

Capital District
Transportation Committee

August 23, 2016

Safety Project (HSIP) Solicitation

During this year's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) update CDTC did not receive any project justification packages that requested HSIP (Highway Safety Improvement Program) funding. Instead many local sponsors of "safety" projects chose to apply for the Statewide HSIP project solicitation, for which 3 local sponsors were successful.

As a result of the lack of HSIP project candidates, in the first 4 years of the 2016-21 TIP we have approximately \$8.4 million in HSIP funding that is not programmed.

Projects that are eligible for HSIP funding are projects which have the potential to reduce crashes that are occurring OR apply countermeasures at locations with crash potential (the systemic approach). For more information about the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) requirements and process, see the following link: <http://www.cdtcmpo.org/hsip>.

Another reason for the lack of local HSIP project candidates is the very technical and data-driven evaluation process. Because of this, CDTC staff will be available to provide some assistance, and will also provide crash data. In order to program this unprogrammed HSIP balance, we recommend the following 2-step process:

Two Programming Rounds

The First Round would be as soon as possible, and would include mailing solicitation letters to all 77 municipalities in the 4-County area. It would also include a required HSIP Application Workshop, and projects that could be started in FFY 2016-17 and beyond. Municipalities submitting applications during this round would need to submit the information needed to calculate a benefit/cost ratio, an estimated project cost, and a merit scoresheet.

The Second Round would include all 77 municipalities and would occur sometime in the 2018 calendar year, after a Regional Safety Study was completed, and after a consultant analyzed potential candidate projects. Municipalities would receive all the information about these candidate projects, including benefit/cost ratio and estimated project cost, and then would submit project applications.

We recommend programming projects in any of the first 4 years of the 2016-21 TIP, and programming ½ of the available funds in the First Round and ½ of the available funds in the Second Round.

First Round Schedule

August 3rd Planning Committee meeting – Introduce plan to Planning Committee and request approval.

August 19th – Mail solicitation to all 77 municipalities.

September 7th – HSIP Application Workshop (1/2 day) at CDTC presented by CDTC and NYSDOT Region staff. Attendance at this workshop would be required for potential project sponsors.

September 23rd – Applications are due.

October 5th Planning Committee meeting – Summary of applications submitted to CDTC.

October – CDTC staff evaluates applications, producing a benefit/cost ratio and a merit score.

November 2nd Planning Committee meeting – Committee members program new projects.

December 1st Policy Board meeting – Members approve new projects.