



Illinois Department of Transportation

Office of Highways Project Implementation / Bureau of Local Roads & Streets
2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Room 205 / Springfield, Illinois / 62764

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CIRCULAR LETTER 2022-29

Cathy Johnson
COUNTY CLERK
VERMILION CO. IL

2022 ILLINOIS COMPETITIVE FREIGHT FUNDING CALL FOR PROJECTS

COUNTY ENGINEERS / SUPERINTENDENTS OF HIGHWAYS / MUNICIPAL ENGINEERS / PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTORS / MAYORS / METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS – DIRECTORS / TOWNSHIP HIGHWAY COMMISSIONERS / CONSULTING ENGINEERS

PURPOSE & INTRODUCTION:

The Department is seeking applications for a new round of the Illinois Competitive Freight Funding Program that will be available to State and Local Public Agencies (LPA). Total funding of approximately \$200 million in National Highway Freight Program funds will be available through 2026. Approximately 30 percent of annual funding will be made available for intermodal rail and water projects.

Administered by IDOT using federal funds, this competitive grant program will be used to create a freight investment plan that will become part of the 2022 Illinois State Freight Plan update currently being developed. Applicants should assume a 20% match requirement of non-federal funds. Successful proposals will address one or more goal areas which include Safety, Reliability, System Enhancements, Operational Needs, Truck Parking, Modal Connectivity, and Mode Shift.

ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS:

- Units of local government, including transportation authorities
- Metropolitan Planning Organizations
- Regional Planning Commissions
- State of Illinois / IDOT
- Private entities, that have a public sponsor, which is a requirement

SCORING AND SELECTION CRITERIA:

As part of the 2022 State Freight Plan, IDOT has identified a Highway Priority Freight Network (PFN). A PFN Map Tool, available at <https://idot.illinois.gov/ILfreight>, has been developed to support the data requirements in the application. Applicants are able to submit for projects not located on the PFN but will need to provide additional data to support the application and describe the freight need being addressed.

Projects will be scored based on how well they meet the following goal categories:

Highway Measures (Public Roadways):

1. Improving Freight Related Safety
2. Improving Freight Related Reliability
3. Enhancing Freight System Assets
4. Enhancing Freight System Operations
5. Fulfilling Truck Parking Needs

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Intermodal Measures (Water or Rail Infrastructure or Facilities):

1. Improving Freight Related Safety
2. Strengthening Modal Connectivity
3. Increasing Mode Shift

Crosscutting Measures (All Modes / Types of Projects):

1. Material Partnerships
2. Project Readiness
3. Equity and Environmental Justice

Geographic distribution of freight formula funds will occur to ensure that important freight projects are implemented throughout Illinois.

DEADLINES:

Applicants must submit their applications and required materials through the online application found on <https://idot.illinois.gov/ILfreight> by **December 19, 2022**.

WEBINAR:

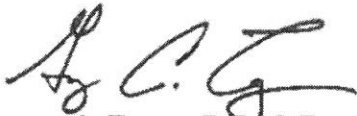
A webinar to answer questions and provide additional information about the program will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Friday, November 18, 2022. To access the webinar, visit <https://idot.illinois.gov/ILfreight>. A recording of the webinar will be available at the same website for those unable to attend.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

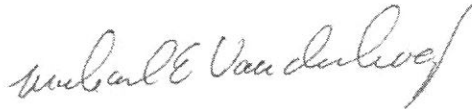
For additional information about the program, application process, PFN Mapping Tool, and project delivery expectations, see the Illinois Competitive Freight Program Guidance available on <https://idot.illinois.gov/ILfreight>.

For questions and application support, please email DOT.ILFreightPlanning@illinois.gov to request assistance.

Sincerely,



George A. Tapas, P.E., S.E.
Engineer of Local Roads and Streets



Michael Vanderhoof
Bureau Chief, Planning

cc: David Snyder, FHWA Illinois Division Administrator
Steven Travia, IDOT, Director, Office of Highway Project Implementation
Holly Bieneman, IDOT, Director, Office of Planning & Programing
Rick Johnson, Illinois Association of County Engineers
Brad Cole, Illinois Municipal League
Jerry Crabtree, Township Officials of Illinois
Arnold Vegter, Township Highway Commissioners of Illinois