

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Sandra Misiewicz, AICP, Executive Director

DATE: Tuesday, October 15, 2024

RE: 2025-2030 Transportation Improvement Program Project Solicitation

The Capital Region Transportation Council (Transportation Council) is seeking project proposals for its 2025-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Transportation Council is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the counties of Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga and Schenectady (excluding the Town of Moreau and the Village of South Glens Falls), and has the responsibility under federal law to adopt a multi-year capital program of transportation projects known as the TIP. The 2025-2030 TIP will contain all projects in the MPO planning area that are expected to use federal funding in federal fiscal years 2025 through 2030. Federal fiscal years begin on October 1st.

To be considered for federal funding, transportation projects must be eligible for federal aid funding programs under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Eligible project types include, but are not limited to, safety, the repair and reconstruction of roads and bridges, and the maintenance and construction of public transit systems, sidewalks, and trail systems.

The availability of federal funds for new projects is anticipated to be limited in the 2025-2030 TIP due to the number and size of existing projects not yet completed. In addition, certain fund sources are anticipated to have limited capacity for programming new projects. As the 2025-2030 TIP is prepared, higher priority will be given to projects on the existing program. Projects eligible for Highway Safety Improvement Program funds are likely to be competitive for funding. Sponsors are strongly encouraged to consider pedestrian safety and vulnerable roadway users when developing project proposals by incorporating pedestrian countdown timers, crosswalks, median refuges, leading pedestrian intervals, accessible pedestrian signals, and other pedestrian safety strategies whenever possible.

Proposed projects must also be consistent with the adopted planning and investment principles in the Transportation Council's New Visions 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, found at <https://www.capitalmpo.org/transportation-plans/new-visions-2050/>.

Projects programmed in the TIP usually receive 80% of their funding from federal fund sources and the remaining 20% from state and local fund sources. Eligible applicants include the New York State Department of Transportation, the Capital District Transportation Authority, local governments and other public entities within the Transportation Council's metropolitan planning area. Details on project eligibility, the project evaluation process, and links to web-based application materials can be found at <https://www.capitalmpo.org/transportation-plans/transportation-improvement-program/2025-2030-tip-solicitation/>.

To review projects programmed in the existing 2022-2027 TIP, refer to <https://www.capitalmpo.org/transportation-plans/transportation-improvement-program/>. If a project was submitted in an earlier project solicitation but not funded, the project sponsor will need to submit a new application. Projects on the current TIP for "design only" must also submit a new application to be considered for construction and additional funding.

Transportation Council staff will be hosting an optional TIP Workshop on Thursday, October 24, 2024, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. to guide potential project sponsors through the application process by reviewing project eligibility requirements, reviewing application form tips and tricks, and sharing information on data and resources to complete project proposals. Time will be reserved to answer questions. The workshop will be recorded and made available on the TIP webpage. Registration is required for online participants. To register, click here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcvd-irqjwpHNQ2r3DnMM4TslN8RSUYNOVn>

Project applications are due to the Transportation Council by 5:00 p.m. on **Friday, December 6, 2024**. All applications will be accepted on the 2025-2030 TIP webpage via fillable forms. A submission letter addressed to the Transportation Council signed by the chief elected official or equivalent expressing support of the project and committing to the local match is required. A support letter from the roadway or transportation facility owner, if the owner is not the project sponsor, is also required. The Transportation Council is issuing this solicitation in anticipation of federal funding being available for new projects. Funding availability is subject to change. Attached for your reference is the proposed 2025-2030 TIP update schedule. We encourage you to participate in the TIP update process by attending Planning Committee and Policy Board meetings.

If you have any questions, call Sandy Misiewicz at 518-458-2161 or send an email to info@capitalmpo.org with "TIP Update" in the subject line.