

To: CRCOG Transportation Committee

From: Anaka Maher, Transportation Engineer

Date: February 13, 2026

Subject: Transportation Rural Improvement Grant Program (TRIP) Solicitation

The Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) has released the guidelines for the third 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>.

Project Eligibility

This program is open to CRCOG's eleven (11) municipalities with greater than or equal to fifty percent (50%) of their population living in areas federally classified as rural. However, CTDOT guidelines stipulate that "to be eligible for funding under a new solicitation, Municipalities previously awarded a TRIP grant must have advanced their prior TRIP project beyond Final Design Submission. Prior awarded TRIP grant projects must have also received from the CTDOT a written *Notice to Proceed* or *Authorization to Advertise* their project for construction contractor bidding. Previous project status requirements must be satisfied by the application deadline of the new TRIP solicitation." Due to this, CTDOT considers the CRCOG rural towns of **Bolton, Columbia, Coventry, Hebron, and Marlborough** ineligible for this round of funding.

CRCOG's six (6) eligible towns for this round are **Andover, East Granby, Somers, Stafford, 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; the two CRCOG rural communities that fall into these categories are **Stafford and Willington**.

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. Eligible project types include:

- Rehabilitation projects including roadway resurfacing, structure rehabilitation, and sidewalk and curbing replacement
 - Note: 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
- Stand-alone sidewalk projects along roadways within a rural territory
- Multi-use trails (however, recreation trails are ineligible)

A full description of each eligible project type is available in the CTDOT guidelines. TRIP funds can only be used for costs related to activities related to project construction. Costs associated with other activities such as engineering, rights-of-way negotiations and acquisitions, and public involvement are the responsibility of the municipality.

Selection Process

All eligible projects received by CRCOG will be submitted to CTDOT for ranking against other statewide projects. CRCOG staff will **not** be ranking or short-listing 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@crcogct.gov) by **April 27, 2026 at noon**. CRCOG staff will review the submissions for eligibility and completeness. Staff will then submit the project applications to CTDOT by their deadline of May 1, 2026.

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