

Frequently Asked Questions

Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STP-S)

2021 Call for Projects

If you have questions about the STP-S application process, scoring criteria, or anything else related to the STP-S Call for Projects, please check below to see if it has already been asked. We plan to update this list on a regular basis. If you don't find your question below, don't hesitate to email us at stps@ewgateway.org.

Q1: How do I submit my application?

Submit the completed application, scanned signature pages, and necessary attachments electronically to EWG at stps@ewgateway.org. Please submit one application per email. Applications must be received by February 11, 2021. Note that hard copies cannot be accepted as East-West Gateway's offices are currently closed.

You may submit the application fee by electronic funds transfer (contact staci.alvarez@ewgateway.org for set-up instructions) or by check to:

East-West Gateway Council of Governments
Attn: Transportation Planning Department – STP-S
One Memorial Drive, Suite 1600
St. Louis, MO 63102-2451

Application fees must be postmarked by February 11, 2021 or received electronically by February 18, 2021.

Q2: Can federal funds be used for local match?

Federal funds are generally not allowed to be used for local match, with the exception of funds from Federal Land Management Agencies (such as the Forest Service or National Park Service) or HUD Community Development Block Grants. In all cases, confirm with MoDOT or IDOT prior to using any federal funds as local match.

Q3: We would like some further information as to how “within community” or “outside community” will be determined.

Road and bridge project types will receive a weighted average of the PEI cells it falls within. Sponsors can request a PEI designation for each project until January 14th. Staff will respond within five business days with the project scale.

Q4: We feel our project should have a different PEI designation from what we received. What information should we provide on the PEI Change Request Form to justify this change?

PEI designation is only used for road and bridge projects to determine whether a project is "within community" or "outside community." The Population & Employment Index (PEI) tells us the basics about the local context of a project, but it isn't exact. If you submit a designation request and disagree with the designation determined by the Index, you can send in a PEI Change Request Form. On the form, let us know of any issues that may impact walking and biking along the project limits that may not have been accounted for in the population and employment density data for the area. For example, if there are future developments planned nearby, geographical barriers, connections to existing facilities, a large attractor, a nearby transit facility, etc. these could all impact the amount of pedestrians and bicyclists utilizing a facility. The change request is due by January 29th. Staff will respond within five business days.

Q5: Who do I send a request for a letter of coordination if my project is on a transit route?

A letter of support is only required if there is an impact to transit (i.e., bus stop improvements are part of a project).

Send requests to:

- Bi-State Development/Metro - Lance Peterson, Director of Service Planning and Jessica Gershman, Assistant Executive Director for Planning & System Development
- Madison County Transit District – Phil Roggio, Director of Planning & Capital Projects
- St. Clair County Transit District – Tony Erwin, Director of Facilities & Maintenance

A transit letter is not required if the project does not include transit improvements.

Q6: What is the difference between submitting a project as STP-S traffic flow vs. CMAQ?

While the types of projects will likely be similar, the particular nature of the project may lead a sponsor to submit in one program rather than the other. For instance, while the focus of the CMAQ program is on reduced emissions, the focus of STP-S traffic flow is on system reliability/reduced delays, with emissions still accounted for, but given a smaller share of points. Additionally, a greater range of factors are taken into account with STP-S traffic flow, allowing a project to receive points for non-traffic flow aspects included in their project, such as improved safety, multimodal improvements, or freight significance. Any new roads or added through-lanes are ineligible for CMAQ funds, but eligible for STP-S.

Q7: The application asks for anticipated regular maintenance costs over the next 25 years. Should these be based on the cost to maintain the existing condition of the road if the project were not funded or future conditions after construction has been completed?

Maintenance costs should be based on future conditions of the roadway after construction has been completed. Project sponsors should be considering maintenance costs early in the process and ensure they will be able to maintain any facilities constructed with federal funds.

Q8: Can you provide direction as to how points will be assigned for cost?

The scale is open-ended. Below is a table showing the continuous scale for STP-S projects in Missouri and Illinois:

Illinois	
Adjusted Construction Cost Range*	Point Range
\$650,000 or less $\leq x \leq 20\%$	$20 \geq x \geq 4$
$x > 20\%$	0
<i>*The adjusted construction/CE funds available = IDOT STP-S funding mark/0.8</i>	
Missouri	
Federal Project Cost Range	Point Range
\$800,000 or less $\leq x < 5\%$	$20 \geq x > 10$
$5\% \leq x < 10\%$	$10 \geq x > 5$
$10\% \leq x \leq 15\%$	$5 \geq x \geq 2.8$
$x > 15\%$	0

Q9: If your project includes sidewalk slab replacements, does that trigger Americans with Disabilities (ADA) compliance on the entire sidewalk within the project limits?

Make sure to draft the scope of work so that it specifies what will be constructed. All new sidewalk must be ADA compliant. If the scope includes repairs to sections of sidewalk along the limits then ADA mandates that all the sidewalk be made ADA compliant. This will make your project costs increase due to potential right-of-way acquisition.

Q10: Are ADA transition plans required to submit an application?

The ADA requires public agencies with 50 or more employees to have an ADA transition plan. EWG does not require a transition plan to apply for funds.

Q11: Where can I find out more information about ADA requirements?

FHWA offers a Question and Answer on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). You can review this information at the following link:

https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/civilrights/programs/ada/ada_sect504qa.cfm.

Q12: What is the minimum amount of information that should be submitted with a preliminary application?

Enough information must be provided for EWG reviewers to understand the project's scope, schedule, and financial plan. This information is all included in the application itself. However,

the more information you provide in your preliminary application, the better able EWG will be to provide detailed comments. If you are attending a Project Review Workshop, you have the option of submitting either a preliminary application, or the Project Review Workshop Information Form which is a simplified form which only asks for the core information needed for the workshop.

Q13: Is it necessary to submit the crash reports for all projects?

On the safety application, in order to calculate the Benefit/Cost Ratio, please provide the full crash reports for all crashes along the project limits, within the timeframe requested. For other project types, if a safety countermeasure is included in the project scope, only submit full crash reports for all fatal and serious injury crashes and up to 10 minor injury or property damage-only crashes that coincide with the proposed countermeasure. Please redact sensitive and personal information from crash reports.

Q14: There are no safety countermeasures included in my project. Should I still attach crash reports?

If you are not including a safety countermeasure, crash reports are not required. In order to receive safety points, a countermeasure related to crashes or a preventive countermeasure must be included in the project.

Q15: For the lifespan of my countermeasure on the Safety Supplement, do we have to use the service life given in the Project Development Workbook?

The IDOT Safety and Engineering Policy Memorandum (source of the lifespans in the Project Development Workbook) is an excellent resource for the lifespan of different facility types, which both Illinois and Missouri sponsors should use to determine the lifespan of the countermeasure. However, if you have a different internal policy, or a different resource which you utilize to determine facility lifespan, you are free to use that. If you choose not to use the IDOT guide, please note the resource you use and either provide a copy of it or a link to it on the safety application.

Q16: The Safety Application asks for the maintenance costs for one year. Is this an average over the facility's lifetime?

The safety application asks for the costs associated only with the maintenance of the countermeasure over one year. This should be the average yearly maintenance cost of the countermeasure over the course of its lifetime. Estimate the total cost of maintaining the countermeasure over its lifetime, then divide that by the number of years of the countermeasure's lifetime to get the average annual maintenance cost.

Q17: My local agency uses a pavement rating system other than PASER. Can we use that for our application instead?

For consistency in reviewing project applications, all road conditions should be reported in terms of Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating (PASER) ratings. Sponsors should report the PASER rating at a uniform distance every 1/8 mile along the roadway for projects between 3/8

mile and one mile using the Road Condition Evaluation Form provided on the STP-S Call for Projects webpage. If the project less than 3/8 mile long, a minimum of three evaluations at a uniform distance is required. If the project is greater than one mile, a minimum of eight evaluations at a uniform distance is required. Manuals detailing the PASER evaluation process are available at the links below:

Asphalt: https://epd.wisc.edu/tic/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2019/12/Asphalt-PASER_02_rev13.pdf

Concrete: https://epd.wisc.edu/tic/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2019/12/Concrete-PASER_02_rep15.pdf

Q18: What is the amount of the project funding cap for STP-S?

For STP-S, a project in IL can request up to 20% of the adjusted construction funds available, while in MO, a project can request up to 15% of the total federal funds available. For the 2021 STP-S Call for Projects, the IL cap is \$1,450,000 construction/CE cost and the MO cap is \$8,250,000 federal.

Q19: What is the current link to MoDOT LPA Basic Training?

Missouri project sponsors are required to have an agency staff member who is certified under MoDOT's LPA Basic Training program. This training offers information on the Local Public Agency process. Please use this link: <https://www.modot.org/training-opportunities>.

Q20: How do I know if my Missouri Person of Responsible Charge certification is still current?

Sponsors in Missouri should check this link to ensure they have a current LPA Basic Training certification: <https://www.modot.org/media/29062>. If the name of the person at your agency who is to be the Person of Responsible Charge is not listed, they will need to use the link in Question 19 to take the class. Certifications are valid for two years.

Q21: When are STP-S funds available?

Illinois: construction/construction engineering funds are available in FY 2025.

Missouri: preliminary engineering funds are available in FY 2023, right-of-way in FY 2023 or FY 2024, and construction/construction engineering in FY 2024 or FY 2025. Note: FY 2024 construction/construction engineering must be less than \$1 million federal.

Q22: Now that construction engineering (CE) can be funded with STP-S in Illinois, can I apply for CE funding for a project that was funded in prior cycles (2019 and earlier)?

The Illinois Transportation Planning Committee voted to allow STP-S funding for CE beginning in the 2020 Call for Projects. A sponsor cannot apply to retroactively include CE in a project that was previously recommended for funding.

Q23: Can I submit an application for only CE?

No, a sponsor must include construction funding in the application as well.

Q24: My project I submitted last year was not recommended for funding and I am going to submit the same project this year (in Illinois). Do I need to submit a new Logical Termini Review Form?

Please contact EWG Staff to determine if a new form is required. Generally, if the application is identical to last year (i.e. scope, limits), a new Logical Termini Review Form is not required. If the project is identical to last year, submit the approved Logical Termini Review Form in the application.

Q25: Can I construct a two way turn lane as part of a resurfacing project using the road application?

The road application is for road preservation. Costs associated with new pavement for continuous two way turn lane construction would need to be locally funded. Make sure to detail in the cost estimate the amount for the two way turn lane. Two way turn lanes may be included as part of a safety or traffic flow application and receive STP-S funding.