

Pedestrian Safety Action Plan - Local Project Proposals (As of June 1, 2018)

Introduction

The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) in partnership with the Capital District Transportation Committee (CDTC) released a call for local pedestrian safety projects in October 2017 with a March 9, 2018 submission deadline. The call for local projects is directly related to the New York State Pedestrian Safety Action Plan (PSAP), which can be found at <https://www.ny.gov/pedestrian-safety-action-plan/pedestrian-safety-action-plan>. Approximately \$40 M in Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds have been reserved statewide for projects related to this program. There is no local match required (projects will be 100% eligible, in most cases, for HSIP funds). NYSDOT Region 1 has been assigned a project programming target (approximately \$3.44 M) with a portion of that funding (a minimum of 60%) reserved for projects in the Cities of Albany and Schenectady, PSAP designated focus communities.

Eligible Projects

Funding may be used for projects that systemically implement the basic treatment packages and enhanced treatments (with supporting studies) identified in the PSAP at uncontrolled crosswalks and at signalized intersections on roadways owned and maintained by counties, cities, towns and villages located within CDTC's designated 2010 federal urban area. Counties interested in sponsoring a project for municipalities within their county are also eligible to apply. Basic and enhanced treatments for uncontrolled crosswalks and at signalized intersections are discussed in the PSAP on pages 48-58.

A systemic approach to safety involves widely implemented improvements based on high-risk roadway features correlated with specific severe crash types. Illustrative examples of systemic projects include:

- Adding pedestrian countdown timers at all or a percentage of the signalized intersections within a municipality.
- Implementing an upgraded pavement marking and sign package at all or a percentage of uncontrolled crosswalks within a municipality.
- Adding back plates on signals along one or more corridors or adding back plates at all signals within a municipality to increase signal conspicuity (construction and/or rebuild of outdated traffic signals is not eligible)

Applications Received

CDTC received four applications and a brief summary of each is provided in Table 1. There were no other applications submitted from the communities NYSDOT Region 1 serves which means all of the funding available within Region 1 will be for projects in the CDTC planning area.

Table 1 – Project Application Summary			
Sponsor	Description	Total HSIP Funds Requested	PSAP Focus Community (Y/N)
Albany	Identified improvements include: Crosswalks; Timers; Pedestrian Signals; APS Buttons; Signal Control Cabinets; Solar Flashing Pedestrian Signs; Yield to Pedestrian Signs; Yield Bars and ADA Ramps. Major identified corridors envisioned for treatment include Henry Johnson Boulevard and Clinton Avenue. Additionally the City has identified individual location improvements.	\$1,486,354	Y
Clifton Park	The Town of Clifton Park would like to improve pedestrian safety and mobility at high pedestrian crossing locations at various intersections. The focal point for most of the improvements is the Town Center area including Moe Road and Clifton Park Center Road. Other areas envisioned for treatment include Ushers Road and Crescent Road.	\$780,200	N
Rensselaer	With a focus on signalized intersections, the City identified the following treatments for implementation: upgrading existing crosswalk markings to high visibility and in locations where none exist, add high visibility crosswalk markings; installing new pedestrian signal and countdown timers at each crosswalk; move "right turn on red" signs where provided from ground mounted to overhead; where the existing controller is not adequate to handle the pedestrian improvements, it will be replaced with a new controller. Washington Avenue, Broadway and 3 rd Avenue are key corridors identified for treatment.	\$852,000	N
Schenectady	This project includes upgrades to pedestrian facilities at 10 signalized intersections in the City of Schenectady. The improvements provide updated Walk indications where needed, countdown timers, latching pedestrian buttons, High visibility crosswalk markings as well as retiming of signals for both pedestrians and coordination of signals with modern controller & communication interfaces. In addition all non-compliant handicapped ramps will be upgraded to current standards with the strict understanding that sidewalk improvements are prohibited from eligibility.	\$1,055,000	Y
Total HSIP funds requested:		\$4,173,554	

Project Evaluation

CDTC coordinated with NYSDOT Region 1 to select pedestrian projects on local urban roads that are consistent with the program guidance and the PSAP. Evaluation team members used a tool developed through the New York State Association of Metropolitan Planning Organization’s Safety Working Group, to evaluate the proposals based on: proposal completeness, eligibility, project deliverability and proposed schedule, pedestrian crash history, pedestrian exposure, cost estimate, proposed

countermeasures, safety benefit and other factors. CDTC’s Advisory Committees also offered their insight on the applications which was shared with the evaluation team.

The evaluation team met on April 23, 2018 and noted that the four proposals were of high quality, met the basic criteria but exceeded the funding target allocated to Region 1. As Albany and Schenectady are focus communities in the PSAP, the team recommended that all project locations proposed for treatment in the Albany and Schenectady applications be funded. The Clifton Park and Rensselaer applications were recommended for partial funding which was determined based on the noted sponsor project priorities and the remaining funding target for Region 1.

Table 2 reflects the results of the evaluation and summarized the projects recommended by the evaluation team for funding. NYSDOT Region 1 submitted this list to the Main Office on May 8, 2018 for additional review. Award notifications are expected in Late Spring/Early Summer 2018.

Table 2 – Recommended Projects				
County	Municipality	Planning Level Estimate of Cost	# uncontrolled crosswalks recommended for treatment	# signalized intersections recommended for treatment
Albany	City of Albany	\$1,485,000	20	12
Schenectady	City of Schenectady	\$1,055,000	0	10
Rensselaer	City of Rensselaer	\$500,000	0	6
Saratoga	Town of Clifton Park	\$400,000	3	5
Total:		\$3,440,000	23	33