



Project Selection & Programming Guidelines

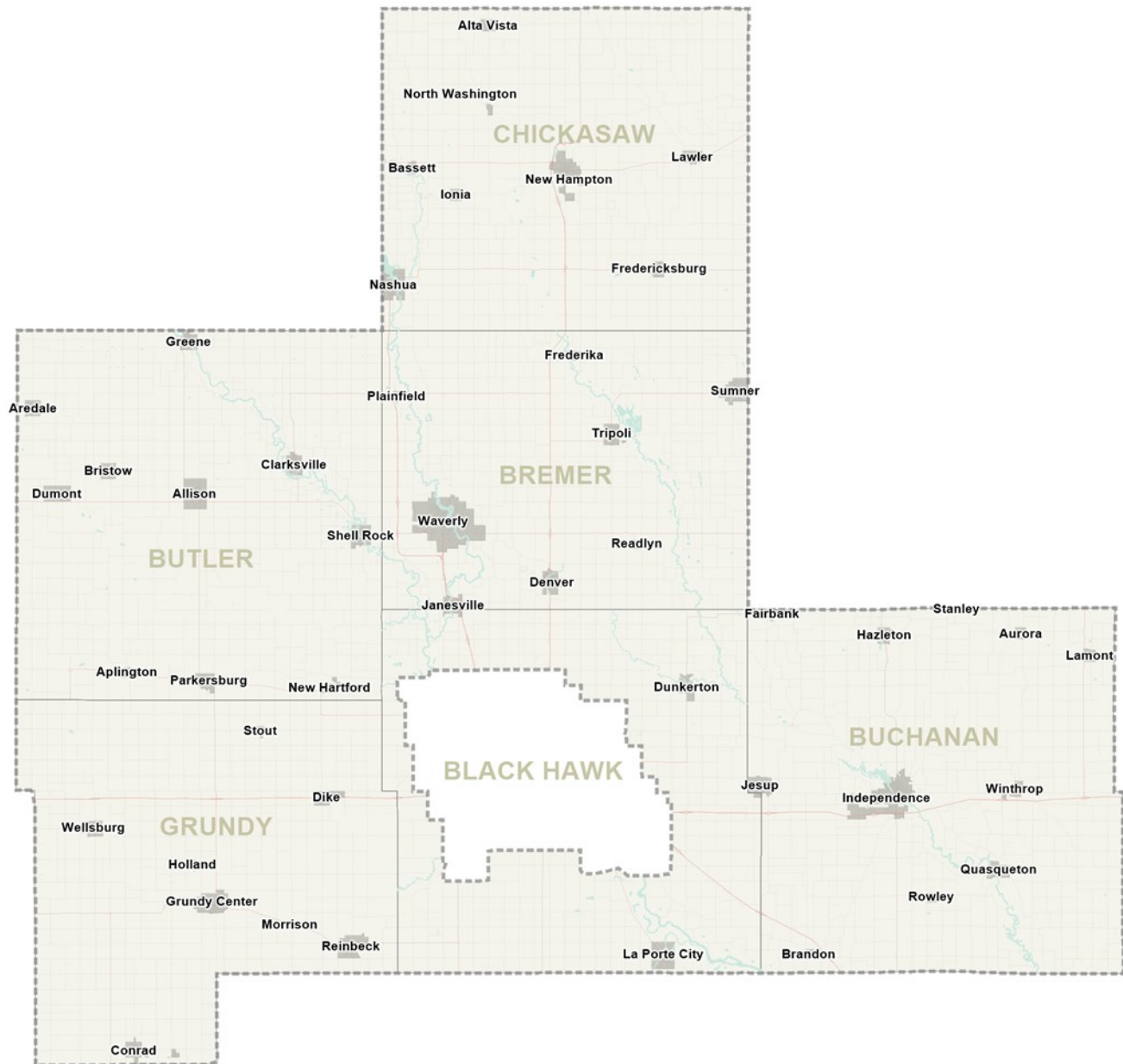
Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program

Contents

Schedule.....	1
Iowa Northland Region	2
STBG Requirements and Information.....	3
Eligible Activities and Requirements	3
Technical Resources.....	4
STBG Application.....	5
Project Selection and Programming	5
Project Status Updates.....	5
RTA Contact Information	5
Appendix A: 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures	6
Appendix B: Example Award Letter	7

Schedule

November, 2025	Application posted to the RTA website and Notice of Funding Availability emailed to all jurisdictions
March 13, 2026	STBG applications due by 3:00 p.m.
March 19, 2026	Transportation Technical Committee meeting to develop the draft STBG Program
June 18, 2026	Draft FY 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) reviewed by the Policy Board and Technical Committee
June 19, 2026	Draft FY 2027-2030 TIP submitted to the Iowa DOT, FHWA, and FTA
Week of June 22, 2026	TIP Public Input Sessions
July 16, 2026	Final FY 2027-2030 TIP presented to the Policy Board for adoption
July 17, 2026	Final FY 2027-2030 TIP submitted to the Iowa DOT, FHWA, and FTA



STBG Requirements and Information

Eligible Activities and Requirements

- Eligible activities
 - a. Road and bridge new construction and reconstruction
 - b. Road resurfacing, restoration, or rehabilitation (3R), excluding straight overlay projects
 - c. Transit capital projects
 - d. Infrastructure-based Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) improvements
 - e. Roadway and transit safety infrastructure improvements
 - f. The installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure and vehicle-to-grid infrastructure
 - g. Projects eligible under the RTA's Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Guidelines
- Ineligible activities
 - a. Preliminary and final design/engineering
 - b. Construction engineering/construction related services
 - c. Right-of-way acquisition
 - d. Corridor planning studies
 - e. Utility relocation
 - f. Sidewalk maintenance
- Roadway projects must be on federally classified routes that are Major Collectors or above.
- Projects must be consistent with the goals of the *RTA Long-Range Transportation Plan*.
- City projects will be programmed with STBG Swap funds. All other projects will be programmed with federal STBG funds.
- STBG and STBG Swap projects are eligible for up to 80 percent of the total estimated eligible project cost.
- Projects submitted for consideration will be reviewed by RTA Staff for eligibility prior to the Transportation Technical Committee meeting.
- Incomplete applications or late applications **will not be considered for funding**.

Technical Resources

Applicants are expected to refer to the approved *RTA Long-Range Transportation Plan* while preparing the grant application. Links to the RTA Long-Range Transportation Plan along with additional technical resources can be found below.

RTA 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan

<https://bhcmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/final-rta-2045-lrtp.pdf>

Iowa DOT State Freight Plan

<https://iowadot.gov/iowainmotion/Specialized-System-plans/Freight-Plan>

Iowa Crash Analysis Tool (ICAT)

<https://icat.iowadot.gov/>

Iowa Crash Potential for Crash Reduction (PCR)

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ba1618dc121545b8b3a13455e74e18b5>

Iowa DOT Bridge Conditions (Iowa Bridges)

<https://iowadot.maps.arcgis.com/home/index.html>

Iowa DOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Long-Range Plan

<https://iowadot.gov/iowainmotion/Modal-Plans/Bicycle-and-Pedestrian-Plan>

Iowa DOT State Transportation Plan

<https://iowadot.gov/iowainmotion/State-Transportation-Plan>

STBG Application

- The STBG application must be completed and submitted using the [Online Form](#).
- Each application must answer all applicable questions.
- Questions should be directed to Sanzida Rahman Setu at srsetu@inrcog.org.

Project Selection and Programming

- Projects will be reviewed at the Transportation Technical Committee meeting.
- Each project sponsor will be given the opportunity to present their project.
- The Transportation Technical Committee shall prioritize projects for funding by considering the ability to meet the RTA Long-Range Transportation Plan Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures (see *Appendix A*) and funding constraints.
- The Transportation Technical Committee has the discretion to recommend the share of STBG funds for each recommended project.
- The Transportation Technical Committee may utilize the RTA's Funding Equity Guidelines to recommend projects.
- Projects recommended for STBG funds will be incorporated into the draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), distributed to the Policy Board for review, and taken out for public comment. The draft document will also be submitted to the Iowa DOT, FHWA, and FTA for review. Comments from these agencies and the public will be incorporated into the final document and presented to the Policy Board for adoption.
- The Policy Board has the ultimate decision-making authority. The Policy Board shall review and approve the allocation of all STBG and STBG Swap projects within the final TIP.
- Upon approval of the final TIP by the Policy Board, the RTA shall forward an *STBG Award Letter* to the recipient. An example letter can be found in *Appendix B*.

Project Status Updates

- Project sponsors shall provide status updates at regularly scheduled RTA Policy Board and Transportation Technical Committee meetings.
- Status updates include but are not limited to:
 - a. Letting schedule
 - b. Construction schedule
 - c. Changes in project scope
 - d. Construction progress

RTA Contact Information



Nick Fratzke
Director of Transportation
nfratzke@inrcog.org

229 East Park Ave
Waterloo, IA 50703
(319) 235-0311
Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
www.bhcmpo.org/rta/

Appendix A: 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures

Goal	Objective	Performance Measurement	RTA Baseline Condition Data
Increase the safety of the transportation system	1.1)	10-year average of fatalities (2010-2019)	12.5
	1.2) Reduce the rate of traffic fatalities	Rate of fatalities per 100 million Vehicle Miles Traveled	0.65
	1.3) Reduce the number of traffic serious injuries	10-year average of serious injuries (2010-2019)	43.8
	1.4) Reduce the rate of traffic serious injuries	Rate of serious injuries per 100 million Vehicle Miles Traveled	2.3
	1.5) Reduce the number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries	10-year average of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries (2010-2019)	1.3
	1.6) Reduce the number of traffic accidents involving pedestrians and bicyclists	10-year average of total number of crashes involving pedestrians and bicyclists (2010-2019)	9.5
Strategically preserve the existing infrastructure	2.1) Preserve and maintain Iowa DOT road pavement conditions	Percentage of Interstate, U.S. Highway, and Iowa Highway pavement in good condition (2018) Percentage of Interstate, U.S. Highway, and Iowa Highway pavement in poor condition (2018)	57.3% 2.94%
	2.2) Preserve and maintain local road pavement conditions	Percentage of city and county owned paved roads in good condition (2018) Percentage of city and county owned paved roads in poor condition (2018)	76.4% 4.97%
	2.3) Decrease the number of bridges that are posted or closed	Total number of posted or closed bridges (2018)	255
	2.4) Decrease the number of bridges that are structurally deficient	Total number of structurally deficient bridges (2018)	273
	2.5) Increase the average bridge sufficiency rating	Average bridge sufficiency rating of all bridges (2018)	82.8
Support an efficient transportation system	3.1) Maintain the percent of person-miles traveled on the Interstate that are reliable	Level of Travel Time Reliability (LOTTR) (2019)	100.0%
	3.2) Maintain the percent of the person-miles traveled on the non-Interstate NHS that are reliable	LOTTR (2019)	98.6%
	3.3) Improve freight travel time reliability	Truck Travel Time Reliability (TTTR) (2019)	1.24
Provide a high degree of multimodal accessibility and mobility	4.1) Provide more on-road bicycle facilities	Number of miles of on-road bicycle accommodations	62.0
	4.2) Provide more paved bicycle and pedestrian facilities	Number of miles of paved trails	95.5
	4.3) Decrease the percent of the OnBoard Public Transit vehicles that are beyond Useful Life Benchmark (ULB)	Percent of vehicles that have met or exceeded ULB (2019)	59.1% (13 of 22 vehicles)
	4.4) Increase public transit ridership	10-year average of annual rides provided by OnBoard Public Transit (2010-2019)	137,723

Appendix B: Example Award Letter



INRCOG
Iowa Northland Regional
Council of Governments

August 29, 2022

Name
Title
Community
Address
City, State ZIP

Dear Joe Example:

RE: Iowa Northland Regional Transportation Authority
Surface Transportation Block Grant Program Funding Award

This correspondence is to inform the City of Exometown that the Iowa Northland Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) has awarded Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program funds in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 for the 1st Street Reconstruction project. Your project will be programmed into the RTA Fiscal Year 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) in federal fiscal year 2027.

To receive STBG funds, the City must work with the Iowa Department of Transportation. To initiate that process, project sponsors should contact the Iowa DOT Local Systems Bureau.

Please note the City does not yet have a funding commitment nor is it authorized to expend STBG funds until the project has been authorized by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Expenditures incurred prior to FHWA authorization will be ineligible for reimbursement. If you have questions, please contact me at (319) 235-0311 or kdurant@inrcog.org.

Sincerely,

Kyle Durant
Transportation Planner II

INRCOG | PARTNERS FOR PROGRESS

Developing Strong Local Government through Regional Cooperation

229 E Park Avenue | Waterloo Iowa 50703 | P (319) 235-0311 | F (319) 235-2891 | www.inrcog.org