

MEMORANDUM

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

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

Date: August 31, 2026

Re: 2026-2027 Bridge Funds Available

The Special Highway Committee is accepting applications for bridge funds for rehabilitation or replacement of substandard bridges. **County and municipal applications are via the CDOT application website by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, October 30, 2026.**

There is approximately \$16 million in off-system bridge funds available for grant allocation. Priority will be given to projects on bridges that have been deemed scour critical, have low condition ratings, and are project-ready.

Program Guidelines

- (1) The program generally funds projects on an 80% grant and 20% local funding basis. The minimum required amount of local-match is 20% 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 Eligibility List of the federal bridge inventory with an overall condition rating of Poor (0-4) or Fair (5-6) are eligible for funding. Bridges in Poor condition are eligible for replacement and rehabilitation funding. Bridges in Fair condition are eligible for rehabilitation funds only, unless the cost of rehabilitation is documented as exceeding the cost of replacement. You can check a bridge's eligibility by consulting the Eligibility List, which is provided with this memorandum and posted on the CDOT Off System Bridge Website. If you have any questions regarding the bridges on the Eligibility 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 through CDOT's Off-System Bridge Program Website. If you are unable to submit electronically, please get in touch with CCI or CML for assistance.

Access CDOT's Off-System Bridge Website and Grant Application Link Here:

<https://www.codot.gov/programs/bridge/off-system-bridge-program>

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

- Project scope narrative
 - *Replacement or major rehabilitation? [If Supplement] Why Supplement request and what could not have been reasonably foreseen that requires the requested budget supplement?*
- Proof of Coordination with CDOT Local Agency Coordinator
 - (e.g., email verification)
- Project schedule/readiness
- Recent cost estimate
- Local Match Commitment Documentation
- Any plan sets, if available, regardless of level of design completed.
- Cost estimate details, if available
 - (pay item costs, design costs, etc.)

Please access CDOT's SIMSA Website, [SIMSA.codot.gov](https://simsa.codot.gov), to find the following information

- The latest bridge inspection report
- Photographs of the bridge
- Average daily traffic (ADT) numbers for the structure

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.

Notification of Approval

The Committee anticipates that projects will be reviewed, funding recommendations made, and applicants notified in December 2026 (and no later than January 2027). All applicants, successful and unsuccessful, will be notified.

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