

INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANTS

Regional Planning Affiliation 1 (RPA-1)/Upper Explorerland Transportation Policy Board is seeking applications for federal-aid Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding and Swap funding (STBG funding swapped for state funding) available through the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2027, which begins October 1, 2026.

All public agencies and local governments with jurisdiction over public rights-of-way for transportation (including walking and bicycling facilities), public transit responsibilities, or transportation planning responsibilities within the RPA-1/UERPC boundaries are eligible to apply for funding. RPA-1/UERPC includes the Counties of Allamakee, Clayton, Fayette, Howard, and Winneshiek and the public agencies and local governments with jurisdictions therein.

RPA-1 is expected to have approximately \$3.9 million available for distribution in FFY 2026.

Projects must meet the following eligibility requirements. If you are unsure if a project is eligible, please contact Aaron Detter at UERPC or the respective County Engineer (contact information is below).

- 1) Must be located within or along the boundaries of RPA-1/UERPC.
- 2) Must be consistent with and supportive of the goals of RPA-1's Long-Range, Multimodal Transportation Plan, *Safe Mobility for Everyone*. The plan can be accessed at: <https://tinyurl.com/y66sdgxx>
- 3) Project Location
 - I. Road projects must be located on a federal-aid route (roads with a federal functional classification of minor collector or higher in rural areas; any farm-to-market route; or on roads or streets with a federal functional classification of collector or higher in urban areas). Federal functional classification maps can be accessed at: <https://iowadot.gov/maps/digital-maps/city-and-county-maps>
 - II. Bridge projects may be located on any public road.
 - III. Infrastructure projects for pedestrians and bicyclists (sidewalks, crosswalk enhancements, bicycle lanes, paved multi-use trails, etc.), including modifications to comply with requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), **may be located on any public road, street, or right-of-way**, including those functionally classified as local roads/streets.
 - IV. Highway and transit safety infrastructure projects, including railway-road grade crossings, may be located on any public road.
 - V. Transit projects and transportation planning projects must serve communities or areas in the RPA-1/UERPC region.
- 4) Applicants must share the project with the Board of Supervisors of the County in which the project is located for a review and recommendation. Approval of the Board of Supervisors is not required, but a letter or other documentation verifying review and making a recommendation on the project shall be included with the RPA-1 funding application.
- 5) For road and bridge projects, regional priority is to use the funds toward construction and final design, not feasibility studies, concept development, or preliminary estimating.
- 6) Have a minimum 20% matching funds. No in-kind or soft match. The matching funds must come from a non-federal funding source (i.e. local, state, or private). STBG awarded to cities may be swapped for state funds, per the Iowa DOT Swap Policy; thus, a 20% match is not required of city applicants.

RPA-1 – PROJECT APPLICATION FOR FFY 2027 STBG/Swap FUNDING

If a project is awarded funding that requires a local match, a letter on official letterhead indicating approval by the City Council, County Board of Supervisors, or executive board/officer, as applicable, to expend the local match will be required.

The following criteria will apply to the development and letting of the project:

- 1) All projects will be let through IDOT. Applicants whose projects are awarded funding are required to adhere to all IDOT project-development guidance and requirements. Additional information can be found here: https://iowadot.gov/local_systems/im/lpa-ims
- 2) Plans for construction projects must be developed by a Professional Engineer registered in the State of Iowa.
- 3) Plans for construction projects must go through the proper review by IDOT as outlined by IDOT. Contact the IDOT Local Systems Bureau for development timeline requirements.
- 4) In the case of swapped projects, applicable federal laws are still in effect and must be followed during project development and construction even though federal dollars are not being used to fund the project—for example, laws concerning environmental impacts, historical impacts, archeological impacts, etc.
- 5) Inspection and documentation of the project construction will be performed as required by IDOT. Inspectors shall have all necessary certifications for inspection.

Applications will be accepted beginning January 31, 2023 and are **due by February 28, 2023**. If you have any questions, please contact Aaron Detter at 563-419-6126, adetter@uerpc.org. County and City contacts are listed below and may also be contacted with questions.

County Engineers:	Allamakee	Brian Ridenour	563-568-4574
	Clayton	Casey Stickfort	563-245-1782
	Fayette	Joel Fantz	563-422-3552
	Howard	Nick Rissman	563-547-2620
	Winneshiek	Lee Bjerke	563-382-2951
City Contacts:	Decorah	Travis Goedken	563-382-3651
	Oelwein	Dylan Mulfinger	319-283-5440

RPA-1/UERPC Project Application for FFY 2027 STBG/Swap Funding

Applicant/Entity _____

Contact Person _____ Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

Project Name	Route/Street Termini of Project	Length	Type of Work	Total Project Cost (\$1,000s)	Funds Requested (\$1,000s)	Local Match (\$1,000s)	Project Sponsor	County Reviewed (Y/N)
1)								
2)								
3)								

Return To:

Aaron Detter, Senior Transportation Planner
 Upper Explorerland Regional Planning Commission
 325 Washington Street
 Decorah, IA 52101
 Or via e-mail to:
adetter@uerpc.org

Project Applications are due by February 28, 2023