



Illinois Department of Transportation

Office of Intermodal Project Implementation / Bureau of Transit
69 West Washington Street / Suite 2100 / Chicago, Illinois 60602

July 23, 2021

To: Prospective Rebuild Round II Statewide Grant Applicants
From: IDOT Office of Intermodal Project Implementation / Bureau of Transit

Re: CSFA 494-80-2197 Capital Needs Assessment Priority Score

Dear Prospective Applicant,

On June 1st 2021, IDOT's Office of Intermodal Project Implementation / Bureau of Transit released a notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for the Multi-Modal Transportation (MMT) Bond Fund for Downstate Public Transportation ("Rebuild Round II"). The CSFA number for this grant program is 494-80-2197 and the NOFO can be found on the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) website, [here](#). The application for funding assistance includes an Excel-based document that requires the applicant to provide information regarding their proposed project and make selections via drop-down menus in response to certain questions.

Since the release of the NOFO and application, it has come to our attention that the application is pulling incorrect scores for some projects from the Capital Needs Assessment (CNA) model, which is maintained by the Rural Transportation Assistance Center and their consultant. The incorrect scores are returned as a result of selections made at the top of page 4 of the application in response to the following, "Was the project included in the Capital Needs Assessment?" and "If yes, please select your project from the list." (see Figure 1) When these two questions are answered in the

Figure 1: Screenshot of Page 4 of the Application for Funding.



Was the project included in the Capital Needs Assessment?	
If yes, please select your project from the list.	
CNA Priority Score	-
If this grant request includes more than one CNA project, indicate that here providing identifying information (e.g. VIN, priority score, etc.)	

affirmative, a “CNA Priority Score” is returned. In some cases the “CNA Priority Score” that is returned is incorrect. However, the project description information accessed in the drop-down menu in response to the item, “If yes, please select your project from the list” is correct.

Applicants are advised that IDOT OIPI will correct any incorrect CNA Priority Score assigned in the application after submittal by the applicant. Applicants do not need to take any corrective action and should complete all questions as accurately as possible to avoid any delays in application processing post-submission to IDOT. In this case, it is particularly important that each applicant select the project from the drop-down menu in response to, “If yes, please select your project from the list” that best fits the project for which they are applying for funding.

IDOT OIPI understands that this error is frustrating for applicants and we apologize for the error. As you complete the application, please keep in mind that the Rebuild scoring criteria are meant to be balanced and weigh different priorities against each other. No project will get all of the points available, or even most. For example, the CNA model is a complex model that is focused on State of Good Repair (SOGR) and therefore projects classified as “replacement” receive a higher priority score than “expansion” or “new starts” projects. Scores for “expansion” or “new starts” projects may in fact receive a negative score, however we understand that this does not reflect need or priority for the applicant, simply that the focus of the model is on SOGR per FTA guidance. While “expansion” or “new starts” projects will receive a lower score in the CNA and “State of Good Repair” sections, they will score very well in the "New & Expansion Projects" section, which is worth up to 30% of the total points available. In addition, new/expansion projects may also score better than replacement/SOGR projects in the "Innovation & Environmental Sustainability" section.

Any questions regarding the CNA Model or CNA Priority Score should be directed to OIPI Transit staff at DOT.CH.OIPITransitDocs@illinois.gov

Sincerely,



Karen Rogulja
Bureau Chief of Transit Capital
Office of Intermodal Project Implementation

Cc: Matt Magalis, Shoun Reese, Nicholas Haddad