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PLAN NOW FOR FEDERAL-AID GRANT PROJECTS

Federal grants for bridges, roads, sidewalks, or safety improvement projects will be available soon under the federal transportation highway bill (FAST ACT). It's time for Indiana communities to begin discussions on possible new projects.

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) will begin accepting applications at 8 a.m. on October 30. The call for projects closes on December 1. Awards will be announced in February 2024.

The City of Logansport was awarded a \$1.4 million federal grant in 2022 to help pay for ADA accessible pedestrian routes and accessibility improvements around four schools.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), via INDOT, is paying for a half mile of new trails and three miles of sidewalks in Phase 1 and an additional 3.9 miles of sidewalk in Phase 2. The Transportation Alternative Program grant covers 80 percent of the proposed \$1.65 million (Phase 1) and \$1.86 million (Phase 2) improvement projects that have been a high priority for the city's ADA transition plan.

Community leaders say the new sidewalks and ADA accessibility are a critical piece of the city's infrastructure plans.

"Connecting neighborhoods to the schools, parks and commercial businesses greatly enhances the quality of life that is sought from current and prospective businesses," said Bill Cuppy, executive director of the Logansport-Cass Chamber of Commerce and vice president of the school board.

"And providing safer routes to school, recreational areas and businesses will encourage more walking along these routes to enhance their quality-of-life experience."

"We take pride in improving the infrastructure in our community and this a big step in the right direction," said Chris Martin, Logansport's mayor. "The grants will provide additional safety and encourages a healthy lifestyle for everyone who travels this area."

INDOT annually awards millions in federal transportation funding to dozens of cities, towns, and counties in rural portions of Indiana to invest in local road and bridge improvements as well as sidewalk and trail projects. Local Public Agency (LPA) projects are available for funding with projects to be bid in the 2029 fiscal year. The table below shows some guidelines:

Bridge Projects

- Replacement (sufficiency rating < 50)
- Rehabilitation (sufficiency rating < 80)
- Removal

Road Construction/Reconstruction Projects

- Group 3 (Cities with 5,000 to 50,000 population)
- Group 4 (County or Town under 5,000 population)

Transportation Alternative Program Projects

- Trails
- Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS)
- ADA sidewalk upgrades

Safety Projects

- Sign & guardrail replacement
- Intersection improvement
- Pavement markings

F&V CAN HELP WITH ALL THE REQUIREMENTS

Many supporting documents are required for the online project application. They include a financial commitment letter on the LPA's letterhead, a well-defined scope of work and a detailed independent cost estimate. Current traffic counts and crash data are also required.

The City of Logansport used Fleis & VandenBrink (F&V) for the grant application and the engineering and design work.

"I strongly encourage other cities and towns to contact a consultant to see what federal grant opportunities are available for them," Martin said. "The grant process is not easy."

"F&V helped walk us through the federal bureaucracy and all the red tape that comes with these federal projects."

If you need help with getting through the maze of INDOT requirements or would like assistance in completing an application for INDOT funding, contact Tom Cicero at 800.494.5202.

IN THIS ISSUE:

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Chris Martin, Logansport's Mayor

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