



Australian Government

**Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts**

Active Transport Fund

Information for Applicants

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About the Active Transport Fund

Applications are open and close at 5pm AEST on 30 September 2026

**\$50 million per year,
ongoing**

Funding for new and upgraded bicycle and walking pathways

Application-based, merit-assessed funding program

One application round per year

Open to state and territory governments and LGAs



Program objectives

The program is guided by three objectives that applicants are required to address in their application.



Road safety

To improve road safety and reduce road trauma for active transport users.



Reduce transport emissions

To support commuters to choose more efficient, healthy, affordable and sustainable modes of transport, including walking and cycling.



Active and liveable communities

To invest in projects which better connect people to where they live, work and learn, reduce traffic-related air and noise pollution, and promote outdoor physical activity.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible, projects should clearly meet the public-road pathway requirement and be a whole, complete project.

Public road

- Construct a new, upgraded or replacement bicycle or walking pathway.
- Be on, or associated with, a public road and accessible to the public.
- Have construction as the primary purpose and align with NLT Act and Regulation road definitions.

Whole and complete

- Be standalone and able to be delivered independently.
- If part of a staged program, preceding stages must be complete and operational.
- Broader projects cannot be split into smaller applications in one funding round.
- Approval of one stage does not guarantee approval of a later stage.

Project examples

Eligible examples

- Widen or realign existing pathways associated with a road.
- New pathways on or alongside a road that separate users from traffic.
- Footpaths, raised cycle tracks, protected bicycle lanes or bicycle-only paths.
- Shared-user paths separated from motor vehicles.
- Pedestrian crossings that connect pathways and support safer active transport.

Tip: Consider *Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 6A: Paths for Walking and Cycling*, when designing pathway works.

Ineligible examples

- Paths or circuits in parks/open space that do not relate to, or connect with, a road.
- Projects that have started construction or awarded construction tenders before applying.
- Maintenance of existing pathways or design-only projects.
- Works that cannot start, finish or operate independently until another project is complete.



Funding rules

Maximum Program funding for each eligible project

\$5 million

- Funding cap per project.
- All projects require a funding co-contribution.
- In-kind contributions cannot be accepted.

New projects only

To support delivery of new projects that cannot be undertaken without Australian Government funding support.

State/territory applications co-contribution

At least 50%

The program can fund up to 50% of total project cost, capped at \$5 million.

LGA applications co-contribution

The program can fund up to 50% of the total project cost, capped at \$5 million.

LGAs can request more than a 50% Program co-contribution, capped at \$5 million. These requests are only considered in exceptional circumstances.

Project delivery timeframes

Applicants should apply when planning and design work has commenced and costs and timeframes are known with reasonable certainty.

Delivery milestone	Construction only projects	Design and construction projects
Completion of pre-construction design	Not applicable	Expected within 12 months of funding offer approval
Commencement of construction	Expected within 12 months of funding offer approval	Expected within 12 months of completion of design
Completion of construction	Expected within 2 years of construction start	Expected within 2 years of construction start
Acceptance of Post Completion Report (PCR)	Within 3 months of construction completion	Within 3 months of construction completion

How to apply

Applications are open and close at 5pm AEST on 30 September 2026

1 Before you start

- Read the Guidelines and department resources
- Confirm eligibility requirements
- Download the latest application form to complete
- Obtain/check RPM access

2 Complete your application form

- Provide all project information
- Address the 3 assessment criteria
- Complete the Conflict of Interest, and Declaration and Authorisation sections
- Advise proposed delivery milestones

3 Complete project details in RPM

- Complete all mandatory fields
- Upload application form
- Upload supporting evidence



4 Submit

- Check all information is correct before submitting
- The department will not accept additional information after round closing

Merit assessment and assessment criteria

Eligible applications are assessed on their merits against three equally weighted criteria and value with relevant money.

Merit assessment

The department considers each application on its merits:

- how well it meets the assessment criteria
- how it compares to other applications
- whether it provides value with relevant money.

60% minimum score against each assessment criterion to be considered meritorious

Assessment criteria overview

1 Strategic fit

The project addresses a demonstrated need and aligns with the program's objectives.

2 Project benefits and impact

The project will deliver measurable community, environmental and economic benefits.

3 Project deliverability

Capability and capacity to successfully deliver the project.

Decision making and outcomes

1

Assessment completed

The department completes assessments of applications.

2

Recommendations prepared

Projects are recommended to the Minister for approval.

3

Final decision

The Minister (or delegate) makes the final decision on projects funded under each round.

4

Applicants notified

All applicants are advised of outcomes.



Successful applicants

After approval, the department works with the proponent to finalise delivery arrangements and issue a funding offer.

1 Department contacts proponent

Schedule an inception meeting after the application is approved.

2 Inception meeting

Discuss the process for finalising delivery arrangements.

3 Confirm arrangements

Final scope, budget and milestones are confirmed for the approved project.

4 Funding offer issued

The department issues a funding offer reflecting the agreed delivery arrangements, and proponent returns it.

Further resources

Use these contacts and webpages for Active Transport Fund application support.

Active Transport Fund main webpage

Program overview and general information.

investment.infrastructure.gov.au/about/local-initiatives/active-transport-fund

Active Transport Fund resources webpage

Application form, guidelines, applicant guide, FAQs and supporting resources

<https://investment.infrastructure.gov.au/resources-funding-recipients/active-transport-fund-resources>

Application enquiries

ATF-applications@infrastructure.gov.au

Assistance with RPM

RPMSupport@infrastructure.gov.au

Scan for link to application resources





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Q&A