

Background

Ulster County Executive Patrick K. Ryan, Chairman of the Ulster County Transportation Council (UCTC), is pleased to announce the availability of \$1.999 million federal funding for local bridge projects in Ulster County. Pursuant to the 2020 – 2024 UCTC Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), UCTC is soliciting proposals for bridge repair projects utilizing the UCTC’s share of federal Surface Transportation Program “Off System” Bridge Repair funds.

This solicitation is being issued as the UCTC and New York State Department of Transportation assess local and regional needs regarding bridges located off the federal-aid system. As such, municipalities with deficient or aging bridges are strongly encouraged to submit a statement of interest by completing the application materials. This information will be used toward a *regional needs assessment* to identify potential projects if additional funds are made available. Project awards will be issued based on a quantifiable evaluation process as funding is available. A 20% local match will be required for all project proposals; applicants may submit more than one proposal.

UCTC is soliciting projects under the following funding category:

- **Proposals to rebuild, rehabilitate, preserve, or deice off-system bridges.** An off-system bridge is a highway bridge located on a public road that is not a Federal-aid highway.

A map and listing of all eligible bridges is available on the UCTC website.

<http://ulstercountyny.gov/planning/transportation-improvement-plan/tip-call-for-projects>. Note: culverts (defined as spans <20’) are not an eligible facility under this solicitation.

Eligible Applicants and Projects

Any city, county, town, or village within the Ulster County Metropolitan Planning Area with eligible facilities that are authorized to receive and administer state and federal transportation aid may apply.

Eligible bridge projects must be located on local roads or rural minor collectors. Proposed projects should be within an existing right of way; projects requiring significant Right of Way (ROW) acquisition will not receive priority consideration under this solicitation.

Location of Projects

All eligible facilities are shown on the program maps available for viewing and download on the project website. UCTC staff will assist in identifying eligible facilities upon request. Funding is detailed on the 2020-2024 TIP under UCTC Project PIN 8BLK06 “Block Program for Off System Bridges to Include Element Specific Projects.” This solicitation is being issued as the UCTC and New York State Department of Transportation assess local and regional needs regarding bridges located off the federal-aid system. As such, municipalities with deficient or aging bridges are strongly encouraged to submit a statement of interest by completing the application materials that can then be utilized to prioritize awards if additional funds are identified.

Funding Availability

\$1.999m in federal STBG Off System Bridge funds are available on the UCTC TIP across federal fiscal years 2023 & 2024. Modifications to the TIP schedule will be made to accommodate a realistic design and construction schedule of successful application(s). All funds must be obligated no later than September 2025, although a more rapid schedule is highly encouraged.

Maximum Award/Matching Funds/Eligibility

Project proposals are not to exceed federal funding availability for the specified project year (assuming an 80/20 federal/local share). Any costs beyond an authorized project award shall be the sole responsibility of the project sponsor if an offset of federal aid cannot be identified by the UCTC. The federal government reimburses 80% of all the eligible costs of constructing or improving a federal aid project. Local sponsors will be required to provide 20% of the total project costs. Matching requirements must be in accordance with those outlined under the [NYS DOT'S Procedures for Locally Administered Federal Aid Projects \(PLAFAP\) Manual](#).

Eligible Activities

The FAST Act's STBG Program continues all prior STP eligibilities (see in particular 23 U.S.C. 133(b)(15), as amended), including element specific bridge repair or bridge replacement.

An overview of eligible activities specific to the STBG Off-System Bridge Program are listed in a 2016 FHWA memorandum. <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/specialfunding/stp/160307.cfm#g>

Project Application Process

Project sponsors are asked to use the Microsoft Excel Bridge Proposal application form to detail the scope, schedule and costs of the proposal, available on the project website.

All applications will be reviewed by a sub-committee of the UCTC Technical Committee based on the information submitted by the applicant. Required information includes:

- **Project Sponsor:** Municipality sponsoring the project; i.e. City of Kingston
- **Name:** Contact person for the Project Sponsor (Project Manager)
- **Address, email & phone:** Contact information for the project sponsor
- **Project Priority:** if multiple projects are submitted by a project sponsor, each project should be ranked numerically with 1 being the highest priority project.
- **Bridge Identification Number (BIN):** required for each proposed bridge; form will self-populate when the BIN is entered; review and confirm that the information is correct; UCTC staff can assist in identifying BIN numbers upon request
- **Construction Cost:** project construction cost utilizing New York State Department of Transportation's "Preliminary Cost Estimating Worksheet for New and Replacement Bridges" <https://www.dot.ny.gov/divisions/engineering/structures/manuals/preliminary-cost>
- **Total Cost:** Construction cost plus additional project cost including design and inspection.
- **SFY Letting:** The anticipated letting date; month/year (should be spring/summer of the FFY)
- **Project Scope Description:** Brief description of what the project will accomplish.
- **Brief Statement of Need:** Description of the unique elements that contribute to the merit of the project, along with other important factors that are not readily captured by the available data.

Attachments

In addition to the required application(s), project sponsors may also attach project budgets, plans, drawings, reports, environmental determinations or other supporting documentation as deemed appropriate. Attachments to the application should be included with the e-mail submission of your application form. Attached files should be of common business formats such as PDF, JPG, MS Word, MS Excel, etc. There is no limit on file size for attachments; however, large attachments may affect your ability to submit your application.

Project Evaluation and Selection Criteria

All projects must be consistent with the goals and objectives of the UCTC Year 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan and meet an identified federal aid eligible need. Project evaluation criteria will include:

- **Cost/Benefit Ratio:** Quantifiable project benefits divided by the annualized cost of the project will be evaluated based on information provided by the applicant in the sections above. Information is subject to verification by the UCTC TIP Subcommittee.
- **Regional Benefit:** As described here, the UCTC TIP Subcommittee will consider NYSDOT's "Preservation First" framework when considering regional benefit of project proposals. This strategy focuses on preventive, corrective and demand work using Asset Management principles and data driven decision making. The highest priority is to preserve the functionality of the existing highway system in a manner that provides a regional benefit to all users of the system. Applicants that are able to show
- **Project Delivery:** ability of the project sponsor to deliver the project on schedule.

Additional criteria for selection of bridge projects is shown below.

Data Driven Initial Ranking – The Ulster County Local Bridge Priority Index (UCLBPI), Figure I, is a data driven metric aimed at prioritizing capital bridge work based on the relative importance of the structure and condition. It is similar to the index used by NYSDOT in recent years, but has been modified to more accurately reflect the local bridge system. The UCLBPI is comprised four categories including:

- **Capital Need** - Reflects the condition of the bridge and an engineering assessment of whether it needs to be rehabilitated or replaced.
- **Facility Importance** - Includes factors such as detour length, truck and traffic volumes.
- **Restrictions** - Measures economic relative importance of the structure/impacts on commerce.
- **Risk/Resiliency** - Includes factors such as hydraulic vulnerability and structural resiliency.

Figure I

Ulster County Local Bridge Priority Index (0-75)			
Category	Category Points	Individual Parameter	Parameter Points
Capital Need	32.5	General Recommendation	27.5
		Structural Deficiency	5
Facility Importance	27.5	AADT	7
		% Trucks	7
		Detour Length	13.5
Restrictions	5	Postings	5
Risk/Resiliency	10	Fracture Critical	5
		Hydraulic Vulnerability	5
Total			75

Step 2- Review of Unique & Qualitative Factors –The UCTC TIP project selection committee shall review the project rankings from Step 1 and recommend any modifications in rankings. This review will incorporate engineering judgment and a review of qualitative issues such as user benefits and context not fully captured by the available data in order to make a final selection.

Application Submission and Deadline

Application forms with detailed instructions are available on the UCTC TIP Call for Projects webpage at

<http://ulstercountyny.gov/planning/transportation-improvement-plan/tip-call-for-projects>

Applications, cover letter signed by the Chief Elected Official, along with any supporting documentation should be emailed to uctc@co.ulster.ny.us by 5:00pm on January 15, 2021.

Questions or General Inquiries may be submitted to:

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