**MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**
**Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program**
**Model Project Scoring**

**Priority Scoring for Conservation Corps Partnership or Exemption:**

All projects will be scored using the same criteria.  However, projects that will partner with a Conservation Corps or are exempt will be funded prior to projects that do not meet this criteria.  Applicants answering yes to either question 1 or 2 in the Priority Scoring for Conservation Corps Partnership on page 1 of the application will qualify for priority funding, in the order of their rankings as determined by the TAC scoring, prior to funding being awarded to other projects.

**Each project nomination can receive a maximum of 100 points:**

up to 60 points in general scoring and
up to 40 points in activity-specific scoring.

In the general scoring process, all applications are scored by the same point system. For the specific-activity scoring, the 12 transportation enhancement activity categories (identified in Section 2.3 of the 1999 Statewide Transportation Enhancement TEA Guidelines) are grouped into four divisions of commonality then a proposal is scored within the applicable division. The 12 categories are grouped only for this purpose.

Scoring is applied to the activities on which the enhancement funds will be spent and on the immediate and direct effects of these activities. For example, future or suspected benefit of the project, not directly a part of the project, should not be subject to scoring.

These are the scoring values for the general merit criteria, and the possible points in each area:

| | |
|---|---|
| Regional and Community Enhancement | **50 points** |
| Cost Effectiveness/Reasonable Cost | **10 points** |

**Total Possible General Score** **60 points**

These are the activity-specific divisions and the possible points in each area. A project can score in only **one** of the specific divisions:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Bicycle, Pedestrian, Abandoned Rail Right-of-Way | **40 points** |
| 2. | Historic/Archaeological | **40 points** |
| 3. | Transportation Aesthetics and Scenic Values | **40 points** |
| 4. | Water Pollution Due to Highway Runoff | **40 points** |

**Total Possible Specific Score (1 Division only)** **40 points**

**Total Possible Points (General + Specific Scores)** **100 points**

## General Merit Criteria

Each application will be evaluated on the following general merit criteria:

**1. Regional and Community Enhancement  (50 points)**

The project score in this area is derived from the project's primary effects - its intent and purpose -  on the following elements.

> a. Benefit to quality-of-life, community, environment. Examples might include provision of safe, aesthetic pedestrian facility at a rail station, removal of billboards on a rural scenic highway, provision for wildlife corridors or migration areas. **0-10 points**

b.   Increases access to activity centers, such as businesses, schools, recreational areas and shopping areas. Connects transportation modes, has multimodal aspects, Reinforces, complements the regional transportation system, fills deficiency in the system.          **0-8 points**

c.   Implements goals in the regional transportation plan, or other adopted federal, state, or local plans. Examples might include water quality plans or elements of general plans.          **0-8 points**

d.   Increases availability, awareness or protection of historic, community, visual or natural resources.          **0-8 points**

e.   Degree of regional or community support. For example, letters of support from local interest groups and public bodies, additional match.          **0-8 points**

f.   Encompasses more than one of the four activity-specific divisions. That is, the project has aspects of other activity-specific division(s) which would score meritoriously in and of themselves. There will be direct and intended public benefit from these merits; the benefits are not remotely related by function and proximity to the main project activity, or only suspected to occur by the main activity.          **0-8 points**

## 2.   Cost-effectiveness/Reasonable Cost  (10 points)

The project score in this area is a function of improved performance or productivity of the project as it relates to the annualized total project cost. Where the project does not lend itself to this type of analysis, the reasonableness of the cost should be established. How many people will use the enhancement? What is the length of the life cycle? For example, a bicycle route that takes advantage of existing public land may be considered more cost effective than one that purchases private property. In the same way, a project that has large preliminary engineering costs proportionate to the resultant enhancement may be considered less cost effective, depending on the resulting use, Scarcity values, too, can enter into a "reasonable cost", for instance, if a unique and valuable viewshed may be lost to pending development.          **0-10 points**

## <u>Activity-Specific Criteria</u>

The Activity-Specific Criteria are groupings of the 12 transportation enhancement categories into four divisions with similar characteristics. This is done for the convenience of those who score the proposals. The four groups are not intended to affect the distribution of funds, nor to be anything other than a convenience to the RTPAs in the scoring process. Scores are for ranking at the regional level only.

A proposal can score in only one of Divisions 1 through 4.

The project score in each activity-specific division is designed to compensate for inability to score in other specific groups. It is not a way to double count benefits.

**1.   Bicycle, Pedestrian, Abandoned Pail Right of Way Specific Division          (40 points)**

This division encompasses: (Categories 1, 2, and 8)

Category 1: Provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles
Category 2: Safety/educational activities for bike/pedestrians
Category 8: Preservation of abandoned railway corridors (including the conversion of use thereof for pedestrian or bicycle trails)

Need for proposed facilities: shortage of bicycle or pedestrian facilities; missing link in connecting the inter-modal system, importance of link; Necessity of proposed facilities to serve the system:

High      10 - 20 points
Medium   5-10 points
Low       0 - 5 points

Degree proposed project meets needs or addresses opportunities for bicycle or pedestrian facilities:

High       10 - 20 points
Medium   5-10 points
Low        0 - 5 points

## 2. Historic/Archaeological Specific Division                                    (40 points)

The division encompasses: (Categories 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, and 12)

Category 3:   Acquisition of historic sites
Category 4:   Historic highway programs
Category 6:   Historic preservation
Category 7:   Rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, structures or facilities (including historic railroad facilities and canals)
Category 10: Archaeological planning and research
Category 12: Transportation Museums

Current recognized level of historic significance (federal, state, or local):

High       10 - 20 points
Medium   5 - 10 points
Low        0 - 5 points

Degree project activity will enhance, preserve, or protect the historic/archaeological resource:

High       10 - 20 points
Medium   5 - 10 points
Low        0 - 5 points

## 3. Transportation Aesthetics and Scenic Values Specific Division       (40 points)

This division encompasses: (Categories 3, 4, 5, 9)

Category 3:  Acquisition of scenic easements and scenic sites
Category 4:  Scenic highway programs
Category 5:  Landscaping and other scenic beautification
Category 9 : Control and removal of outdoor advertising.

Degree to which scenic or aesthetic resources are rare, unique, or significant; degree to which potential for enhancement exists for landscaping or scenic beautification; current degree of visual blight:

High       10 - 20 points
Medium   5 - 10 points
Low        0 - 5 points

Degree to which project  will preserve, rehabilitate or develop scenic or aesthetic resource:

High       10 - 20 point
Medium   5 - 10 points
Low        0 - 5 points

## 4.  Water Pollution Due to Highway Runoff Specific Division              (40 points)

This division encompasses: (Category 11)

Category 11: Mitigation of water pollution due to highway runoff.

Magnitude of environmental problem:

High        10 - 20 points
Medium    5 - 10 points
Low         0 - 5 points

Degree to which activity solves this problem:

High        10 - 20 points
Medium    5 - 10 points
Low         0 - 5 points