



DEPARTMENT OF ROADS

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Funding Preventative Maintenance, Rehabilitation and Replacement of Bridge Infrastructure in Macomb County

Background

Adequate funding, dedicated investment, and efficient planning are needed to fix and maintain one of our region's greatest assets, our bridge infrastructure, which includes more than 225 structures in Macomb County. The Macomb County Department of Roads (MCDR) takes a comprehensive and strategic approach to improving Macomb County's bridge system through a sustainable balance of preventive maintenance, rehabilitation, and replacement, allocating resources based on bridge conditions, data, and needs.

MCDR actively works to identify and secure available resources to invest in our bridge infrastructure, including federal and state programs, grant opportunities, and other funding sources. Unfortunately, current funding is not adequate to meet all transportation infrastructure needs throughout Macomb County, including bridges.

Local Bridge Program

A vital source of funding for bridges in Macomb County is the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Local Bridge Program. Enacted by state legislation in 2004, the program includes a Local Bridge Fund, a Local Bridge Advisory Board (LBAB), and seven Regional Bridge Councils (RBC).

The Metro RBC is composed of agencies that receive funding from the Michigan Transportation Fund (MTF) through Public Act 51 (PA 51), including Macomb, Oakland, St. Clair, and Wayne counties, and the cities and villages within those counties. Funding allocations and project selection for the Local Bridge Fund are selected through a competitive application process through the Metro RBC. The Metro RBC evaluates and rates submitted applications, and determines which bridge projects are to be funded each year based on the dollars allocated by the LBAB. Funds from the program can be used for construction costs only. The costs for preliminary engineering, construction engineering, and right of way acquisition are not paid from the Local Bridge Fund.

The RBC program covers 95% of construction costs and requires, at a minimum, 5% local funding participation. Previously, MCDR funded the 5% local funding participation as well as preliminary engineering, construction engineering, and administrative fees. As part of the program's project evaluation process, preliminary points are calculated based on bridge conditions and inventory data. The remaining points are voted on by Metro RBC members, including awarding additional points to project applications that provide more than the 5% local funding minimum requirement.

Most project application submittals have voluntarily increased the local funding participation up to 20% to be more competitive among other applicant projects. Additionally, increasing local funding participation also allows the limited amount of federal and state dollars that are available to be used among more projects on an annual basis, allowing more work to be completed in a given construction season.

Rising Costs of Bridge Infrastructure

Bridge costs have risen approximately 40% since 2020. Due to a variety of factors, including but not limited to the increase in material and labor costs, the increase in the local cost share percentage to remain competitive, MCDR budget limitations, and inflation, the cost of maintaining bridges is anticipated to continue to rise.

Long Term Savings

While investing in bridge maintenance, repair and replacement is an additional cost in the short term, it can lead to significant long term cost savings. Addressing bridge conditions early can avoid more expensive rehabilitations and replacements in the future. Investing in bridge maintenance and repairs now will help ensure costs remain as low as possible while bridge infrastructure serves your community for years to come.

Macomb County and Local Community Investment

To ensure proposed bridge projects remain competitive within the program, to maximize transportation infrastructure dollars across the region, and to align bridge project cost sharing with Macomb County programs, MCDR will be seeking funding participation from local communities. **Starting in 2024, MCDR will be splitting the 20% local match for all future bridge projects under the Local Bridge Program. Local communities will fund 10% of total construction costs and Macomb County will fund the remaining 10% of total construction costs. MCDR will continue to pay for all preliminary engineering and construction engineering costs. Administrative fees will be shared by MCDR and the local community.**

Below is a table that shows the previous funding cost share and the new cost share for the Local Bridge Program.

Previous Cost Share		New Cost Share		
State of Michigan	Macomb County	State of Michigan	Macomb County	Local Community
80%	20%	80%	10%	10%
Construction costs only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction costs • 100% of preliminary engineering • 100% of construction engineering • 100% of administrative fees 	Construction costs only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction costs • 100% of preliminary engineering • 100% of construction engineering • 50% of administrative fees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction costs • 50% of administrative fees (3% of construction costs)

Maintaining a safe and reliable transportation network is our number one priority. We're asking for your support and equitable contribution to ensure Macomb County's transportation network continues to deliver the highest level of safety, efficiency, and service to your community and bridge users.

If you have questions or would like to discuss preventative maintenance, rehabilitation, and replacement of bridge infrastructure in Macomb County and funding solutions, we'd be happy to meet with you. We look forward to working with you to enhance and strengthen our region's transportation network.