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## LEVERAGE YOUR DOLLARS WITH FEDERAL AID GRANTS – PLAN NOW

It's never too early to plan for Federal-Aid grant transportation projects. Last month, the Indiana Department of Transportation announced that \$155.6 million in federal transportation funding was awarded to 51 rural cities, towns, and counties in Indiana to invest in local road, bridge improvements and sidewalk projects.

Federal grants for bridges, roads, sidewalks, or safety improvement projects will be available again later this fall under the federal transportation highway bill (FAST ACT). A call for projects is expected in late October or early November.

"There's no way we could complete transportation projects without federal and state funding," said Joe Leszek, Town Manager for the Town of North Judson. "It just would not be possible.

"Federal-Aid grants are the best way for us to leverage our dollars."

North Judson recently received \$580,800 in federal funds for a sidewalk improvement project that will connect the Town's sidewalk system to the North Judson Town Park when completed in 2027.

"The Town Council's goal over the last few years was to provide connectivity for families with disabilities," Leszek added. "When this project is completed, we will have connectivity from our school district to our parks district and business district."

INDOT annually awards millions in federal transportation funding to dozens of cities, towns, and counties in 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 2030 fiscal year. The table below shows some of the types of projects that can be funded:

### 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



Federal transportation funds are leveraged by many communities to rehabilitate or replace local bridges. Nearly \$90.3 million in federal funds were awarded this year for projects to rehab or replace 32 local bridges currently rated in poor condition. Beyond bridge projects, these funds will also support pavement resurfacing/reconstruction projects; Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) projects such as sidewalks, ADA ramps, and trails; and traffic safety projects.

### F&V CAN HELP WITH THE REQUIREMENTS

When communities apply for and receive these Federal-Aid funds, they will be applied towards all phases of a project, including design, right-of-way acquisitions, construction, and construction engineering. Having a trusted advisor that understands each aspect of these projects is critical for a community.

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 are required, as well as crash data for any safety related improvement project.

Fleis & VandenBrink (F&V) has experts in Federal-Aid grant projects and their applications. For North Judson's ADA sidewalk project, F&V assisted in the grant application process and will provide survey, design services and utilities and right-of-way acquisition services.

"It is extremely important to work with a consultant like F&V to help direct us and lead us through the process," Leszek said. "Like many small towns and cities, I wear many hats and I don't have the time or knowledge to keep up with the ever-changing guidelines of every funding opportunity. Our consultant has kept us going in the right direction."

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.

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*Joe Leszek, town manager for the  
Town of North Judson*

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