as in past years with some minor exceptions. The number of landscaping and scenic beautification projects (Activity 5) continues to increase, primarily due to the popularity of streetscaping, which is generally classified under Activity 5. Activity 1, bicycle and pedestrian related facilities, continues to be the highest funded activity type.

Many states have made clear progress in efficiently implementing TE projects. Data for individual states can be found in the full spending report or online at www.enhancements.org. However, some states still struggle to use these funds – just 15 states receiving 28% of apportionments in 2008 are responsible for half of the national available balance.

Transportation Enhancement funds continue to be in high demand. Most states report that they cannot fund all of the qualified projects and many sponsors are providing larger than the required non-federal share of project costs. The **national match rate is 28.7%**, well above the federally mandated 20%, with 19 states reporting overall match rates above 30%. The social, economic, and mobility benefits of TE are clearly valued by local communities across America.

Nationwide TE Balances



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About NTEC

The National Transportation Enhancements Clearinghouse (NTEC) is an information service sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration and Rails-to-Trails Conservancy. It works to provide professionals, policy makers, and citizens with timely and accurate information necessary to make well-informed decisions about Transportation Enhancements. NTEC provides documents and technical assistance regarding TE to the public free of charge; maintains databases of TE project information, project examples, and program contacts; tracks federal funding of TE projects; and facilitates communication between TE professionals.

National Transportation Enhancements Clearinghouse

*A Project of the Federal Highway Administration
and Rails-to-Trails Conservancy*

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