

Application Instructions for Region 10 RPA Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) or STBG SWAP Funds

The Regional Planning Affiliation (RPA) for Region 10, including the counties of Benton, Cedar, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, Linn, and Washington, is currently accepting applications for regional STBG or STBG SWAP funding for projects occurring in federal fiscal years 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023. Approximately \$5 million in funds are available for transportation projects of regional significance. However, all funding and regional approval of project applications is contingent upon the obligation federal funds.

The RPAs application forms must be used to submit an application for Region 10 STBG or STBG SWAP funds. A copy of each of the forms is enclosed.

- Prior to the submittal of an application **all applicants must participate in a pre-application workshop to be held at the Johnson County Secondary Roads Conference Room, 4810 Melrose Avenue, Iowa City, Iowa on October 17, 2018 at 1:30 pm.**

In addition, a short pre-application must be submitted to ECICOG by October 31, 2018. The pre-application will determine if the project meets program requirements and if so, ECICOG will authorize applicants to complete a full application.

- A full application must be submitted by December 17, 2018. Incomplete applications will not be accepted. All information submitted as part of this application, as well as any additional information requested by the RPA, will be used to evaluate the application.
- Two typewritten copies of the completed application must be submitted. Information must be clear, concise, and accurate. Photocopies of this form may be used. Additional pages may be attached if the space provided is inadequate.
- The Certification section of this form must be completed by the political jurisdiction responsible for the maintenance and operation of the proposed project.
- Submit the completed application and all attachments by December 17, 2018 @ 4:30 pm to:

**East Central Iowa Council of Governments
700 16th Street NE, Suite 301
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402**

If there are questions, call (319) 365-9941.

Questions regarding the application and project details may also be directed to your local county engineer:

Benton	Myron Parizek	(319) 472-2211
Cedar	Rob Fangmann	(563) 886-6102
Iowa	Nick Amelon	(319) 642-3721
Johnson	Greg Parker	(319) 356-6046
Jones	Derek Snead	(319) 462-3785
Linn	Brad Ketels (Interim)	(319) 892-6400
Washington	Jacob Thorius	(319) 653-7731

WHAT IS STBG SWAP

In the past, Iowa DOT has made a portion of federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds available for local programming by RPAs. The challenge has been that federal funding comes with additional project development regulations and requirements. Many local jurisdictions don't have the staffing or expertise to efficiently manage federal-aid projects, which leads to delays and increased costs. The federal-aid SWAP allows local jurisdictions to exchange their federal funds for construction projects with Iowa Primary Road Funds, and reduces local jurisdiction project costs and delays. Non-construction projects cannot be SWAPPED, and will be processed as federal-aid STBG projects.

PROJECT QUALIFICATIONS

All projects are subject to all applicable state requirements and Iowa DOT approval. To be eligible for STBG or STBG SWAP funds, the following qualifications must be met:

Projects must fall into at least one of the following categories:

1. Construction, reconstruction, resurfacing, restoration, and rehabilitation of federal functional classified routes.
2. Operation movements.
3. Capital costs for transit projects and publicly owned intracity and/or intercity bus terminals or facilities.
4. Highway and transit safety programs.
5. Surface transportation planning, highway and transit technology transfer activities, and research and development.
6. Capital and operating costs for traffic management and control.
7. Fringe and corridor parking facilities.
8. Meet transportation control measures in the Clean Air Act.
9. Development and establishment of management systems.

Project sponsors must be a state, county, or municipal governmental entity.

STBG SWAP projects do not have a local (non-federal funds) match requirement.

Project sponsors must assure they will operate and maintain the property and facility for the useful life (minimum of twenty years) of the improvement and not change the use of any right-of-way acquired without prior approval from the Iowa Department of Transportation.

All project bids will be let by the Iowa Department of Transportation.

Projects/project bundles must have a minimum estimated total cost of \$25,000.

Projects must demonstrate a relationship to transportation.

STBG SWAP funds may be spent on roads with a federal functional classification of "rural minor collector" or above. See maps are available on Iowa DOT's website at <https://iowadot.gov/maps/digital-maps/other-maps/federal-functional-classification-maps-countylisting>. Funds may also be spent on bridges on any road.

INELIGIBLE PROJECT COSTS

Costs not eligible for reimbursement include:

- Any and all costs incurred prior to the execution of an agreement with Iowa DOT.
- Routine maintenance of the project.
- Overhead and operating costs (auditing, legal and administrative costs) associated with the project.
- Expenses associated with the preparation and submission of a project application.
- Utility costs not necessitated by the project.
- Purchases of office furnishings or equipment, construction equipment, or personal property.

APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS

Once applications have been received, they are forwarded to the respective county board of supervisors for prioritization. County priorities are reviewed by the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee at their January meeting to prepare a tentative recommendation for the Transportation Policy Committee. Tentatively approved projects will be included in the RPA's Transportation Improvement Program that is submitted to Iowa DOT by July 15. Final approval is complete when projects are included in the State's Transportation Improvement Program that's submitted to the Federal Highway Administration each Fall.