

Western Connecticut COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



TO: HVMPO and SWRMPO Members
FROM: Kristin Hadjstylianos and Todd Fontanella
DATE: March 5, 2021

RE: CTDOT Corridor Study Solicitation

Overview:

The Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) is soliciting applications for potential corridor studies. These planning studies serve as a critical step in enhancing the transportation network throughout the region. Study recommendations become the foundation in addressing transportation concerns, often becoming future design and construction projects.

In previous years, awarded applications have resulted in the development of plans that address topics such as Transit-Oriented Development (TOD), congestion and safety relief, bicycle and pedestrian improvements, as well as mobility.

Program Details:

CTDOT has implemented a cap of three (3) project submissions per COG and a budget minimum per study of \$150,000. All applications received will be prioritized based upon the methodology described further below. Candidate projects for the WestCOG region will be funded through the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program. This is a discretionary program: priorities advanced by WestCOG are not guaranteed funding, and are subject to CTDOT review.

Funding Breakdown and Match*:

- Local Road(s): 80% federal, 20% local
- State Road(s) and Transit: 80% federal, 10% state, 10% local

**based on guidance provided by CTDOT, may be subject to change.*

Application Details:

All municipalities in the WestCOG region are eligible to submit a corridor study concept. ***Interested municipalities should complete the attached "DOT Study Application Form" and submit to WestCOG by April 30, 2021.*** Municipalities should also submit a letter of commitment signed by their municipal official. Digital copies may be emailed to Todd Fontanella at tfontanella@westcog.org.

Applications will be reviewed by staff and presented to the TAG members for prioritization. Projects identified as the top candidates will then be presented at the June 17, 2021 MPO meeting for approval.

Important Dates and Deadlines:

April 30, 2021 – Municipalities to submit applications to WestCOG for review

June 8, 2021 – TAG Members to discuss applications and recommend priorities

June 17, 2021 – COG/MPO Board to approve priority applications

July 1, 2021 – WestCOG to submit priority applications to CTDOT

Project Prioritization and Methodology:

This is a highly competitive and discretionary program, which increases the importance of identifying competitive candidates with the greatest potential to be awarded funding. Successful project candidates should be able to demonstrate regional significance and need.

Candidate projects will be evaluated on several factors and focus areas, including but not limited to:

- Regional significance
- Complete Streets
- TOD opportunities
- Mobility
- Connectivity
- Safety
- Congestion
- Consistency with Long Range Transportation Plan
- Consistency with regional Plan of Conservation and Development
- Relationship to other studies planned or underway
- Equity
- Coordination with CTDOT

While WestCOG will be reviewing and ranking applications, the final decision on project selection is under the purview of CTDOT.

Contacts:

WestCOG is available to work with your respective municipal staff to help them navigate the application process. Questions regarding this solicitation should be directed to Todd Fontanella at WestCOG, fontanella@westcog.org or (475) 323-2076.

Attachments:

1. DOT Study Application Form