

MEMORANDUM

To: County Commissioners, City/Town Managers, Clerks in municipalities without managers

From: Bev Stables, Colorado Municipal League
Meghan MacKillop, Colorado Counties, Inc.

Date: September 24, 2025

Re: 2026-2027 Bridge Funds Available

The Special Highway Committee is accepting applications for bridge funds for rehabilitation or replacement of substandard bridges. **County applications are due to CCI's offices and municipal applications are due to CML's offices, by 5:00 p.m., Friday, November 7, 2025.**

There is approximately \$24.7 million in anticipated bridge funds available for allocation between 2025 and 2027. Priority will be given to projects on bridges that have been deemed scour critical, have the lowest sufficiency ratings, and are ready for construction.

Program Guidelines

- (1) The program generally funds projects on an 80% grant and 20% local funding basis. The maximum amount of the grant is 80% of the eligible project costs.
- (2) Federally-funded bridges must be included in the STIP (Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan) and, if an applicant entity is in a metropolitan planning organization area, in the regional TIP before the project can be funded. Inclusion in the STIP and TIP can be accomplished after the Special Highway Committee's recommendation process.
- (3) All federally-funded projects are administered according to CDOT and federal procedures, including review and oversight of the consulting engineer selection process, bridge design, and construction oversight.
- (4) Any bridge grants awarded must be completed within FOUR years of the grant award. (See attached memorandum from CCI/CML/CDOT)

Eligibility

Bridges that are on the Select List of the federal bridge inventory with a sufficiency rating of 50.0 or less are eligible for replacement funding. Bridges on the Select List with a sufficiency rating of greater than 50.0 are eligible for rehabilitation funds only, unless the cost of rehabilitation is documented as exceeding the cost of replacement. Generally, any bridge with a sufficiency rating of 50.0 or less is on the Select List. **Bridges must be rated as Structurally Deficient or Functionally Obsolete to qualify for funding.** You can check a bridge's eligibility by consulting the Select List which is provided with this memorandum. If you have any questions regarding the bridges on the Select List, contact Nyssa Beach, CDOT Bridge Asset Manager, by emailing nyssa.beach@state.co.us

Be sure to assess the need for bridge replacement or rehabilitation on the most current data. If you have a vehicular bridge, open to the public, that has never been inspected (it must have a span of 20 feet or greater, abutment to abutment), contact Ms. Beach at CDOT to have the bridge added to the federal bridge inventory.

Application

We are asking that all local governments submit their applications electronically to the e-mail addresses provided below. If you are unable to submit electronically, please contact CCI or CML for assistance.

The following information **must** be provided in the application for each structure submitted for funding:

- A copy of the bridge inspection report
- A brief narrative discussing the need for the work
- Cost estimate
- Estimated start date and project completion date
- Photographs of the bridge
- Average daily traffic (ADT) numbers for bridge in question

The enclosed Bridge Project Cost Estimate form can be used to provide much of the required information.

If you submit more than one off-system bridge project, please indicate your priority for funding among your projects. The Special Highway Committee makes an effort to recommend funding for at least one bridge project per applicant prior to funding additional projects for a single jurisdiction.

Municipal applications should be sent to:

Bev Stables
Colorado Municipal League
bstables@cml.org
1144 Sherman Street
Denver, CO 80203-2207

County applications should be sent to:

Meghan MacKillop
Colorado Counties, Inc.
meghan@nexuspolicygroup.com
1120 Lincoln Street
9th Floor Suite 904
Denver, CO 80203

Notification of Approval

The Committee anticipates that projects will be reviewed, funding recommendations made, and applicants notified by mid to late-December.

If you have any other questions concerning your applications, please call Bev Stables at 978.973.4401 or Meghan MacKillop at 720.308.0672.