



## State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
P.O. Box 600  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0600

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
*Governor*

DIANE GUTIERREZ-SCACCETTI  
*Commissioner*

SHEILA Y. OLIVER  
*Lt. Governor*

April 13, 2020

Dear Mayor/Freeholder Director/County Executive:

On behalf of Governor Phil Murphy, I am pleased to announce that applications will now be accepted for the New Jersey Department of Transportation's (NJDOT) Fiscal Year 2021 State Aid programs. This change in the solicitation and notification schedule for the programs listed below will help the municipalities and counties be able to access funds for the next round of projects sooner. **The new deadline for grant application submissions is July 1st.** Grant awards are expected to be announced in November.

As you may know, the Transportation Trust Fund Reauthorization Act of 2016 increased funding for Local Aid programs to counties and municipalities from \$190 million per year to \$430 million. The reason for the steep increase is that the majority of New Jersey's roadway mileage—about 90 percent—is under local government jurisdiction and is in as much need of repair as the state roadway network. By announcing the solicitations today, we will be able to address these needs sooner.

I recently announced NJDOT's "Commitment to Communities" initiative that creates new programs and combines existing Departmental efforts to assist local governments in spending the significantly increased level of aid that the reauthorized Trust Fund law affords them. The Commitment to Communities initiative includes a new Resource Center that provides one-stop shopping for local government managers by providing hands-on resources for the application process, raising awareness of grant cycles and proactively communicating program information. Our adjustment in the schedule was initiated by comments from you as well as representatives from the construction industry.

The following is a brief description of each grant program:

- **Municipal Aid** - This \$151.25 million program has been a significant resource in funding local transportation projects. All municipalities are eligible. The Department continues to encourage municipalities to consider using the Municipal Aid Program to fund projects that support walking and biking in their communities especially now that additional funds are available. NJDOT has set a goal to award up to 10 percent of the Municipal Aid Program funds to projects such as pedestrian safety improvements, bikeways and streetscapes. An additional \$10 million is provided in Urban Aid for a total of \$161.25 million.
- **Transit Village** - This program will award grants totaling \$1 million for traditional and non-traditional transportation projects that enhance walking, biking and/or transit ridership within a half

"IMPROVING LIVES BY IMPROVING TRANSPORTATION"

New Jersey Is An Equal Opportunity Employer • Printed on Recycled and Recyclable Paper

mile of the transit facility. Only New Jersey municipalities that have been designated as Transit Villages by the Commissioner of Transportation and the inter-agency Transit Village Task Force are eligible to apply. The eligible town list can be found at:

<http://www.state.nj.us/transportation/business/localaid/transitvillagef.shtm>

- **Bikeways** - This \$1 million program is intended to fund bicycle projects which create new Bike Path Mileage. It is available to all counties and municipalities. The Department continues to work toward the goal of achieving 1,000 miles of dedicated bikeways in New Jersey. Special consideration will be given to bikeways that are physically separated from motorized vehicular traffic by an open space or barrier, but on-road bike lanes and other bike routes and facilities are also eligible for funding.
- **Safe Streets to Transit** - The intent of this program is to encourage counties and municipalities to construct safe and accessible pedestrian linkages to transit facilities, in order to promote increased usage of transit by all segments of the population. A total of \$1 million is available for grant awards.

All projects funded through the Transportation Trust Fund must comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). ADA guidance, program descriptions and application guidance materials can be found on the NJDOT website at: <http://www.state.nj.us/transportation/business/localaid/stateaid.shtm>

If you choose to apply, please be aware that Municipal Aid regulations require projects receiving this type of aid to award a construction contract within 24 months from the date of grant notification.

I encourage you to submit applications for these Local Aid programs. Each program application will be evaluated independently, affording counties and municipalities the opportunity to receive funding in more than one category.

The enclosed map provides contact information for each Local Aid District Office. I recommend that you consult with your Local Aid District Office to assist in preparing applications for funding. Please keep in mind that a separate application for each project must be completed and submitted on or before **July 1st, 2020**, on-line through the Department's electronic grants administration system, known by its acronym, SAGE, at: <https://njsage.intelligrants.com/>

As Commissioner of Transportation, I am committed to maintaining and improving New Jersey's local transportation infrastructure by providing financial assistance, technical expertise and training in surmounting the application process for traditional and non-traditional local transportation initiatives. Our counties and municipalities will be well positioned to design and construct important local projects without the need to impact property taxes. Your success in building projects and spending the additional capital will mean success not only for your constituents, but for the entire state.

Thank you for your continued interest and support of NJDOT, and best wishes for success with your project applications.

Sincerely,



Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti  
Commissioner

Enclosure  
c: Municipal Clerk  
Municipal Engineer  
County Engineer