

TRANSPORTATION RURAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TRIP) (DRAFT) Frequently Asked Questions and Answers for Application Process

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Note: The answers listed in this document are for typical situations and may not apply correctly to every project. The CTDOT reserves the right to issue an alternate response if the answer here is deemed incorrect.

Answers to several common questions can be found in the [TRIP Program Guidelines](#)

Q1. Is my municipality eligible for TRIP?

A: TRIP is open to municipalities with at least 50% of their population living in rural areas, as defined by the US Census Bureau. You can check the [TRIP eligibility map](#) to see if your municipality qualifies. Municipalities that received a prior TRIP grant must have received approval of their prior final design submission package before being eligible to receive another grant.

Q2: What types of projects are eligible?

A: TRIP funds projects that construct, modernize, or repair transportation infrastructure to improve safety and accessibility in rural areas. Eligible projects include:

- Roadway reconstruction and resurfacing
- Intersection safety improvements (e.g., signalization, roundabouts)
- Bridge rehabilitation or replacement
- Bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure (e.g., sidewalks, shared-use paths)
- Transit-oriented development projects in rural areas

TRIP grants cannot be used for:

- Routine maintenance (e.g., pothole patching, snow removal)
- Projects that primarily benefit private property
- Projects that don't address transportation needs

Q3: How do I apply?

A: Applications must be submitted to CTDOT through your municipality's respective Council of Governments (COG). Contact your COG for their specific deadlines and application procedures. Applications are due to CTDOT by the deadline listed in the notice of funding opportunity.

Q4: What should my application include?

A: The application requests information about the proposed project, including but not limited to:

- A detailed description of the project
- A location map
- Concept plan
- A project schedule
- A detailed cost estimate
- Information about potential impacts (e.g., environmental, social)
- Demonstration of public support

The [application form](#) includes specific instructions and guidance on how to provide this information. Please refer to the application form for specific details and instructions.

Q5: What level of development should my project be to submit an application?

A: Projects that have already completed some level of planning and/or design work can demonstrate their readiness to proceed and may score higher in the evaluation process and may therefore be more competitive. This is because it shows that the municipality is committed to the project and has the capacity to implement it successfully.

Q6: Is there a local match requirement?

A: Yes, a 20% local match is generally required. Communities listed as [Distressed Municipalities](#) and/or [Public Investment Communities](#) are exempt.

Q7: What qualifies as a local match?

A: Cash or in-kind services (staff time, equipment, materials) paid for with municipal funds. Engineering, studies, and right-of-way acquisition costs directly related to the project also qualify.

Q8: How does the local match work?

A: See example scenarios below:

TRIP 80% / 20% Match Scenarios

A 20% local match will be required for all grants received by municipalities that are not identified as Public Investment Communities or Distressed Municipalities....

	Scenario	Project Cost at Application			Project Cost at Construction				Payment	
		Application Estimate/ Amount Requested	80% Award/ Commitment	20% Municipal Match	Project Cost at Bid	Actual Grant Amount	20% Municipal Match*	Additional Municipal Responsibility **	Initial Payment Amount ***	Supplemental Payment Amount (if Required Following Verification Of Match) ***
1	Project bids come in higher than estimate at application	\$1,000,000.00	\$ 800,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$1,200,000.00	\$ 800,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 600,000.00	\$ 200,000.00
2	Project bids come in lower than estimate at application	\$1,000,000.00	\$ 800,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 800,000.00	\$ 640,000.00	\$ 160,000.00	\$ -	\$ 480,000.00	\$ 160,000.00

* Must be municipal funds (in-kind or other)

** May be from other source (i.e. municipal funds or other State grants)

Payment will be made once bid results are received. If the local match can be verified as being satisfied at this time the initial payment will be for the full

*** amount. If any portion of the local match is still outstanding, the amount of match remaining will be held back until it is shown to be satisfied. At that time a supplemental PAL will be issued for the remaining amount.

Q9: What if the project estimate is more than the requested grant amount?

A: Your municipality is responsible for costs exceeding the grant amount. Use of municipal or other state funds to cover the difference is acceptable.

Q10: What happens if project bids come in higher than estimated?

A: Your municipality is responsible for covering the extra costs. Use municipal or other state-approved funds. TRIP does not provide extra funding for bid overages.

Q11: What happens if project bids come in lower than estimated?

A: The TRIP grant will be adjusted to cover 80% of the actual project cost. Your municipality is still responsible for the remaining 20% local match. Unused grant funds will be returned via an audit process.

Q12: Is public involvement required before I apply?

A: No, but it's encouraged! Demonstrating public support strengthens your application.

Q13: When will award decisions be announced?

A: We anticipate announcing award decisions approximately 3-4 months after the application deadline

Q14: How are applications selected?

A: See section 1.2 “Application Evaluation and Project Selection” of the [TRIP Program Guidelines](#) for the scoring criteria.

Q15: How will I be notified of the decision?

A: We'll make announcements via press release, email to town officials, and our website.