

Form Name: TAP Application - 2022-2023
Submission Time: January 31, 2023 3:09 pm
Browser: Chrome 109.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 73.154.7.159
Unique ID: 1063500849
Location: 40.1041, -80.6425

Applicant Information

Sponsoring Local Government's Name Village of Morristown

Local Government's Contact Person Mayor Heather Stitt

Local Government's Mailing Address 201 W. Cross Street

City, State Zip Code Morristown, OH 43759

Contact's Email Address mayor.morristown.ohio@gmail.com

Contact's Phone Number 740-782-1551

Municipality Population (Most Current Figures) 244

Please Select ODOT District in which Project will be Built District 11

Project Information

Project Name Village of Morristown Safe Multi-Modal Project

Municipality Population (Most Current Figures) 244

County (or Counties) in which the Project is Located Belmont

Indicate the SINGLE category for which the application is being submitted Bicycle and Pedestrian

Project Description

The Village of Morristown Safe Multi-Modal Project will create a complete ADA-compliant sidewalk network throughout the historic Village and a shared bike lane (State Bike Route 95) along the village's Main Street, which is the original historic National Road. This project will provide a safe corridor for nonmotorized forms of transportation, allowing residents and tourists to walk or cycle to the amenities and historical sites located throughout the village. In addition, the project will construct a trail that will provide an alternative route and walking loop to the community park.

The Village of Morristown is a small village of approximately 244 residents located on the western side of Belmont County. Morristown was platted in 1802 and flourished once National Road, the nation's first federally funded highway, was constructed through the village. Like other "pike towns", numerous businesses, including hotels, blacksmiths, grocers and shops prospered along National Road in Morristown to support the many travelers. By the 1850's however, the nation's new form of transportation, the train would cause the eventual decline of the village, as the train route was built around eight miles southwest to pass through the Village of Barnesville. Despite its decline, Morristown still has well-preserved historic sites, including several churches, many homes, a cemetery, post office and the famous Black Hose Inn, an iconic landmark that is believed to be part of the Underground Railroad.

Morristown is considered one of the best-preserved examples of a "pike town" in Eastern Ohio; however, the sidewalk infrastructure has fallen into disrepair and is not ADA compliant. The Village of Morristown Safe Multi-Modal Project will restore the sidewalk network by rehabilitating current sidewalks and constructing new sidewalks where gaps exist and to connect residents to the early 21st Century Lynn Hunkler Memorial Park. Specifically, this project will provide new or rehabilitated sidewalks on Main Street (the Historic National Road), Church Street (containing portions of the Zane's Trace and the original Main Street) three Cross Streets and US Route 40. All sidewalks and crosswalks will be ADA-compliant. Ornamental street trees will be added for decoration and traffic calming measures. Benches, historical signage and other streetscape items will be installed to compliment the historical character of the village. This project will also re-establish bioswales to ensure proper road drainage and alleviate the damage currently occurring to some properties.

In addition, a shared lane bike route will be installed along Main Street and West Cross Street, which will link the Village of Morristown to other bike routes throughout Belmont County on State Bike Route 95. Finally, this project proposes a construction of a trail from the northern part of the village to the Lynn Hunkler Memorial Park. This trail will traverse through a wooded area and offer a scenic route for residents to the community's park. The park contains five baseball fields and is heavily utilized by regional youth and adult baseball leagues.

The Village of Morristown Safe Multi-Modal Project not only will increase

pedestrian and cyclist safety for residents and tourists but will also provide the foundation for future economic development endeavors for the Village, as safe, walkable communities are critical for economic vibrancy. The Village is striving to revitalize their historic downtown, including efforts to relocate the Underground Railroad Museum from the Village of Flushing to Morristown's Black Horse Inn, as this location would be more accessible to tourists traveling the National Road and Interstate-70 corridors. This project would also connect ADA accessible parking to Town Hall, the Post Office and other historic sites throughout the Village. These improvements will further the Village of Morristown's efforts to become a regional tourism hub and will make the village accessible to all.

Due to its small population (244 residents), Morristown has limited capacity to make the improvements listed in this project on their own; therefore, the ODOT Transportation Alternatives Program offers an exciting opportunity for the Village that will benefit both current residents and future generations.

If the Transportation Alternatives Program awards funds to the Village of Morristown for this project, the Village intends to apply for Safety Funds and Carbon Reduction Program funds to assist with the 20% match requirement and design costs.

**For Bicycle/Pedestrian (Trails and Shared Use Paths) and Safe Routes for Non-Drivers
(Sidewalks)Projects:**

How many intersections are eliminated
by this facility? 0

How many driveways are eliminated by
this facility? 0

Is there an alternative route to the
facility? This project provides an alternative route through the town and to the Lynn
Hunkler Park.

Project - Check One Completes missing link on national or statewide facility.

Please Check One Combination of On Road/Off Road

Roadway speed Trial or Sidewalk
parallels 25 MPH
45 MPH

Destinations that are easily accessible
from, not simply near, proposed facility
(check all that apply)

- Residences
- Schools
- Employers
- Stores
- Restaurants
- Parks
- Libraries
- Medical Facilities

Indicate if the project is a part of an existing or proposed transportation or community development plan.

The Village of Morristown Safe Multi-Modal Project is part of the Historical National Road Corridor Management Plan, which strives to "preserve, promote and enhance the Historic National Road in Ohio for present and future generations". This plan also seeks to preserve the rich history of the "pike towns" that sprang up along National Road, which provides lodging, food and other services to travelers. In addition, the Ohio National Road Association, along with planning partners representing Belmont, Guernsey and Muskingum Counties plan to submit an application to the Appalachian Community Grant Program for a host of community improvement projects, including a Historic National Road bike lane/route, relocation of the Underground Railroad Museum, and an economic redevelopment plan, that would incorporate the Village of Morristown. Additionally, Belmont County is considering a ACGP submission for this bike route to be linked to trails in Ohio counties and Wheeling, West Virginia. The Belmont County Bike Trail system potentially would link into the Great Allegheny Passage, a rail trail linking Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to Washington D.C. The Village of Morristown Safe Multi-Modal Project also could link to future ODOT Transportation Alternatives Program Projects in the future. The east end of the Village is approximately 0.2 miles from the northern entrance of the Belmont Morristown Road Business District (see attached map). This business district contains several businesses and restaurants and most importantly the Union Local Elementary, Middle and High Schools. A sidewalk/bike lane project for the business district with a walkable connection to Morristown is an ideal future ODOT TAP project.

Community Improvement Projects:

Environmental Mitigation Projects:

Recreational Trail Projects (These projects would allow Motorized users on the project)

Safety

Please describe any and all Safety benefits this project will bring to the community

This project will improve safety immensely for both pedestrians and cyclists throughout the community. Current sidewalks are in poor condition and missing in many places; furthermore, there is no pedestrian connection to the community park. Therefore, pedestrians often use the street (Old National Road) and must share the space with vehicular traffic. A designated separate space for pedestrians will reduce interaction between people and cars, while shared bikeway signage will alert vehicular traffic to the possible presence of cyclists. This project will also improve the safety of those with disabilities, as all sidewalks, curb cuts and crosswalks will be ADA compliant. Currently, there are no ADA sidewalk accommodations within the Village of Morristown making it impossible for residents or tourists with disabilities to move independently throughout the space.

The relocation of State Bike Route 95 from the much busier Route 40 (2,670 to 4,184 cars per day) to a separate bike trail, bike lanes and the much less traveled village streets will create a much safer experience in addition to a better cultural experience.

Miscellaneous:

Will Right of Way be needed to complete this project (MUST be on existgng publicly-owned property).

In addition to sidewalk improvements, this project proposes a trail from the village through a wooded area to the Lynne Hunkler Memorial Park, as an alternate path to the community park. Most of this trail would be constructed on land currently owned by the Village of Morristown; however, there is a small section of the trail that would pass through private property. The property owner has been notified and conversations to transfer the property to the Village have begun. Alternative routes have been identified (see plans) and discussions have started with landowners.

Please list all public involvement efforts.

Poor sidewalk conditions and an incomplete sidewalk network have been an issue for decades in the Village of Morristown. Many residents have expressed their safety concerns to village council over the years, as often they are forced to walk on the road. Belomar Regional Council, the local planning and development council for Belmont County is familiar with the ODOT Transportation Alternatives Program and worked with a local landscape architect to create a solution for the deficient sidewalk network. The conceptual design and application process were presented at two village council meetings to council and residents who attended. Their input was incorporated into the final design.

How would you develop this project if you only received partial funding.

If partial funding is received, several planning sessions will be held with the community. The goal of these planning sessions will be for the community to prioritize the items in the project. For example, items such as the number of or type of street trees or benches, signage and other streetscape items can be altered to accommodate a decrease in funding. Additionally, streets within the village to receive the sidewalk improvements can be prioritized, if funding is not available for every street in the project. A survey can also be distributed to households for those residents who are unable to attend the planning sessions in person.

Project Cost Information:

Environmental Costs:

Design Costs:

Fiscal Year	2024
Total	386389.00

Right of Way Costs:

Fiscal Year	2024
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Construction Costs:

Fiscal Year	2026
TAP Request	2810098.00
Local Contribution	702525.00
Total Costs	3512623.00

Construction Engineering:

Total Project Costs:

TOTAL Local Contribution	793802.00
TOTAL TAP Funds Requested	3175210.00
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	3969012.00

Checklist/Attachments

Additional Attachments (Please do not include attachments twice)

Detailed Map of project location (8 1/2" x 11")
Digital Photographs
Detailed estimate of construction cost certified by professional engineer or architect
Certified copy of Ordinance/Resolution
Anything other attachments you would like the Committee to see

Signature



Additional Attachments (1)

<https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/14094744478>

Additional Attachments (2)

<https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/14094744479>

Additional Attachments (3)

<https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/14094744480>

Additional Attachments (4)

<https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/14094744481>
