



RURAL COUNTY TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM (RCTP)

TRAINING – JANUARY 25, 2024



RCTP TRAINING GOALS

- Provide an overview of the RCTP
- Go over the evaluation criteria
- Demonstrate the online questionnaire
- Questions and Discussion
- Additional Program Announcements

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

- Rural County Transportation Programs (RCTP) are county-led grant programs that provide funding to small cities to help implement non-federal aid transportation projects.
- Clinton, Delaware, Dubuque, and Jackson counties have created RCTP programs.
- Each county has approved \$70,000 for its Fiscal Year 2025 RCTP program.
- The counties distribute RCTP funds to cities through a competitive application process.
- The counties have agreements with RPA 8 staff to administer the program and help cities with writing applications.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

- The maximum annual RCTP award to a city is \$25,000
- RCTP will fund a maximum of 80% of the total project cost
- The city must secure funding for a minimum 20% of the total project cost

Local Match Example

RCTP Request	Local Match	Total
\$25,000	\$6,250	\$31,250
80%	20%	100%

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

1. Flashing Warning Lights
2. Signals
3. Street Lights
4. Reconstruction of Road
5. Resurfacing of a Road
6. Crack filling
7. Safety improvements
 1. Intersection improvements
 2. Existing Sidewalks
 3. ADA ramps
 4. Crosswalks
8. Other*

*Applicants with projects categorized as 'Other' must contact the County Engineer before submitting an application to verify the project's eligibility.

APPLICATION

- To apply, cities must complete the following before the Application Deadline:
 - Complete the Online Questionnaire
 - Submit the signed Authorization to Apply Resolution
 - Submit the signed Priority Project Resolution
 - Submit a project cost estimate
 - Submit photos showing the existing condition of the project site
- **Application Deadline: 5:00 p.m. on March 14, 2024**

ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE

- The Online Questionnaire, application guidelines and other materials will be available at link below:
- https://eciatrans.org/grants_rfps/rctp.php
- Cities should submit all required application documents and photos through the Online Questionnaire.
- Cities may also submit additional supporting materials such as letters of support through the Online Questionnaire.

TIMELINE FOR APPLICATION PROCESS AND APPROVAL

TIMELINE	ACTIVITY
January	RPA 8 staff conducts city training workshop
February to March 14	Cities complete the Online Questionnaire and submit the Authorization to apply Resolution, the Priority Project Resolution, cost estimate, and photos, by 5:00 p.m. on March 14, 2024.
February to April	RPA 8 writes applications
April to May	RPA 8 forms ranking committee and assists the committee with ranking applications
1 st week of June	County Board of Supervisors approves projects
End of June	Draft 28E agreements between county and cities receiving funding
Prior to August 1	Update RPA balance sheets

PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Total Possible Score – 100 Points
- Traffic – 20 Points
- Safety – 20 Points
- Local Match - 20 Points
- Community Support – 20 Points
- Existing Conditions – 20 Points
- Point deduction based on previous approved RCTP funding award – up to 75 points

TRAFFIC – 20 POINTS

- ECIA staff will assign a score to each application based on a traffic count to city population ratio. $(\text{Traffic Count}) / (\text{Population of the City}) = \text{Ratio}$.
- For calculation of traffic scores, ECIA staff will use the most recent Iowa DOT traffic counts or estimates, or traffic counts produced by a third party using standard FHWA approved traffic count procedures.
- For population, ECIA will use the total city population from the most recent decennial census.

Traffic Evaluation Criteria

Ratio	Score
Greater than or equal to 0.25 and less than 0.45	5
Greater than or equal to 0.45 and less than 0.65	10
Greater than or equal to 0.65 and less than 0.85	15
Greater than or equal to 0.85	20

SAFETY – 20 POINTS

- ECIA staff will assign a score to each application based on a safety benefit/cost ratio.
- For calculation of the safety benefit/cost ratio, ECIA staff will use the Iowa DOT Benefit/Cost Safety Analysis Worksheet, Iowa DOT crash data, and crash reduction factors from the Crash Modification Factors Clearinghouse.
- The committee will give special safety consideration to projects that will provide safe routes to school and improve safety for children.

Safety Evaluation Criteria

Benefit Cost Ratio	Score
Greater than or equal to 0.5 and less than 0.75	5
Greater than or equal to 0.75 and less than 1	10
Greater than 1.0	15

Safe Routes to School¹	5
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¹If the Subcommittee determines that a project is a safe routes to school project, it may award up to 5 additional points in the safety category

LOCAL MATCH – 20 POINTS

- ECIA staff will assign a score to each application based on the percentage of local funding.
- To calculate the percentage, ECIA staff will divide the local funding provided in the project budget by the total project budget.

Local Match Evaluation Criteria

Percentage	Score
Less than 20%	0
Greater than or equal to 20% and less than 25%	5
Greater than or equal to 25% and less than 35%	10
Greater than or equal to 35% and less than 45%	15
Greater than or equal to 45%	20

COMMUNITY SUPPORT – 20 POINTS

- The Project Ranking Subcommittee will award 0 to 20 points in the Community Support category based on the level in community support demonstrated in the application.
- Applicants can demonstrate community support by submitting letters of support from community members, businesses, schools, churches, or other organizations, signed petitions, meeting minutes, newspaper articles, or other relevant documentation.

EXISTING CONDITIONS – 20 POINTS

- The Project Ranking Subcommittee will award 0 to 20 points in the Existing Conditions category based on conditions of the existing infrastructure and project area.
- The committee will also consider how effective the proposed project will be in addressing the deficiencies in the existing infrastructure.
- Applicants can demonstrate existing conditions through photographs, an engineer's evaluation, or other relevant documentation.

POINT DEDUCTION BASED ON PREVIOUS APPROVED RCTP FUNDING AWARD

- The Project Ranking Subcommittee will deduct points from applications where the applicant has received RCTP funding in the past five years.

Year RCTP Funds Awarded	Score Deduction
Awarded one year ago	-75 points
Awarded two years ago	-50 points
Awarded three years ago	-25 points
Awarded four years ago	-10 points
Awarded five or more years ago	No deduction



ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE DEMONSTRATION



ADDITIONAL PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

- RPA 8 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)
 - Notice of funding opportunity will be sent this week
 - Primary eligible activities - bicycle and pedestrian facilities and recreational trails
 - Total available for FY 2024 – FY 2028 – \$1.2 million
 - Award maximum \$250,000
 - Federal funds
 - 20% local match required
 - Applications are due by 5:00 pm on March 7, 2024

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Transportation Safety Plan**
 - ECIA and InTrans are working on a plan for 58 cities in the ECIA region
 - Goal: Eliminate roadway fatalities and serious injuries
 - Identify roadway safety issues, develop solutions, and secure funding for their implementation.
 - An email will be going out to cities this week.
 - Identify project contact people
 - Survey announcement
 - Over the next several months we will be working to set up meeting with cities.
- https://eciatrans.org/transportation_safety_plan/index.php

THANK YOU

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