

# Surface Transportation Rural Program (STP-Rural, STP-R)

**Statute:** Federal Aid: state and local funds: [§84.03](#)

**Admin. Rule:** N/A

## Program objective:

The objective of the STP-Rural Program is to improve federal-aid-eligible highways outside of urban areas (primarily county trunk highways).

## Program eligibility:

Projects must meet federal and state requirements. Counties, towns, cities, villages and certain public authorities located outside all urban and urbanized areas (not planning boundaries) are eligible for funding on roads functionally classified as a “Major Collector” or higher. In addition, local improvement projects on connecting highways are not eligible for STP-Rural funds.

## Program definition:

Federal funding is provided for a wide range of transportation-related activities, including projects on higher function local roads not on the State Trunk Highway system, and local safety improvements. The program is funded through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

## Program history:

Federal-aid highway programs that directed funding to local governments before enactment of ISTEA had well-established formulas that allocated funding based on population and mileage criteria. ISTEA eliminated these programs beginning in FY 92 and replaced them with programs that can be used to fund a broader mix of projects. Flexible funding for federal-aid highways, safety projects and bridges under SAFETEA-LU is continued under MAP-21, FAST Act and IIJA.

## Application cycle:

To continue statewide program stability efforts, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) will manage a full five-year (five state fiscal years) program of projects. This provides the department and local sponsors the ability to review and adjust the already scheduled first three state fiscal years of the programs (2027, 2028, and 2029) as needed, and add another two state fiscal years of approved projects to the schedule (2030 and 2031).

The WisDOT Region contact information can be found on the corresponding WisDOT web page.