

September 25, 2025

Memo



TO: RPA Policy Board

FROM: Dan Fox, Senior Planner, ECIA

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2026-2029 TAP Application Ranking Results

PURPOSE

To provide The RPA Policy Board with the results of the Transportation Alternative Program application ranking.

BACKGROUND

The RPA Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) is the current iteration of the former Transportation Enhancements (later Transportation Alternatives) program that has been in existence since 1991. Eligible project activities include a variety of smaller-scale transportation projects such as pedestrian and bicycle facilities, recreational trails, and community improvements such as historic preservation, vegetation management, and some environmental mitigation related to storm water and habitat connectivity.

Funding for the RPA 8 TAP program comes from an annual suballocation of the State of Iowa's federal Transportation Alternative Set-Aside funds. RPA 8 uses a competitive process to select projects for funding. Project sponsors must pay 100 percent of project costs up front. TAP program funds may reimburse up to 80 percent of eligible project costs or up to the approved grant maximum, whichever is less.

APPLICATIONS

RPA 8 issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the FY 2026-2029 funding cycle on July 1, 2025, with a total of \$1,142,502 available. The application deadline was 5:00 pm on August 15, 2025. Five complete applications were submitted, requesting a total of \$1,952,465. Table 1 lists the applications submitted. Application summaries are provided at the end of this memo. Staff reviewed the submissions and found that all projects met the minimum eligibility requirements.

Table 1. Applications Submitted

Applicant	Project	Total	Requested	Local Match	Match %
Camanche	Camanche Trail Extensions (Washington, 9th Ave, 9th St)	\$649,000	\$500,000	\$149,000	23%
Clinton	South 14th Street Trail	\$800,000	\$500,000	\$300,000	38%
DeWitt	Campbell Extension of the Paul Skeffington Memorial Trail	\$434,000	\$347,200	\$86,800	20%
Maquoketa	Maquoketa Summit Loop Reconstruction	\$657,443	\$500,000	\$157,443	24%
Wheatland	Warrior Trail Project	\$137,365	\$105,265	\$32,100	23%
Total		\$2,677,808	\$1,952,465	\$725,343	

APPLICATION RANKING

With the total amount requested greater than the amount available, the RPA 8 Policy board appointed a committee to evaluate and rank the applications. Table 2 lists the ranking committee members.

Table 2. Ranking Committee Members

Name	Title
Rafe Koopman	Delaware County Engineer
Jeff Madlom	Delaware County Supervisor
Mick Michel	Dyersville City Administrator
Russell Weber	Dubuque County Engineer
Tim Vick	Manchester City Manager

Applications were evaluated using the scoring criteria established by the RPA Policy Board. The maximum score possible was 130 points. All application materials were provided to the ranking committee members for individual review, and the committee met on September 22, 2025, to discuss the applications as a group. Each member assigned scores for each evaluation category. Individual scores were compiled and averaged to produce the final scores for each application. Table 3 provides the results of the ranking process.

Table 3. Ranking Results

Criteria	Possible Points	Camanche	Clinton	DeWitt	Maquoketa	Wheatland
Regional Impact	25	21.40	21.20	18.00	19.40	17.80
Connectivity and Completion of Trail Linkages	15	14.00	14.20	12.80	13.20	9.40
Alignment with Local, Regional, or Statewide Planning Documents	15	14.20	13.60	13.40	14.00	9.40
Federal-aid Highway Project Development Process, Understanding and Capacity	10	9.40	10.00	8.80	9.40	7.40
Contribution Toward Safety for All Transportation Modes	10	9.80	9.20	8.60	9.20	7.80
Enhancement of Regional Tourism Benefits	10	8.40	8.60	7.80	8.20	7.60
Leverage of Non-Federal Funding Sources	10	8.60	8.80	8.00	8.40	8.40
Need for the Proposed Project	10	9.00	9.60	8.40	9.40	7.80
Addresses High-Need Areas	10	9.40	9.20	8.20	9.40	7.60
Improve Accessibility	5	4.60	4.60	4.60	4.60	4.00
Long-Term Maintenance Plan	5	4.00	4.40	4.00	4.40	3.60
Project Readiness	5	4.80	4.60	4.20	4.80	3.60
Total	130.00	117.60	118.00	106.80	114.40	94.40

FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the ranking results, the Clinton and Camanche applications were ranked highest and will be fully funded at \$500,000 each. The remaining \$142,502 will be offered to Maquoketa as the next highest ranked applicant. If Maquoketa declines the partial award, The funds will be offered to DeWitt and, if necessary, to Wheatland.

Table 4 summarizes the results of the application ranking process and the recommended awards.

Table 4. Funding Recommendations

Rank	Score	Applicant	Request	Recommended Award	TAP Funds Available
1	118	Clinton	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$1,142,502
2	117.6	Camanche	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$642,502
3	114.4	Maquoketa	\$500,000	\$142,502	\$142,502
4	106.8	DeWitt	\$347,200	\$0	\$0
5	94.4	Wheatland	\$105,265	\$0	\$0

NEXT STEPS

RPA 8 staff will send award letters and draft funding agreements to grant recipients following approval from RPA Policy Board. If any city chooses to decline its recommended award, the funds will be offered to the next highest ranked applicant. Any TAP funds that remain unclaimed after being offered to all applicants should be added next year's TAP funding pool. Thank you for your consideration.

A summary of each application is provided in the following pages. Full applications can be accessed at this link:

https://1drv.ms/f/c/1d34a473cdd8fdb5/Ek-42n8sXVVAgDci6lFzPloBiAt_tzeDQVawbBnglDKs7w?e=wQdO0q

Camanche Trail Extensions (Washington, 9th Ave, 9th St)

*Total Claimed for Reimbursement includes the TAP request and local match

This project will extend the Washington Boulevard Trail (Mississippi River Trail (MRT)) from 800 feet west of 5th Street east to 17th Avenue near the Cedar Heights Mobile Home Park connecting the trail to the existing sidewalk system along Washington Boulevard which continues along Washington Boulevard to Triangle Park and the MRT to Clinton. The project will include the extension of the 9th Street Rec Trail (STP funded 2012) east from 19th Avenue along the CSD High School property 9th Street frontage (approximately 2,400 feet), then north along the CSD High School 9th Avenue frontage to Platt Park and along the Platt Park 9th Avenue Frontage (approximately 2,600 feet).

CITY OF CAMANCHE - EXISTING & PROPOSED TRAIL NETWORK



City of Clinton Project Summary

South 14th Street Trail

Total Project Cost	Total Claimed for Reimbursement*	TAP Request	Local Match	Match %
\$900,000	\$800,000	\$500,000	\$300,000	37.5%

*Total Claimed for Reimbursement includes the TAP request and local match

Project Description

The 1.5-mile, 10-foot paved trail along South 14th Street connects the south section of the planned Bluff Boulevard Trail to the Lincoln Way National Trail. The proposed trail goes past two school facilities, near three parks (George Morris, Honey Well, Jurgensen), and a prominent place of worship in the community.

Project Map



City of DeWitt Project Summary

Campbell Extension of the Paul Skeffington Memorial Trail

Total Project Cost	Total Claimed for Reimbursement*	TAP Requested	Local Match	Match %
\$667,000	\$434,000	\$347,200	\$86,800	20.0%

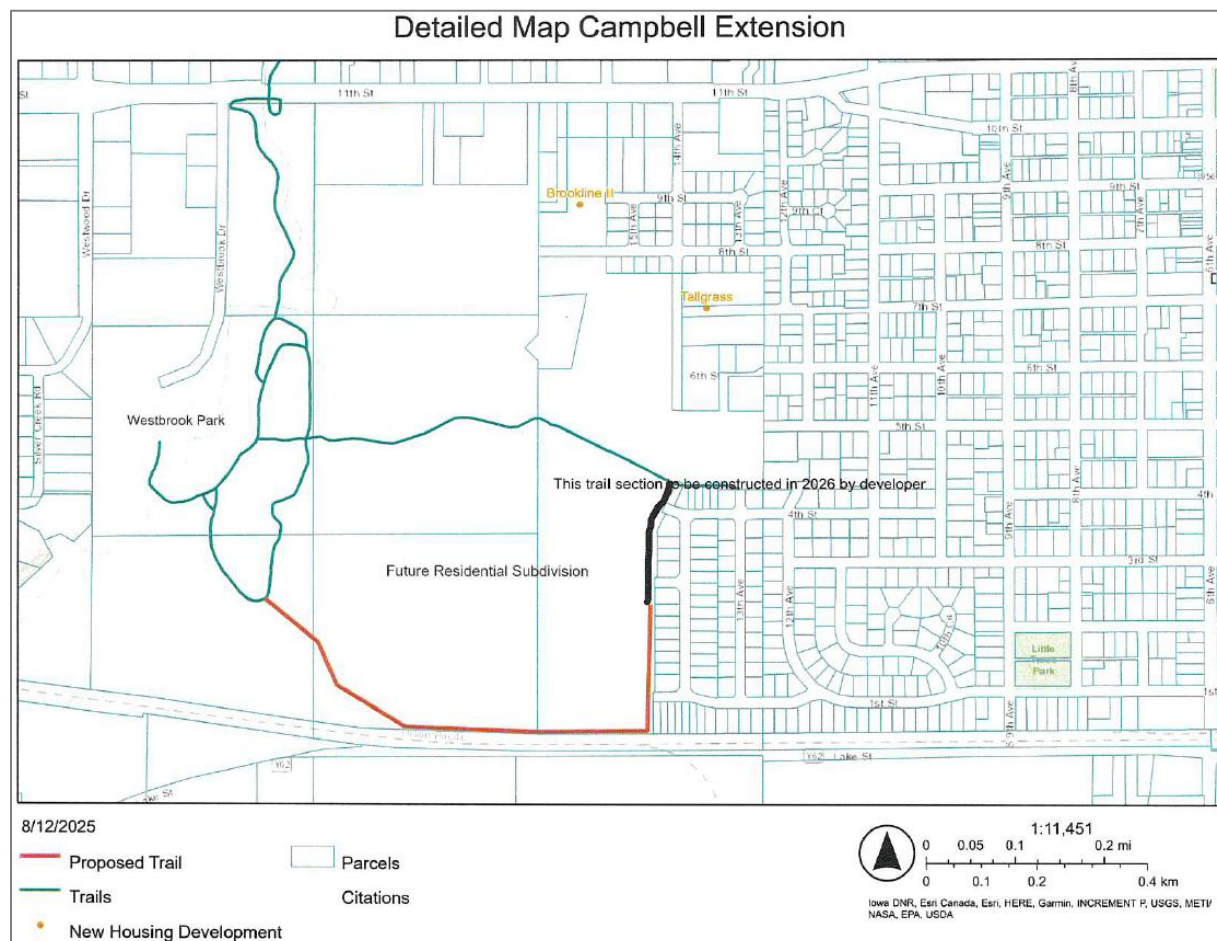
*Total Claimed for Reimbursement includes the TAP request and local match

Project Description

This project proposes the construction of approximately 3,400 feet of 10-foot-wide hot mix asphalt (HMA) trail to extend the existing Paul Skeffington Memorial Trail in Westbrook Park. The new segment will begin at the southeast corner of the current trail system within the park and extend eastward and northward to connect with a section of the trail being built by a private developer (Campbell Family) in 2026, which creates a loop back to an existing trail extension built in 2014.

This extension will significantly enhance trail connectivity within the community by linking two major trail segments and providing a continuous, safe route for pedestrians and cyclists. It will improve access between residential neighborhoods, recreational areas, and commercial zones, encouraging active transportation and outdoor activity. The new trail will also support the city's goals for health, safety, and sustainability. Importantly, this trail extension is planned ahead of a future residential neighborhood expansion across the area, ensuring that safe and accessible infrastructure is in place to support anticipated growth and increased community use.

Project Map



City of Maquoketa Project Summary

Maquoketa Summit Loop Reconstruction

Total Project Cost	Total Claimed for Reimbursement*	TAP Request	Local Match	Match %
\$657,443	\$657,443	\$500,000	\$157,443	23.9%

*Total Claimed for Reimbursement includes the TAP request and local match

Project Description

The Maquoketa Summit Loop Reconstruction project seeks to reconstruct extremely poor performing loop trail on Summit Street. The Summit loop is the City's primary trail system and serves the City's 6,128 residents as the exercise route for running and biking. The proposed project is substantial with 3200 feet of linear trail and curb/gutter/safety separation. The current infrastructure lacks meaningful stormwater management and the proposed project allows the City to better preserve the Industrial loop highway while promoting local health, outdoor recreation, and serves Maquoketa's chief employers. Further, the subject trail has no curb or other separation from vehicle traffic including heavy truck traffic that serves the Industrial loop at a high volume. According to AADT IDOT data, traffic volumes are 1,910 posing continuous risks to the outdoor recreation experience. The proposal also connects the Maquoketa Area YMCA, Maquoketa Community School District Athletic Fields, and is within two blocks of Maquoketa Middle School. The project opens an alternative transport commute method to individuals employed at many of the City's high number manufacturers such as Con-Trol, Jackson Manufacturing, Sonac, Mallard Manufacturing, Alliance Pipeline, Dittmer Recycling, and Dynamic Tube.

Project Map



City of Wheatland Project Summary

Warrior Trail Project

Total Project Cost	Total Claimed for Reimbursement*	Requested	Local Match	Match %
\$137,365	\$137,365	\$105,265	\$32,100	23.4%

*Total Claimed for Reimbursement includes the TAP request and local match

Project Description

Project partners are envisioning a community-wide, multi-use trail in Wheatland. This .37 mile long, 10-ft-wide concrete walking path will be constructed around the ball fields of the Wheatland Lion's Park and the adjacent Wheatland City Park, within the two parks. One portion of the trail within the park will run parallel to W Park Rd and will serve as a more direct route to school for the kids on the southwest part of town.

Project Map

