

To: CRCOG Transportation Committee

From: Anaka Maher, Senior Transportation Planner

Date: November 8, 2024

Subject: Transportation Rural Improvement Grant Program (TRIP) Solicitation

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The Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) has released the guidelines for the second round of funding for the State's Transportation Rural Improvement Program (TRIP). This round will provide \$10 million for eligible construction projects from rural towns. Per CTDOT's guidance, the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) will be permitted to submit up to one (1) project per eligible municipality. Program guidelines and application documents can be found at <https://portal.ct.gov/TRIP>. CTDOT will be offering an informational webinar for interested municipalities in mid-November. CRCOG staff will share details of this event when it becomes available.

### **Project Eligibility**

This program is open to CRCOG's eleven (11) municipalities with greater than or equal to fifty percent of their population living in areas federally classified as rural. However, CTDOT guidelines stipulate that "in order to be eligible for funding under this solicitation, municipalities that were previously awarded a grant under TRIP must have progressed their current project past the point of submission of Final Design and have been issued a written Notice to Proceed or Authorization to Advertise their project for construction by the application deadline." Due to this, CTDOT considers the CRCOG rural towns of **Coventry, Hebron, and Stafford** ineligible for this round of funding.

CRCOG's eight (8) eligible towns for this round are **Andover, Bolton, Columbia, East Granby, Marlborough, Somers, Tolland, and Willington**. Each eligible municipality may submit one (1) project application. The range of each funding award will be between \$300,000 and \$2 million per project, and a 20% match will be required. In-kind services paid for with municipal funds will be accepted as match. Distressed Municipalities and Public Investment Communities are exempt from the match requirement, but the only CRCOG rural community that falls into one of these categories is Stafford, which as noted above is ineligible for this round of funding.

TRIP funds may be used to fund infrastructure projects located on any roadway within the rural areas of eligible municipalities. Sidewalks and multi-use trails are also eligible for TRIP funding. The full list of eligible projects include:

- Rehabilitation projects including roadway resurfacing, structure rehabilitation, and sidewalk and curbing replacement
- Stand-alone sidewalk projects along roadways within a rural territory

- Multi-use trails
- While projects such as bridges and major roadway construction are eligible, these types of projects may require additional design reviews and significant permitting, which should be understood and reflected in the cost and schedule

A full description of each eligible project type is available in the CTDOT guidelines.

## **Selection Process**

Per this round's guidance, CRCOG staff will **not** be ranking or short-listing projects. Rather, all eligible projects received by CRCOG will be submitted to CTDOT for ranking against other statewide projects. A full breakdown of the ranking criteria can be found in the CTDOT guidelines and is summarized below.

### Ranking Criteria

- **Budget:** 10 points
- **Public Benefit:** 40 points
- **Rural Demographics:** 10 points
- **Transportation Network Impact:** 20 points
- **Readiness to Proceed:** 20 points

Applications from Towns must be submitted electronically to Anaka Maher ([amaher@crcog.org](mailto:amaher@crcog.org)) by **January 29, 2025 at 2pm**. CRCOG staff will review the submissions for eligibility and completeness. Staff will then submit the project applications to CTDOT by their deadline of February 7, 2025. It is anticipated that awards will be announced in June 2025.

For general questions related to the TRIP application, please email CTDOT staff at [CTDOT.TRIP@ct.gov](mailto:CTDOT.TRIP@ct.gov). You may also reach out to Anaka Maher ([amaher@crcog.org](mailto:amaher@crcog.org) or 860-724-4219) or Cara Radzins ([cradzins@crcog.org](mailto:cradzins@crcog.org) or 860-724-4251) for assistance.