



CAPITAL DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

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December 11, 2015

To: All Interested Parties

From: Michael V. Franchini, Executive Director *MVF*

Re: Notification of TIP Solicitation

The Capital District Transportation Committee (CDTC), as the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga and Schenectady Counties, has the responsibility under federal law to adopt a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP is our 5-year regional capital plan in which are programmed hundreds of State and local transportation projects funded with federal surface transportation funding. For a copy of our existing 2013-2018 TIP, see the following webpage,
<http://www.cdtcmpo.org/tip.htm>.

Projects programmed on the TIP usually receive 80% of their funding from federal fund sources and the remaining 20% from local fund sources (either State or local). Transportation facilities which are eligible for this federal funding include roads on the federal aid-eligible system (see <http://gis3.dot.ny.gov/html5viewer/?viewer=risvexternal>), bridges, transit systems, and some multi-use trail systems. Project types include highway and bridge preservation (repair) projects, traffic signal and intersection improvements, safety improvements, bicycle and pedestrian projects, and some beyond preservation (reconstruction and replacement) projects.

We are currently in the process of developing our new 2016-2021 TIP, and with this letter we are soliciting projects for this new TIP. Please note that for preservation projects we are only soliciting projects for the first 3 years of the TIP, which consists of approximately \$20 million of funding in each year or approximately \$60 million for 3 years.

Because beyond preservation projects take longer to complete and because there is less funding for them, we are soliciting beyond preservation projects for all 5 years of the TIP. Eligible project sponsors (NYSDOT, CDTA, counties, cities and other municipalities and public entities) should consider candidates and submit those of greatest priority and best fit to CDTC's adopted principles and plans.

CDTC's eligibility criteria require integration of modes and appropriate integration of transportation and land use in all projects. All candidate projects must be consistent with CDTC's New Visions plan as reflected in its adopted Planning and Investment Principles and Recommendations. For a copy of these principles and recommendations, please see the following webpage,
<http://www.cdtcnewvisions.com/assets/New-Visions-2040-Plan-Sept-3-2015.pdf>.

If you have candidate projects that meet the federal and CDTC eligibility criteria and would like to submit candidate projects for CDTC to consider adding to the new 2016-2021 TIP, you must do so by **Friday, January 22, 2016**. If we do not hear from you by then, we will conclude that your jurisdiction is not interested in submitting candidates for funding from the first 3 years of the new TIP.

Your submission letter to CDTC should be signed by the chief elected official or equivalent and contain the following:

- 1) Completed project justification packages (enclosed) for each project submittal. If a given candidate project was submitted in an earlier project solicitation but not programmed for funding or if a project is programmed on the current TIP, but no federal funds have been obligated for any project phases, you will still need to complete and submit a project justification package for that project.
- 2) An indication of your priorities among the projects you propose. (Because of the effort required for CDTC to evaluate projects, your effort to submit only your highest priority projects will be appreciated.)
- 3) An affirmation of local ability/willingness to pay up to 20% of project costs (subject to federal fund source requirements and the availability of state "Marchiselli" funds, this could be reduced to 5% for many project types) and to maintain the project once built, if a non-state facility, should also be included. Note that state procedures will require the local jurisdiction to "front" money for future reimbursement during the project development process.

- 4) The name of a contact person for further information. CDTC staff will rely on this individual during the process of clarifying project details and evaluating project merit.

Candidate projects will be first screened for basic eligibility and consistency with the long range transportation plan by CDTC staff, who will also calculate each candidate project's benefit/cost ratio and fill out a qualitative merit categories scoresheet. CDTC's Planning Committee will then use this information to evaluate the projects and to form a balanced program that makes progress towards meeting regional goals. Please see our website, <http://www.cdtcmpo.org/tip>, for fund eligibility, evaluation criteria, a fillable copy of our project justification package, and other relevant materials.

If you have any questions, please call or email us and we will direct you to the appropriate CDTC staff.