



Australian Government

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

Active Transport Fund (ATF)

Program overview and how to apply for funding

Presented by:

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Acknowledgement of Country

Our department would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land on which we meet, work and live.

We recognise and respect their continuing connection to the land, waters and communities.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present and to all First Nations people.



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Format of session

- Presentation
- Q & A via Webex chat

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Presentation

The ATF

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Program overview

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Program overview

The Australian Government has committed \$100 million from 2024-25 to 2028-29 to the new national Active Transport Fund.

This program aims to provide funding for new and upgraded bicycle and walking paths across Australia to encourage an increase in active transport use.

This supports the Australian Government's commitment to safe and accessible active transport options.

Program overview

Applications for funding will need to address one or more of the below active transport priorities, which include:

- Creating a safer environment for cyclists and pedestrians
- Supporting zero emissions travel
- Promoting active and liveable communities

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Eligibility and funding

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Eligibility criteria



Who is eligible to apply?



Applications can only be made by state and territory governments, and local government authorities (LGAs).

Applications in partnership with other parties must have a lead applicant from a state and territory government, or a local government authority.

What are eligible projects?



Eligible projects must:

- Be for the upgrade of an existing or construction of a new bicycle or walking pathway
- Directly address at least one focus area, and be supported by evidence
- Be located on a publicly owned road asset or road corridor that is accessible to the public
- Be a whole and complete project (not reliant on other works)

Focus areas for eligible projects



Focus areas	Summary of objectives*
Road safety	To improve road safety and reduce road trauma for cyclists and pedestrians.
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 and where they live and work, reduce traffic-related air and noise pollution, promote outdoor physical activity, while also providing better opportunities in lower socio-economic areas.

*Full objectives of focus areas, including their target areas, can be found in section 2.2.2 of the guidelines.

Eligible and ineligible project costs



Eligible project costs are limited to ‘approved purposes’ of a funded project.

Eligible project costs	Ineligible project costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • re-alignment of pathways to improve safety • separate pathways along a road corridor • kerb extensions • intersection upgrades • pedestrian and cyclist crossings and refuges • widening of roads to accommodate pathways, with the primary outcome of the project to be delivery of a pathway • traffic signs, including signage related to the safe and proper use of the pathway • traffic control equipment • street lighting equipment • purchase of materials • labour hire • plant and equipment hire • construction activities • project management costs • labour costs for eligible work • ancillaries directly related to the project, such as insurance costs, as long as they can be broken down into a project specific allocation, such as an hourly or item rate. • direct land acquisition costs, excluding any legal or administrative costs incurred to facilitate the transaction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • end of trip facilities • bike racks (that are not part of permanent pathway) • maintenance/repair costs for an existing asset • approval costs for the project (i.e. planning, environment, cultural, etc) • procurement costs that are not the direct acquisition of a material or service, such as consultant reviews of the competitiveness of tender responses • project costs incurred prior to the funding offer being signed • overhead for your organisation that cannot be broken down into a project specific allocation, such as staff training, office expenses and software subscriptions • legal costs • advertising and media costs, such as costs incurred by publicising the release of a public tender in a newspaper

Funding eligibility



- Up to a maximum of \$5 million of Australian Government funding from the program for each eligible project
- Funding co-contribution is required
- For projects submitted by state and territory governments, the program will contribute up to 50% of the total project cost, regardless of project location
- For projects submitted by LGAs, an alternative funding co-contribution can be sought, providing the need for an alternative arrangement is justified in the application

Project delivery timeframes



Project delivery timeframes

Delivery milestone	Construction only projects	Design and construction projects
To complete design	Not applicable	Within 12 months of the funding offer being approved
To commence construction	Within 12 months of the funding offer being approved	Within 24 months of the funding offer being approved
To complete construction	Within 36 months of the funding offer being approved	Within 48 months of the funding offer being approved

An acceptable Post Completion Report must be provided within three months of completion of construction for each project.

Unforeseen factors such as adverse weather events:

Flexibility to vary the timeframe for a project, up to 31 December 2028 subject to agreement by the department.

All projects must be physically and financially completed by 30 June 2029.

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Application process

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How to apply

1. Check eligibility

- Review the eligibility criteria in the guidelines.
- Use the eligibility checklist in the application form.

2. Prepare application

- Complete the application form addressing all relevant assessment criteria.
- Include all information and documentation that may assist with the assessment of the application.
- Include all mandatory evidence (see Section 3.2 of the guidelines).

3. Submit application

- Submit the application form through the Department's online portal, IMS¹.
- Applications close 13 January 2025 at 11:59pm (AEDT)

¹ <https://ims.infrastructure.gov.au/UI/Login/Login.aspx>. If there are any issues with the portal, please email IMSHelp@infrastructure.gov.au for help.

Assessment Criteria

Criterion 1: Strategic fit

Outline the rationale for the project, why there is a strong case for action, how it will achieve the stated objectives, and how it meets the needs of the community.

Criterion 2: Project impact and benefits

Demonstrate the road safety, social, economic and environmental value of the project with supporting evidence-based analysis. This includes direct project benefits as well as benefits during the construction of the project.

Criterion 3: Project deliverability

Demonstrate the capability and capacity to deliver the project, including mitigating identified risks.

Attach evidence to support your responses to the criteria in your application.

Mandatory attachments

Applications that do not include mandatory attachments cannot be assessed and will be deemed ineligible.

Evidence must be provided to demonstrate that co-contribution funding for the project has been secured prior to submitting an application. Examples of acceptable co-contribution evidence include official letters and budget papers.

Applications must include evidence to support how a project addresses one or more Focus Areas and their relevant target areas as specified in section 2.2.2 of the guidelines. Examples of focus area supporting evidence is as follows:

- Safety plans, road safety audits and infrastructure asset reports
- Existing Net Zero plans or strategies
- Analysis that shows the project will increase cyclist or pedestrian numbers, increase use of public transport or remove cars from roads
- Active Transport Strategies
- Urban Strategies to connect communities and increase liveability

Assessment process

The program is an application-based, merit-assessed funding program.

Applications opened on 31 October 2024 and close 13 January 2025 at 11:59pm (AEDT).

The department will review all applications against the eligibility criteria, including which focus area it addresses.

The department will consider each application on its merits, based on:

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

The department will recommend the highest scoring projects to the Minister for approval. Following the Minister's decision, the department will contact applicants to advise of the outcome of their application.

Applicants with unsuccessful applications will be offered feedback.

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Information for successful applicants

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Information for successful applicants – The Funding Offer

- Project is approved, then successful applicant receives funding offer.
- Funding offer signed by proponent and returned to the department **within 30 calendar days**.
- Funding offers with LGA proponents will be shared with their relevant state or territory government agency to assist with the management of project payments (see section 5.3 of the guidelines).
- Payments will be made on the achievement of milestones according to the milestone schedule in the funding offer.
- Proponents are required to provide quarterly reports in February, May, August and November on the status of their project(s).
- Any variations must be agreed to by the department.

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Frequently Asked Questions

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Definition of a pathway

Projects under the Active Transport Fund are administered by the National Land Transport Act (the NLT Act).

The NLT Act states a pathway is a road-based asset as defined in section 4(1) Road of the NLT Act and the National Land Transport Regulations 2022.

To be eligible under the program, projects must be within a public road corridor or on a public road asset.

The program is unable to fund projects for pathways that are bush walking trails etc in protected or urban areas, unless these trails are alongside a publicly owned road asset or road corridor.

For example, we cannot fund walking and cycling paths along rail corridors, through the bush, or parks or around lakes etc where there are not any roads.

A public road corridor is considered to be the area alongside the public road asset. This corridor may differ for each road asset, and would be for the applicant to determine suitable locations.

LGAs alternative funding

LGAs may seek alternative funding contributions as part of their application.

LGAs who are unable to meet the 50% co-funding contribution may request a funding contribution from the Australian Government greater than 50%.

Where this additional government funding is sought, justification must be provided by the LGA to demonstrate the need for this additional funding arrangement.

The justification would be very specific to your circumstances and could relate to a range of matters such as budget constraints, significant cost of specific work, benefit to the community etc.

Crossings

The crossing would need to link pathways that people have to access as part of a longer journey to get to or from school/home etc, and you would need to demonstrate that it would encourage active transport by providing the crossing.

However, the crossing would not be considered eligible if its purpose is just for getting people across to the other side of the road, without the connection to a longer pathway.

Example of an eligible crossing: one that links two parts of a continuous bike path that weaves through a suburb

Example of an ineligible crossing: one in the middle of a main street that solely facilitates movement across the road and back for shopping trips or access to services

Resources

The following resources can be found on the department's website

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

- ATF Guidelines
- ATF FAQs
- ATF Application Form

Forms and reporting templates relating to the management of projects will be available shortly.

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Contacting the department

Contact us by email at ActiveTransportFund@infrastructure.gov.au

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Q & A

The Active Transport Fund program

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Thank you

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