

## **Local Bridge Improvement Assistance Program** (Wis. Stats. s.84.18, Trans 213)

### **Program Overview:**

- Provides federal or state funding for up to 80 percent of the cost to replace or rehabilitate deficient local bridges.
- Bridges must be structurally deficient or functionally obsolete and have a sufficiency rating of less than 80 for rehabilitation and less than 50 for replacement.
- Projects are solicited every two years for overlapping 4-5 year forward-looking periods.
- Projects are selected based on a statewide rating and ranking process specified in statute and administrative rules.
- Project ratings are based on the amount of funding requested and the county's share of statewide local bridge needs.
- All projects are state let by statute (s.84.18(6)). Project oversight is conducted by WisDOT region staff as responsible charge for compliance with Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and state requirements.

### **Program Funding:**

- 2017-19 Biennium - \$48,727,400 FED, \$37,996,900 SEG
  - Includes one-time transfer of \$1,025,700 SEG from repealed traffic marking program.
- An additional \$30.0 million SEG and \$8.6 million FED were transferred into the program based on action by the Joint Committee on Finance in SFY 2018.

### **Challenges:**

- Cost effective delivery of projects.
- Balancing statewide needs with the preferred scope of individual projects and sponsors.

### **Policy/Budget Opportunities:**

- Adoption of a risk-based project oversight model.
- Allow local contract letting and/or project delivery for low-risk projects.
- Implement performance based practical design standards to ensure facilities meet purpose and need while minimizing unnecessary costs.
- Evaluate project type and eligibility criteria to ensure cost-effective and valuable projects are not excluded from the program.