Illinois Department of Transportation
Office of Intermodal Project Implementation / Bureau of Transit
115 South LaSalle Street / Chicago, Illinois 60603

IDOT 2026 Statewide Capital Call for Projects FAQ

The following frequently asked questions (FAQ) provide additional context to the application process for the 2026 Statewide Capital Call for projects. These are not exhaustive. We encourage you to email **DOT.CH.OIPITransitDocs@illinois.gov** if you have any questions not covered below.

APPLICANT AND PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

1. **Is this call for projects for "Downstate" Illinois only?**
    - Units of government/transit agencies located within the NITA region (https://nita.illinois.gov/) are not eligible for this funding program. Eligible entities are current recipients of Downstate Operating Assistance Program (DOAP) funds from IDOT.
2. **Are not-for-profit or for-profit organizations eligible for this funding?**
    - No, per 30 ILCS 740/2-2.02 this funding program is restricted to transit agencies and units of government that are recipients of Downstate Operating Assistance Program (DOAP) funds from IDOT.
3. **If we are applying for additional funding for an existing, in-progress project, what should we select for project type?**
    - The request should be categorized in the same way that the original project request/application was (or would have been) categorized. There are two questions in the application dealing with project type. The first asks whether the project is a “State of Good Repair (SOGR)” or “New or Expansion” project. “State of Good Repair” projects are defined as projects that repair, replace, or upgrade an existing transit asset (e.g., replacing the roof on an existing facility). “New and Expansion” projects are defined as projects that create a new asset or service or expand an existing service or asset. The second project type question is focused on the type of asset, with the following available response options: vehicles, facilities, equipment, technology, or other. If you are applying for additional funding for an existing project (i.e., a project that is underway and currently funded by IDOT), you should select the project and asset types that you would have selected for the original project. For example, if the applicant is requesting additional funding for a project where the original request and current grant scope of work is "design and construct a new transit facility", then the request this time for additional funds should also be categorized in the application as "facility" and "new or expansion". If the request is for additional funding for a project where the original request and current

grant scope of work is "replace roof on existing building", then this current request should be categorized in the application as "facility" and "state of good repair".

4. **Can a facility funded in whole or in part with IDOT funds include space or site areas used for non-transit purposes? If so, are there limitations or documentation requirements?**

    - Funding awarded through this call for projects may only be used for transit-related facilities, improvements, and project elements. If you believe that your project meets this requirement, please explain the full range of uses planned in your application and document any planned cost sharing which may be applicable to the project. Additionally, the funds can only be used for facilities that are or will be owned by the applicant upon completion of the project, not leased.

APPLICATION DETAILS AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

1. **Do we need to submit a separate application for each project?**
    - Yes. A separate application is required for each project.
2. **Is a public hearing required for a project application?**
    - No, a public hearing is not required.
3. **If we submit applications for multiple projects, do we need a separate board resolution and opinion of counsel for each application?**
    - No, the same board resolution and opinion of counsel can be used for multiple applications. The board resolution is not required to identify the specific project in your application. You will be required to upload your board resolution and opinion of counsel with each application.
4. **Is there a naming convention for attached documents?**
    - Yes, please use: Agency Name (or acronym), Document Name, Project Name, Date
        - Example: RICMMTD_Opinion_of_Counsel_Maintenance Facility Roof_10.3.26
    - If you are using an acronym, please make sure your agency acronym is unique, identifiable, and consistent.
5. **Where are the links to the NOFO and the Technical Information Webinar from Oct. 1?**
    - All information tied to the 2026 Statewide Capital Call for Projects (NOFO, link to the webinar recording, FAQ, etc.) can be found at: https://idot.illinois.gov/programs-and-projects/transit.html
    - All application information and documents can also be found in BlackCat in the “Resources” tab (Resources/Global Resources/Capital Resources\2026 Statewide Capital Call for Projects/App)

FUNDING, INDEPENDENT COST ESTIMATE, PAYMENTS

1. **Are progress payments allowable for new construction projects?**
    - Progress payments will be allowed only in line with the FTA's guidance, Circular 4220.1G, which can be found here: https://www.transit.dot.gov/regulations-and-guidance/fta-circulars/third-party-contracting-guidance
        - Additional guidance can be found here: https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/procurement/guidance-response-cost-and-payment-questions
    - Progress payments are not required; they are simply an option to consider during project implementation (contracting phase). Progress payments are not an element of this application for funding and will not be factored into the evaluation or selection of projects for award through this call for projects.
2. **Can we use an existing Independent Cost Estimate (ICE) for an application that is supplemental funding for an existing project?**
    - As long as you update it to the current day when you submit it. Make sure the baseline data substantiating the ICE isn't more than 2 years old, or the ICE will need to be redone.
    - You can consider resources such as, but not limited to, RSMeans (https://www.rsmeansonline.com/) or FRED (http://fred.stlouisfed.org/) to help in building and updating your ICE to reflect current costs.
    - The purpose of the ICE is to substantiate your request for funding; therefore, your ICE must cover all of the scope items/elements that you are requesting funding for. If your ICE covers more scope or project elements than you are requesting funding for, it is imperative that it be broken down to a level of detail where reviewers can see the cost estimates associated with only the scope items/elements that you are requesting funding for (e.g., if your existing ICE for your existing project included design and engineering costs, but you are only submitting an application through this call for projects for additional funding for construction, then you should cross out the design and engineers costs in your ICE and include an explanation in a cover memo as to what parts of the existing ICE are relevant to your application.
3. **Is there a specific form we need to use for the Independent Cost Estimate? And if so, where can we find this form?**
    - There is no required form for the Independent Cost Estimate. What we do ask for in a complete Independent Cost Estimate would be:
        - Memo that succinctly explains:
            - Who
            - What (scope items/elements in your funding request)

- Where (Location of Proposed Site (if known, can be generic)).
- Methodology for ICE
    - How did the estimate get generated?
    - What were the data sources for the ICE?
        - Pricing
        - Hours derived for services (i.e., A/E)
        - Any inflation data for any pricing that is over 6 months old and under 24 months old
- General conclusion/finding for ICE – Component and total estimated costs

- ICE Table or report
- ICE supporting documentation

4. **If an agency received Rebuild Illinois funds through other agencies such as DCEO, do you need to include that, or only IDOT awards for Rebuild Illinois?**
    - The funding section of the application has both a "Rebuild" and a general "State Funding" option. You would report any other State agency (such as DCEO) funding in the general "State Funding" selection option even if it was “Rebuild Illinois” funding from that agency. You would only select and report “Rebuild Illinois” funding in the project if you received those “Rebuild Illinois” funds from IDOT Transit.
5. **Can an Independent Cost Estimate (ICE) be limited to construction hard costs, or must it include all project elements for which funding is being requested?**
    - The ICE must cover the full scope of work for which IDOT funding is being requested. An ICE that includes only construction hard costs is acceptable if the application requests funding solely for construction. However, if funding is also being requested for design, engineering, construction administration/oversight, furniture, equipment, or other project elements, those costs must also be included in the applicant's cost estimates. If an ICE contains costs for elements that are not part of the IDOT funding request, applicants should clearly identify those items and provide a breakdown of requested and non-requested costs in the cover letter.

PROPERTY AND LAND OWNERSHIP

1. **We already own the property where a proposed facility would be constructed. Should the value of the land be included in the application or project cost estimate?**

- If you are not requesting funding for the purchase of land, do not include the value of the land in the application or project cost estimate.

2. **Is an appraisal or other property valuation documentation required for land that is already owned?**
    - No. If land acquisition is not part of the funding request, an appraisal or property valuation is not required.
3. **If a grantee wanted to apply for facilities in multiple counties served, would it be acceptable if the county served owned the land, or would the grantee need to own the land in this situation?**
    - The land would need to be owned by the county or municipality that is the direct recipient of DOAP funding. For example, a mass transit district that operates in multiple counties would need to be the owner of the land in each of those counties. That would also apply to a county that is the direct recipient of DOAP funding on behalf of another county.
4. **Do we need to submit a floodplain map if we are building a new facility and are applying for funding for land acquisition as part of this application (i.e., we do not yet own the land and do not know exactly where the new facility will be located)?**
    - No, the floodplain map submittal is only required if the applicant is proposing renovations, upgrades, or enhancements to an existing facility/property, or already own the land on which they propose to build a new facility.

APPLICATION SYSTEM AND SUBMISSION PROCESS

1. **Is there a way to save general agency information if we are preparing multiple applications?**
    - Yes. When submitting multiple applications from the same computer and browser session, the entity information entered in the General section will be automatically saved after the first application is submitted. Applicants will not need to re-enter this information for subsequent applications. However, it is recommended to reset the entire form after each project application submission to ensure all answers are accurate.
2. **Will the confirmation email include a full copy of the application for our records?**
    - No. If you would like a copy of your submitted application, please email a request to DOT.CH.OIPITransitDocs@illinois.gov with a copy of your application confirmation email and the project name.
3. **What file do you attach under the "IDOT Grant Application" prompt?**
    - The "IDOT Grant Application" is referring to the BoBS 2867, not the ESRI application form. This Application link leads to the required IDOT Grant Application (BoBS2867) form.

4. **Can multiple addresses be included in an application for a project involving several locations?**
    - If you cannot input them in the address field, please include the various locations in the project narrative section.

PROCUREMENT AND DBE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Is the formal procurement section only for procurements that have already been completed that are related to the project that is being applied for? If we have not done any procurements related to the application, we would select "no."**
    - That is correct. If you have not started your project, that is fine. You would submit an independent cost estimate instead, and select "No" in response to the question, "Has a formal procurement been completed within the last six months which resulted in the receipt of at least three quotes or bids from interested vendors/contractors?"
    - The recent procurement is provided as an option for agencies that may be requesting additional funding for a project that is already in progress, or for agencies that may have done a procurement that included options (e.g., construction alternates, or additional quantities of equipment) that they have not yet exercised due to a lack of funding, but would be able to exercise if awarded additional funding under this call for projects.
2. **If the recent procurement was through a piggyback (i.e., used an existing master contract), would that purchase be acceptable for recent procurement?**
    - Pricing off of one active contract that an agency purchased off of recently will not be adequate in itself. An independent cost analysis or detailed price analysis will be required to demonstrate that the contract pricing that was used for the piggyback procurement was fair and reasonable. The only exception to this is if your pricing is current pricing from IDOT Transit's paratransit vehicle (CVP) contracts, because IDOT conducted the procurement and is responsible for ensuring that the pricing on these active contracts is fair and reasonable.
3. **We are currently in the middle of a Non-DBE project. We have additional needs associated with our existing project. Will DBE be required for these add-ons, even though our larger project is non-DBE?**
    - If you have already bid your project out without a DBE goal (per previous guidance), you cannot add a DBE goal after bids are due, so we would not require one be applied to the newly awarded funding.

PLANNING

1. **If the TIP is a fiscally constrained document according to federal regulations, how can these projects be shown in the TIP if there is no funding allocated to them yet?**

- A project may have been included in a TIP using a mix of other federal, state, local funds, and/or transportation development credits (TDC), and an applicant may be applying to this call for projects with the intent of swapping out some of that originally identified funding with IDOT Transit funds, if awarded through this call. A project identified in a TIP may also be impacted by inflation/cost escalation and now be short-funded, which would be another reason a project may have previously been included in a TIP, and the agency is now requesting additional funding. Inclusion in a TIP is not required.

SCORING AND EVALUATION

1. **Are points awarded for environmentally sustainable projects?**
    a. Yes. A limited number of points are available for environmentally sustainable project elements. For more information on points by category, please see the application evaluation criteria posted here: https://idot.illinois.gov/programs-and-projects/transit.html
    b. Including innovative or sustainable elements in your project is optional; however, applicants that include innovative or sustainability elements in their project and are awarded will be required to implement those elements of the project scope.

2. **Does the 'estimated share (percentage) of innovative or sustainable elements' get calculated against the Total Estimate Cost of the Project or against the ICE (hard-cost estimate) for the construction portion of the project only?**
    a. The innovative or sustainable elements are calculated against the construction costs, not the total project. The total project costs could also include A/E, and/or land acquisition.