

Competitive Highway Bridge Program Federal Fiscal Year 2024 & 2025

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024
(Pub. L. 118-42, Section 126, March 9, 2024)
and
Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and
Extensions Act, 2025
(Pub. L. 119-4)



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration
Office of Infrastructure

Except for the statutes and regulations cited, the contents of this presentation do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the States or the public in any way. This presentation is intended only to provide information regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.

1. Introduction



- This is a summary presentation on the Fiscal Year 2024 and 2025 Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP), the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), and application requirements. This presentation does not cover all CHBP program, application, and grant administration requirements including all applicable Federal laws, regulations, policies and Executive Orders. Each section of the NOFO contains information and instructions relevant to the application process. The applicant should read the NOFO in its entirety in order to submit all necessary information for complete and competitive applications.



2. Statutory Requirements



- Up to \$250M FY24 funds and up to \$250M FY25 funds for **highway bridge replacement and rehabilitation** projects on public roads (Pub. L. 118-42, Div. F, Sec. 126(a) and Pub. L. 119-4)
- Projects must demonstrate cost savings through **bundling** (Pub. L. 118-42, Div. F, Sec. 126(a) and Pub. L. 119-4)



3. Statutory Requirements



- **Obligation Deadlines** (Pub. L. 118-42, Div. F, Sec. 126(c) and Pub. L. 119-4):
 - FY24 funds is **September 30, 2027**
 - FY25 funds is **September 30, 2028**
- **Expenditure Deadlines** (Pub. L. 118-42, Div. F, Sec. 126(c) & Pub. L. 119-4):
 - \$50M in FY24 and FY25 are General Fund appropriations
 - ✦ FY24 General Funds is **September 30, 2032**
 - ✦ FY25 General Funds is **September 30, 2033**
 - \$200M in FY24 and FY25 are Highway Trust Fund appropriations
 - ✦ Highway Trust Funds are available until fully expended



4. Statutory Requirements



- **Eligible States** (Pub. L. 118-42, Div. F, Sec. 126(a) and Pub. L. 119-4):
 - Have a population density of less than 115 people per square mile based on the 2020 census and a State's total land area
 - Have less than 26 percent of total bridges classified as in good condition, or have greater than or equal to 5.2 percent of total bridges classified in poor condition based on the National Bridge Inventory as of June 2023
 - In addition, States meeting the population criteria and that have greater than 14 percent of total bridges classified as in poor condition are eligible to receive no less than \$32.5 million from FY24 funds and no less than \$32.5 million from FY25 funds, pursuant to a determination that projects are eligible and sufficient to fund such amount



5. Statutory Requirements



- Eligible States (Pub. L. 118-42, Div. F, Sec. 126(a) and Pub. L. 119-4):
 - Alaska
 - Arkansas
 - Iowa
 - Kansas
 - Kentucky
 - Louisiana
 - Maine
 - Mississippi
 - Missouri
 - Montana
 - Nebraska
 - North Dakota
 - Oklahoma
 - South Dakota
 - Utah
 - West Virginia
 - Wisconsin
 - Wyoming
- States eligible to receive no less than \$32.5M from FY24 funds and no less than \$32.5 million from FY25 funds (Pub. L. 118-42, Div. F, Sec. 126(a) and Pub. L. 119-4):
 - Iowa
 - Maine
 - South Dakota
 - West Virginia



6. Statutory Requirements



- **Federal share:**
 - The standard share is up to 80 percent of the project cost (23 U.S.C. 120(b))
 - A bridge on the Interstate System is eligible for up to 90 percent (23 U.S.C 120(a))
 - For States on the sliding scale, the share is up to 95 percent in accordance with 23 U.S.C. 120(b)



7. Statutory Requirements



- **Eligible project types** (Pub. L. 118-42, Div. F, Sec. 126(a) and Pub. L. 119-4):
 - **Replacement:** total replacement of a bridge with a new facility constructed in the same general traffic corridor. (Specifications for the National Bridge Inventory)
 - **Rehabilitation:** the major work required to restore the structural integrity of a bridge as well as work necessary to correct major safety defects. Examples; partial or complete deck replacement, superstructure replacement, substructure/culvert strengthening or partial/full replacement, structure widening, or major modification to substantial portions of the bridge. (23 CFR 650.305)



8. Statutory Requirements



- Project must be a bridge bundle (Pub. L. 118-42, Div. F, Sec. 126(a) and Pub. L. 119-4):
 - Bridge bundling: two or more similar bridge projects that are eligible projects under Sections 119 or 133; included as a bundled project in a Transportation Improvement Program under Section 134(j) or a Statewide Transportation Improvement Program under Section 135, as applicable; and awarded to a single contractor (for construction in the case of the CHBP). (23 U.S.C 144(j))
 - The 2024 Consolidated Appropriations Act and 2025 Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act remove the requirements of 23 U.S.C. 144(j)(5), that projects bundled shall have the same financial characteristics, including (A) the same funding category or subcategory; and (B) the same Federal share (Pub. L. 118-42, Div. F, Sec. 126(a) and Pub. L. 119-4)



9. Application Requirements



- Only State DOTs may apply for a grant and administer the funds
- An eligible State DOT may submit an application in partnership with a non-State DOT. If such application is selected, the State DOT must be the recipient of grant funds
- Applications are limited to 5 per State and must be ranked by the State DOT
- The project and requested grant funds must include construction



10. Application Requirements



- Submit to grants.gov <https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/358151>
- Submittals must be made to grants.gov by August 4, 2025, 11:59 PM Eastern Time
- Only applications received before the deadline will be reviewed



11. Application Content & Format



- Standard Forms
 - Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
 - Budget Information for Construction Programs (SF-424C)
 - Assurances for Construction Programs (SF-424D)
 - Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)
 - Grants.gov Lobbying Form (Certification Regarding Lobbying)

Found at grants.gov with the NOFO posting

<https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/358151>



12. Application Content & Format



- Project Narrative attachment
 - Basic Project Information
 - ✦ Project Description
 - Description of project
 - Transportation challenges/needs will address
 - List of bridges in the bundle
 - Type of planned work for each bridge
 - Relevant National Bridge Inventory data (in Coding Guide format)
 - Structure Number (item 8)
 - Condition data (items 58, 59, 60, 61, 62)
 - Load rating & posting data (items 41, 63, 64, 65, 66, 70)
 - Functional Classification (item 26)
 - Current average daily traffic (item 29)
 - Current average daily truck traffic (item 109)
 - Other relevant data that indicates bridge needs and supports the planned work



13. Application Content & Format



- Project Narrative attachment
 - Basic Project Information (continued)
 - ✦ Project Location
 - Description of locations within the bundle
 - Map
 - ✦ Applicant (State DOT)
 - ✦ Project Parties
 - All parties responsible for project delivery and description of roles
 - ✦ Any additional information (maps, graphics, images, etc.)



14. Application Content & Format



- Project Narrative attachment
 - Grant Funds, Sources and Uses of all Project Funding
 - ✦ Project costs
 - ✦ Funding sources and amounts, to fully fund
 - ✦ Budget for each bridge and funding source and amount
 - ✦ Budgeted contingency to cover unanticipated cost increases



15. Application Content & Format



- Project Narrative attachment
 - Merit Criteria
 - ✦ Describe how the proposed project meets the merit criteria identified in Section 6 of the NOFO



16. Application Content & Format



- Project Narrative attachment
 - Project Readiness and Permitting Risk
 - ✦ Technical feasibility of delivering the proposed project and planned work types
 - ✦ Project schedule with major milestones through construction completion
 - ✦ Required approvals and status (environmental clearance and permits, state and local planning, fund programming, etc.)
 - ✦ Project risks and mitigation strategies



17. Application Content & Format



- Project Narrative attachment

- FHWA Priority Selection Considerations

- ✦ Priority considerations are used to prioritize projects that receive a similar overall application rating
 - ✦ Describe how the proposed project meets the four priority considerations:
 1. Plans to improve the condition of a bundle of bridges in poor condition as demonstrated by having one or more components in condition rating 4 or less, or in fair condition and at risk of falling into poor condition as demonstrated by having one or more components in condition rating 5, based on NBI data as of June 2023.
 2. The project will be ready to obligate funds for construction within 18 months of an CHBP grant award.
 3. Replacement bridges provide safety and/or mobility benefits from the improvement of traffic safety features, geometry, and/or hydraulics.
 4. Rehabilitation bridges are demonstrated as being more cost effective over the long-term than replacement and do not have safety and mobility needs that are not addressed by rehabilitation.



18. Application Review Information



- The application's Project Narrative attachment is reviewed and rated against the Merit Criteria and Project Readiness criteria identified in Section 6 of the NOFO



19. Application Review Information



- Merit Criteria

- State of Good Repair

- ✦ how the project supports achieving and maintaining a bridge inventory that is in a state of good repair

- Safety and Mobility

- ✦ how the project will improve safety on the bridges and associated approach and under roadway sections within the project limits, and potentially beyond from secondary benefits
 - ✦ how the project will improve mobility within the project limits, and potentially beyond from secondary benefits.



20. Application Review Information



- Merit Criteria (cont.)

- Innovation

- ✦ how the project uses innovation to reduce project delivery costs and/or time, including construction, or to improve project delivery efficiency, including during construction from bundling



21. Application Review Information



- Project Readiness criteria
 - Technical Assessment
 - ✦ Applicant's capacity to successfully deliver the project in compliance with applicable Federal requirements
 - Financial Completeness Assessment
 - ✦ Funding availability and certainty, including contingencies for cost increases
 - Permitting Risk Assessment
 - ✦ Status of project's environmental approvals and likelihood of the necessary approvals affecting project obligation



22. Application Review Information



- FHWA Priority Selection Considerations
 - Used to assist in making selections when applications have similar overall ratings
 - The four priority considerations are identified in in Section 6 of the NOFO



23. Awards



- Projects selected to receive an award will be announced by a posting on <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bridge/bripro.cfm>. The FHWA Division Office where the project is located will contact the POC identified on the SF-424.
- Notice of selection does not constitute authorization to begin performance nor to incur costs for the proposed project
- The FHWA Division Office will provide instructions on how to complete the grant agreement



24. Contacts and Questions



- Please send questions to CHBPgrant@dot.gov



END



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