

Capital District
Transportation Committee

September 28, 2021

**Capital District Transportation Committee
2019-24 Transportation Improvement Program
Regional Set-Asides**

In the 2019-24 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), as in past TIP's, CDTC established regional set-asides to reserve funding to respond to certain situations and types of projects.

- 1) **Block Funding:** These set-asides are for regional projects, usually multi-year, for which CDTC does not track the individual projects as they are identified and use the funding. The responsible agency can appropriate funds and implement projects as needed without adding the specifics to the TIP. An example would be RG15 (Durable Pavement Markings Set-Aside).
- 2) **Placeholder for Specific Projects:** These set-asides act as a budgetary placeholder in anticipation of specific projects being named later. Drawdowns on these set-asides need specific scopes and limits and need Planning Committee approval to be added to the TIP with funds taken from the set-aside. For some, a sponsor can propose a project be added from the set-aside via amendment letter and for others, CDTC will solicit for projects at a later time. The advantage of this type of set-aside over adding projects at an update is that the projects are normally small and/or not identified at the time of the update. This allows for easy inclusion by amendment later.

The set-asides listed below comprise a complete list of set-asides in the 2019-24 TIP. Details regarding all set-aside are available in the enclosed table, 2019-24 Regional Project Listings.

RG15, Durable Pavement Markings Set-Aside, Block
 RG23, Traffic Signal Set-Aside for State Roads, Block
 RG29, CDTC Technical Services, Block
 RG37, HELP Program, Block
 RG29, 1755.63, CDTC Technical Services, Block
 RG37A, TMC Operating Costs, Block
 RG37B, TMC Engineering Support, Block
 RG37C, TMC ITS Set-Aside, Block
 RG103, 1TR7.02, Bicycle/Pedestrian Network, Placeholder
 RG103, Bicycle/Pedestrian Network, Placeholder
 RG118, ADA Compliance Set-Aside, Block
 RG130, Travel Demand Management & Multimodal, Placeholder
 RG131, Bus Rapid Transit, Placeholder
 RG132, Rustic Rail Replacement, Block
 RG133, Guiderail Replacement, Block
 RG134, State Bridge Miscellaneous Preservation, Block
 RG135, State Culvert Replacements, Block

RG136, State Miscellaneous Pavement Maintenance, Block
RG137, State Slope Repairs, Block
RG138, Low-Volume Roads, Bridges and Culverts, Placeholder
RG140, New York State Pedestrian Safety Action Plan, State Roads, Phase 2, Block
RG141, Navigational Lights Replacement, Block
RG142, Overhead Sign Structure Replacement, Block
RG143, Sign Replacement, Block
RG144, NYS Thruway Durable Pavement Markings Set-Aside, Block
RG145, Wrong Way Driving and Low Clearance Bridge Countermeasures Set-Aside, Block

CDTC staff would like to discuss the existing set-asides and how they should be handled in the 2022-27 TIP update. Some questions to keep in mind:

- 1) Are the current set-asides being used? Should tracking be established for block funded projects?
- 2) Should the balance between NYSDOT and CDTA only set-asides be reconsidered with respect to local government access?
- 3) Should eligibility for block or placeholder regional set-asides be based on facility functional classification rather than ownership (state vs. local)?
- 4) Are there new or emerging topics for which altered or new block or placeholder set-asides might be useful (i.e. ADA Transition Plan implementation)?
- 5) Have existing set-asides been leveraged to access additional federal or state funding resources for larger projects (i.e. CDTA's successful leveraging of TIP funds to win two federal Capital Investment Grant awards)?
- 6) Should placeholder set-asides open to multiple sponsors be reserved for future project solicitations or be used on a first come, first served basis.

CDTC's Planning Committee will discuss these questions at its October meeting with the intent of developing a plan of action for reviewing the existing set-asides and identifying regional needs.