



The first Call for Projects in the 2024 Community Crossing Matching Grants (CCMG) program is underway and a second Call for Projects is expected in July.

Indiana cities, towns and counties applying for up to a \$1.5 million grant are on the clock to update their required Transportation Asset Management Plan (TAMP) and get approval from the Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP). CCMG applicants must also comply with the Title VI and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) nondiscrimination and accessibility requirements.

The first Call for Projects closes at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 31. Last November, 188 Indiana cities, towns, and counties received a combined \$91.5 million in state grants for local road projects through Community Crossings.

The Town of Uniondale recently completed a CCMG project on Main Street and is planning to apply for another grant in 2024. With a population less than 300, the CCMG grant of 75 percent was huge for the \$85,000 project.

Fleis & VandenBrink (F&V) assisted Uniondale with its CCMG application in the fall of 2022 and in completing a 900-foot mill and resurfacing project on Main Street from Otto Avenue to Hancock Street.

"The CCMG program is a wonderful program," said Erin Kreigh, president of the Uniondale Town Council. "There is no way a small town like ours would be able to do projects like this using just our local funding.

"It would take years and years and years to save up and we would never catch up with all the projects that need to be done."

The Community Crossings initiative, administered by the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), has provided nearly \$1.5 billion in state matching funds for local road improvement projects since 2016.

INDOT requires a community-wide study that evaluates the condition of your road network. From that study you

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can prioritize exactly what improvements are needed year-by-year for the next five years.

The TAMP must be risk-based and should contain the following elements:

- Summary listing of the community's pavement and bridge assets and conditions
- Asset management objectives and measures
- Performance gap identification
- Lifecycle cost and risk management analysis
- A financial plan and investment strategies

F&V assisted Uniondale and the Town of Atlanta with their 2023 road inventory and TAMP submittals.

"I wear so many hats and do so many things that it's nice to work with someone knowledgeable," said Andy Emmert, Atlanta's streets and utilities superintendent. "It was very smooth working with F&V. They were quick and thorough."

Atlanta, which has nearly eight miles of roads serving a population of nearly 750, had received several CCMG grants and has repaved nearly 85 percent of its streets.

"We hardly get any road money," Emmert noted. "And it's a struggle to get projects completed. The CCMG program has allowed us to do work that we could never have done."

Cities and towns with a population of fewer than 10,000 and counties with less than 50,000 people can receive funds using a 75/25% match. Larger cities, towns and counties are eligible for a 50-50 matching grant.

F&V recommends communities look at underground assets in the right-of-way before doing a road project to minimize digging up roads after they are rebuilt. Sewer and Water Asset Management Plans and ADA Transitions Plans should be completed at the same time and factored into the decision on which roads to pave. Storm sewers and ditch reconstruction associated with a specific road resurfacing or reconstruction project are CCMG eligible along with pipe replacements to improve drainage.

F&V staff have assisted several communities in the CCMG program since its inception. The applications take time to complete, so don't wait. If you need help in your grant application or want to brainstorm on how to put the funding together, contact Tom Cicero at 800.494.5202 or tcicero@fveng.com.

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Andy Emmert, Town of Atlanta's Streets and Utilities Superintendent

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