

Project Readiness for FFY 2024 Federal Redistribution Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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Keywords

Application

Funding

Letting

Program Eligibility

Project Readiness

Project Submission

State Municipality Agreement

Timeline

Questions	Keywords
<p>1. What are the steps to submit a project for consideration? Will there be an application to complete or a meeting with WisDOT staff?</p> <p>WisDOT has developed a web-based intake form for local units of government to submit projects for consideration. Projects must be considered “project ready” to be considered for federal redistribution. The intake form will provide WisDOT the initial information needed to evaluate project readiness. To submit a project for consideration, use the following link: https://wi.accessgov.com/wisdot/Forms/Page/dtimexternal/redistributionintake/</p> <p>After project submission, WisDOT will collaborate with local units of government to review information and determine eligibility for consideration for FFY2024 federal redistribution funding.</p> <p>Local governments should also begin any coordination with other organizations needed to ensure delivery of the project, such as getting the project in an MPO’s TIP or addressing any utility or real estate needs.</p>	<p>Application Project Submission</p>
<p>2. Does federal redistribution apply to any WisDOT-administered program, or does it only apply to certain programs?</p> <p>States can potentially use federal redistribution in any of its federal aid programs. However, it is limited by the total spending authority it has in any individual program in any given year. This year, Wisconsin has additional spending authority in the following federal aid programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP): \$67 Million • Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program (CMAQ): \$43 Million • Carbon Reduction Program (CRP): \$33 Million • PROTECT: \$12 Million • Rail Highway Crossing Safety: \$7 Million <p>State aid programs such as the Local Roads Improvement Program (LRIP) and the Agricultural Roads Improvement Program (ARIP) are not eligible because they do not receive federal aid.</p>	<p>Funding</p>

<p>3. What is the timeline for submission of a project for consideration? Projects may be submitted for consideration using the intake form beginning March 11, 2024, and through April 30, 2024.</p> <p>Infrastructure projects must submit a PS&E (Plans, Specifications, and Estimates) package no later than May 1st. A later PS&E submittal may be possible but must be requested by the local government in advance. We encourage anyone seeking a later PS&E date to contact WisDOT as soon as possible to discuss.</p> <p>Confirmation of project readiness must be finalized for WisDOT <u>no later than July 1, 2024</u>. See Question 3 to determine what “project ready” means for your project.</p>	Project Submission Timeline
<p>4. Can the timeline for project submission and consideration be extended beyond July 1, 2024? No. Federal redistribution dates are set by federal fiscal year timelines and cannot be adjusted.</p>	Funding Project Readiness
<p>5. What does “Project Ready” mean? A “project ready” infrastructure project is one that has completed or has nearly completed design and can move into construction quickly. Other requirements will apply for non-infrastructure projects. Please see WisDOT’s Federal Fiscal Year 2024 Federal Redistribution web page for details on project readiness requirements.</p>	Application Project Readiness
<p>6. What types of projects are eligible for federal redistribution? For example, are only infrastructure projects eligible or are planning projects also eligible? Federal redistribution does not have its own eligibility requirements. Eligibility is based on the individual federal aid program for which you are applying. Each will have its own rules. It is important to understand those rules prior to submitting a project because all state and federal eligibility rules for the program apply to projects selected through the federal redistribution process. More information can be found on the WisDOT Local Assistance Programs website. Some examples of project types that may be eligible include:</p> <p>Non-infrastructure Projects: Programs such as TAP and CRP fund certain types of non-infrastructure projects, such as Safe Routes to Schools programs or LED lighting replacement projects.</p> <p>Planning Projects: These projects might include corridor or regional studies to assess non-driver safety.</p> <p>Design Projects: WisDOT will consider funding a limited number of design-only projects. Selection for a design-only project does not guarantee future funding for a construction project. Construction funding will need to be obtained either through a future project solicitation or through local funding sources. Please also note: Design-only projects are not eligible under TAP due to state law constraints.</p>	Program Eligibility

<p>Construction Projects: Any type of infrastructure project eligible under the listed programs is eligible for consideration. These projects must be done or nearing completion of design to be considered project ready.</p>	
<p>7. Are projects funded through federal redistribution required to go through the state let process or can they be locally let?</p> <p>Federal redistribution does not have its own project delivery process. Project delivery options are based on the individual federal aid program for which you are applying. Each will have its own rules. It important to understand those rules prior to submitting a project because all state and federal eligibility rules for the program apply to projects selected through the federal redistribution process. More information can be found on the WisDOT Local Assistance Programs website.</p> <p>The next four questions address the requirements of the different delivery processes.</p>	<p>Letting Project Readiness</p>
<p>8. State let process</p> <p>Projects utilizing the state let process must meet the following project eligibility and project submittal timelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A PS&E (Plans, Specifications, and Estimates) package must be submitted no later than May 1st, 2024. A later PS&E submittal date may be requested but must be done prior to May 1st and is not guaranteed. No PS&E will be accepted after July 1st, 2024. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Any real estate needed for the project must have been purchased by PS&E date. ○ Any utility work needed for completion must have been cleared by PS&E date. • A State Municipal Financial Agreement must be signed by the local government by July 1st, 2024. • Inclusion in Wisconsin’s Statewide Transportation Improvement Program and, if inside a Metropolitan Planning Area, inclusion in the Metropolitan Planning Organization’s Transportation Improvement Program by August 1st, 2024. • Other requirements may apply based on program-specific policies. Please consult the program guidance found on the WisDOT Local Assistance Programs website. 	<p>Letting Project Readiness</p>
<p>9. Local let process</p> <p>Please note that not all programs allow local lets. It is important to consult the program-specific guidance found on the WisDOT Local Assistance Programs website. Projects utilizing the local let process must meet the following project eligibility and project submittal timelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsors must complete the Sponsor’s Guide to Non-Traditional Transportation Project Implementation Certification Training by July 1st, 2024. 	<p>Letting Project Readiness</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsor must complete and submit the Sponsor’s Guide training acknowledgement form by July 1st, 2024. • A State Municipal Financial Agreement must be signed by the local government by July 1st, 2024. • Inclusion in Wisconsin’s Statewide Transportation Improvement Program and, if inside a Metropolitan Planning Area, inclusion in the Metropolitan Planning Organization’s Transportation Improvement Program by August 1st, 2024. • Other requirements may apply based on program-specific policies. Please consult the program guidance found on the WisDOT Local Assistance Programs website. 	
<p>10. Planning and other non-infrastructure projects</p> <p>Planning and other non-infrastructure projects must meet all standard program eligibility requirements and the following project submittal timelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsors must complete the Sponsor’s Guide to Non-Traditional Transportation Project Implementation Certification Training by July 1st, 2024. • Sponsor must complete and submit the Sponsor’s Guide training acknowledgement form by July 1st, 2024. • A State Municipal Financial Agreement must be signed by the local government by July 1st, 2024. • Inclusion in Wisconsin’s Statewide Transportation Improvement Program and, if inside a Metropolitan Planning Area, inclusion in the Metropolitan Planning Organization’s Transportation Improvement Program by August 1st, 2024. • Other requirements may apply based on program-specific policies. Please consult the program guidance found on the WisDOT Local Assistance Programs website. 	Project Readiness
<p>11. Local force account (LFA) process</p> <p>Projects utilizing the local force account process must meet the following project eligibility and project submittal timelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WisDOT has limited ability to approve certain LFA activities. You should consult program guidelines and contact WisDOT if you are considering LFA as an option. • Some programs require a cost-effectiveness finding before an LFA can be approved. • A State Municipal Financial Agreement must be signed by the local government by July 1st, 2024. • Inclusion in Wisconsin’s Statewide Transportation Improvement Program and, if inside a Metropolitan Planning Area, inclusion in the Metropolitan Planning Organization’s Transportation Improvement Program by August 1st, 2024. • Other requirements may apply based on program-specific policies. Please consult the program guidance found on the WisDOT Local Assistance Programs website. 	Project Readiness

<p>12. Is funding available once project readiness is confirmed? No. States will receive notification from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in early August to submit their requests for federal redistribution. FHWA will respond by late August with the individual state awards. Once notified, states have 2 to 3 weeks, depending on the date of notification, to request authorization of the individual projects included in their request. Once authorization is received from FHWA (early September), project funds will be available.</p> <p>It is important to note that confirmation of project readiness does not guarantee federal redistribution funding will be available. Wisconsin will submit its request to FHWA but will not know the full amount awarded to the state until FHWA notifies the state of its award. If the state’s full request is not awarded, WisDOT will need to select projects from the preliminary project list based on a prioritized project selection process.</p>	<p>Funding Project Readiness</p>
<p>13. By what date does a State Municipal Financial Agreement need to be completed? A signed State Municipality Financial Agreement (SMFA) must be submitted to WisDOT no later than July 1, 2024.</p>	<p>Project Readiness</p>
<p>14. Will WisDOT expedite the State Municipal Financial Agreement process? Yes. WisDOT’s regional and central office staff will work with local partners to expedite the process in advance of the July 1st deadline. However, local government staff work quickly to ensure internal review and signature of agreements. Agreements received after July 1st or unsigned agreements will not be accepted.</p>	<p>State Municipality Agreement</p>
<p>15. Can the local match be waived for communities that have not budgeted for the required project match? No. Federal program guidelines require a non-federal cost share.</p>	<p>Funding Project Readiness</p>
<p>16. Are there any other funding options to help local governments that do not have the 20% local match planned in their annual budget? There are public loan programs that may be able to assist the local governments secure the local match amount. However, WisDOT does not oversee those programs. Local governments will need to determine if those programs are appropriate for their individual situation. Confirmation of the local match is still required prior to July 1st, 2024.</p> <p><u>Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL)</u> Since 1871, BCPL has invested in loans to municipalities and school districts for public purpose projects, including economic development,</p>	<p>Funding Project Readiness</p>

<p>local infrastructure, capital equipment and vehicles, building repairs and improvements, and refinancing existing liabilities to reduce future borrowing costs. The current interest rate for BCPL loans is 6.00%.</p> <p>Fact Sheet</p> <p>Contact Richard Sneider at (608) 261-8001 or richard.sneider@wi.gov.</p> <p>To mitigate the BCPL loan interest rate, a municipality may choose to invest funds in the Local Government Investment Pool.</p> <p>Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP)</p> <p>LGIP provides a secure investment option for all Wisconsin local governments, including counties, cities, villages, towns, school districts and other entities. By pooling local government funds with State funds, local governments may be able to realize generally higher yields over time. The LGIP provides local governments with the best of both worlds - overnight availability and improved earnings. The most recent annualized earnings rate was 5.39%.</p> <p>The LGIP funds are invested by the State of Wisconsin Investment Board. The daily LGIP operations are managed by the Wisconsin Department of Administration - State Controller's Office.</p> <p>Local Government Investment Pool Guidelines</p> <p>Contact LGIP at: LGIP@wisconsin.gov</p>	
<p>17. Can projects already in an already approved improvement program schedule receive additional federal funding or be accelerated in the program through federal redistribution?</p> <p>Additional project information would likely be needed to determine whether additional funds could be added or if the project can be accelerated. WisDOT would encourage you to submit the project information through the project readiness intake form so it can be evaluated further. Please include the existing project ID and any other relevant project/program information.</p>	<p>Funding Project Readiness</p>
<p>18. If already awarded projects are accelerated, will there be a supplemental round of granting with the program funds that are offset by the federal fiscal year 2024 redistribution funding?</p> <p>WisDOT will assess the program after our redistribution request is finalized to identify any funding gaps. If necessary, WisDOT will consider a supplemental project solicitation.</p>	<p>Funding</p>
<p>19. There are current TAP/CMAQ application solicitations underway. Will this request impact or delay the current cycles?</p> <p>No, federal redistribution will not impact existing project solicitation timelines.</p>	<p>Program Eligibility</p>

<p>20. Can I submit a design-only project for consideration?</p> <p>Design projects may be submitted forward to WisDOT to be evaluated for project readiness. However, it is important to note that selection of a design-only project does not ensure future funding will be available to the local government for construction activities.</p> <p>As previously noted, all standard state and federal rules apply to projects selected through federal redistribution. Therefore, no design-only projects will be approved through the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). Wisconsin State Statute 85.021 (2)(b) requires all projects to commence within four years of award. Since construction funding is not guaranteed, approving a design-only project puts the local government at significant risk of having to pay back federal funds.</p>	<p>Program Eligibility</p>
<p>21. Will this be available next year?</p> <p>Yes. Federal redistribution is an annual formula-based process occurring in August that affords a state an opportunity to request additional federal funds above their annual initial obligation limitation.</p>	<p>Program Eligibility</p>
<p>22. Where can I gain additional information about the FFY 2024 federal redistribution initiative?</p> <p>WisDOT has established a webpage for the 2024 federal redistribution initiative. Information will be updated throughout the duration of the initiative.</p>	<p>Project Readiness Program Eligibility</p>