

Accurate cost estimates are an important part of the project evaluation process. To assist sponsors and to provide consistency in the development of project costs, CDTC staff has developed unit cost estimates for some project types based on recent federal-aid construction experience. Descriptions of what is available by project type are provided below.

NOTE: If possible, do not use these unit costs alone to estimate your project costs. They may not apply to some projects which include exceptional, unusual, or innovative features, and they cannot substitute for good engineering judgment and expertise.

Pavement Reconstructions: CDTC will estimate project cost using its time-tested and updated unit costs. Sponsors can provide information detailing specific ways that their projects might include exceptional features, for which CDTC unit costs won't apply.

Pavement Preservation: CDTC does not have time-tested unit costs. Recently, projects of this type were added to the TIP, but there is yet enough information from those projects to estimate reliable costs of future projects. Therefore, sponsors will be relied on heavily for estimates. CDTC will screen the estimates for consistency among like sponsors. The unit costs from Region One were updated, are included here as a reference.

Sidewalks and Bike Paths: CDTC will estimate project cost using its time-tested and updated unit costs. Sponsors can provide information detailing specific ways that their projects might include exceptional features, for which CDTC unit costs won't apply. A NYSDOT quick estimator for bike/ped elements is also included as a source CDTC staff will consider when updating unit costs for bike/ped projects.

Element Specific Bridge Repair: CDTC will use the costs provided by the Local Bridge Preservation Study prepared by CDM for CDTC. However, because the study is now a few years old, and further deterioration is likely to have occurred, the repairs flagged in the report will be considered the minimum required. Sponsors can provide information detailing differences between the scope they are proposing and the one for which cost estimates are provided in the study, and how this affects the cost of the project. If they provide justification for a variance to the cost provided in the study, it will be considered.

Bridge Replacement: CDTC does not have time-tested unit costs. Therefore, sponsors will be relied on heavily for estimates. But, given that these types of projects have routinely been underestimated, CDTC will screen the estimates for consistency among sponsors and for excessive variance from unit costs yet to be obtained from NYSDOT Region One.

Other: For projects for which CDTC does not have a procedure, sponsors will be relied on heavily for estimates. CDTC will screen the estimates for consistency among sponsors and for excessive variance from like projects of which it is aware.