



SEMCOG

News Release

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SEMCOG: \$9.2 million investment to improve walking and bicycling safety and accessibility

SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, has awarded over \$9.2 million in [Transportation Alternatives Program](#) (TAP) funding for fiscal year (FY) 2018. From providing safer walking and bicycling access to schools, to filling critical gaps in our regional trails system, and enhancing the walkability in our region's downtowns, TAP improves our transportation system and provides safe alternative transportation options.

"These investments in walking and biking improvements support implementation of SEMCOG's regional planning priorities. They offer transportation choices, promote safety for all road users, and improve quality of life in Southeast Michigan," notes Kathleen Lomako, SEMCOG Executive Director. "These projects serve to better connect the region's system of trails and bike paths."

The [22 projects](#) span all seven counties in Southeast Michigan and demonstrate the diversity of high-impact projects these funds support.

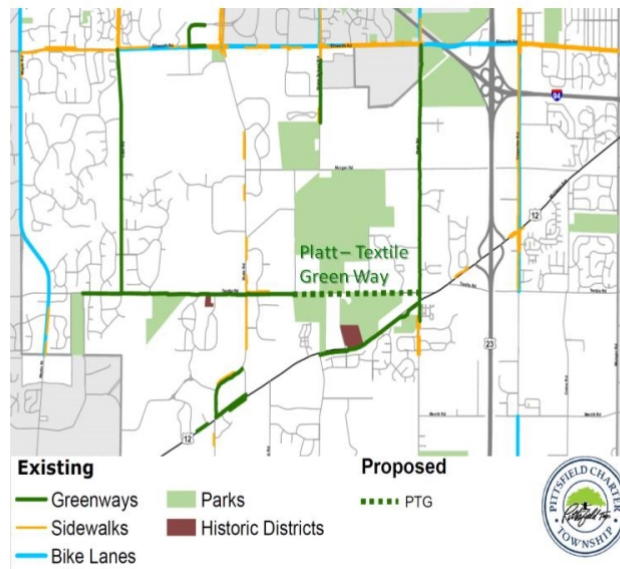
In Pittsfield Township, the Platt-Textile Greenway fills a critical local and regional gap identified during a 2015 SEMCOG walkability assessment for the township.

The project, which is aligned with a Textile Road paving project, connects the Lohr-Textile Greenway to the Platt Road Greenway, providing access to the Border to Border Trail and the [Iron Belle Trail](#). It also connects to the [Underground Railroad Bicycle Route](#).

"The top priority for Pittsfield Township residents is the expansion of the nonmotorized network we began establishing in 2009," says Mandy Grewal, Pittsfield Township Supervisor, "With receipt of the TAP grant for the Platt-Textile Greenway, we will be able to complete the last piece of the puzzle. This project, along

with our existing greenways, will provide for an inter-connected network extending for over six miles, and will allow hundreds of thousands of area residents nonmotorized access to nearly 600 acres of park, green, historic, cultural, and recreational spaces, as well as Pittsfield's Administration campus and Farmers Market."

In Oak Park, the city partnered with Ferndale on a joint roadway redesign of Nine Mile Road. This project meets the spirit of [complete streets](#), connecting directly into Ferndale's previous TAP project – the West Nine Mile Streetscape Improvement.



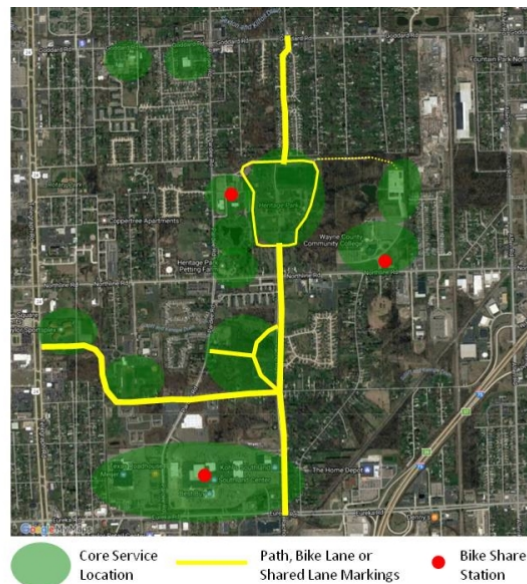
This project removes two of the four vehicle travel lanes, replacing those lanes with a center left turn lane, buffered bike lanes, and several pedestrian refuge islands. The result is a road that is safer and more accommodating for all people, whether they walk, bike, drive, or take transit.

The city has plans for continuing this concept westward in future phases, with a goal of connecting to both Southfield and Detroit.

“This is exciting news for the residents and businesses of Oak Park,” said Oak Park Mayor Marian McClellan. “We now have the opportunity to change the future of Nine Mile Road by creating new public spaces, attracting new economic development opportunities to the city, adding bike lanes that connect with Ferndale, and providing an alternate mode of transportation.”



In Taylor, a project that started out as a trail within a park developed into a combination of bicycling and pedestrian facilities that provide access to a wide variety of [core services](#), in part based on technical assistance provided by SEMCOG. The project connects the city’s primary business district to its two major city parks – Heritage and Fletcher – Wayne County Community College, the Taylor Sports Complex, the city library, and several neighborhoods. It also connects to transit stops and complements the city’s efforts to implement a local bike share system, providing people of all ages additional mobility options.



"We're very pleased to receive this important grant," said Taylor Mayor Rick Sollars. "Increasing alternative transportation options in our community is part of our greater vision moving forward, a vision not only shared by our partners at SEMCOG, but the leadership at Wayne County Community College, which has supported our efforts in creating a 'cultural corridor' in and around the Heritage Park location. The City of Taylor currently lacks any bike or pedestrian routes or pathways. This grant award allows us to offer safer options for bikers and pedestrians. Creating the Fletcher Discovery Trail will serve as yet another productive chapter in those efforts, connecting key areas like Heritage Park, WCCCD, Superior Blvd., the Eureka Way retail and entertainment district, and even Telegraph Road."

TAP funds can be used for a wide variety of projects, including bicycle facilities, multi-use paths, streetscape enhancements that improve pedestrian safety and connectivity, transportation-related green infrastructure, and projects encouraging students in grades K-8 to walk or bike to school. These regional investments use federal transportation funds to support implementation of SEMCOG’s green infrastructure and bicycle and pedestrian plans by offering transportation choices, promoting walkability, and improving quality of life in Southeast Michigan. An overview of all the TAP projects awarded in the region over the last five years can be viewed at [SEMCOG’s TAP Project Location Story Map](#).

Projects were selected by local elected officials who are members of SEMCOG’s Regional Review Clearinghouse Committee.

SEMCOG will next issue a call for TAP projects in November 2017, with applications due in February 2018. However, applications for TAP funds can be submitted through MDOT’s [online grants system MGS](#) at anytime

throughout the year. Interested communities are encouraged to contact SEMCOG as early as possible to discuss potential project ideas and proposals.

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SEMCOG is the only organization in Southeast Michigan that brings together all governments to solve regional challenges and enhance the quality of live for the seven-county region's 4.7 million people. To learn more about what SEMCOG does, click [here](#).

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