

Local Agency Programs Section Federal Eligibility Guidelines

August 2018

Examples of project elements that are eligible/ineligible for federal Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) funding as well as state transportation funds are listed below. (The FAST Act converts the long-standing Surface Transportation Program (STP) into the Surface Transportation *Block Grant* Program).

If the RTF or MPO does not allow these items to be funded, then the work associated with these elements is not eligible for fund participation in that project, even though such elements are otherwise eligible. (i.e. Design or Construction Engineering services, Right-of-Way costs, all or certain types of sidewalk improvements, etc.)

In addition, please note that specific elements that are in an approved scope or part of a conditional commitment of a specific funding source, may be eligible, or ineligible due to that commitment, or approved scope of work. (i.e. TAP funds may pay for streetscapes, or streetlighting, if listed in the scope, that would otherwise be ineligible.)

Roadway and bridge elements

- a. Eligible:
1. Removal of existing elements such as pavement and shoulders including base and subbase, guardrail, signs, signals, curb and gutter, and other elements associated with, or necessitated by a road or bridge project.
 2. Replacement of the above road and bridge elements, designed to meet current guidelines and requirements.

Sidewalks

- a. Eligible:
1. Existing sidewalk or new sidewalk.
 2. Filling in short gaps in the existing sidewalk system.
 3. For bridge projects, new sidewalk is allowed if part of an agency's master plan.
- b. Ineligible:
1. Sidewalks replaced due to water service lead, sanitary, or storm service lead work that is not associated with the road project.

Bicycle Paths/Lanes, Non-Motorized Paths, Paved Shoulders

- a. Eligible:
1. New facility, designed in accordance with current AASHTO and MDOT standards, and if off-road, it must be a part of an overall regional, county or city master plan.
 2. Existing facilities, to repair or upgrade to current standards as needed.

Parking

- a. Eligible:
1. On-Street Parallel Parking:
 - Parking on street that has the potential to create additional thru lanes or turn lane by restriping the pavement.
 2. Park & Ride Lots, Trail Heads, Truck Parking Facilities, Vehicle Charging Infrastructure:
 - Trail Heads must be connected to a trail.

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b. Ineligible

1. Parking that is in a “bulbed-out” area unless it meets all the following conditions:
 - Adequate off-street is not available and businesses will be negatively impacted by the removal of parking from the street (e.g. no parking available behind the business).
 - The traffic lanes can adequately accommodate the current and future (15 years for 3R, or 20 years for 4R) traffic demand.
 - Parking lanes meet AASHTO design criteria for lane width.
 - The Local Agency provides certified (signed by a Professional Engineer) confirmation that above criteria are met to the MDOT LAP Engineer, and the confirmation is reviewed and approved by MDOT.
2. On-Street Angle or Perpendicular Parking:
 - Existing angle or diagonal parking on-street, unless the local agency has submitted a Diagonal Parking Engineering Study that has been approved by MDOT LAP. (See link: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/MDOT_Diag_77932_7.pdf for details of the review process required.)
3. Off-Street Parking

Storm Sewer and Drainage systems

a. Eligible:

1. Only elements necessary to provide drainage of the roadway and the road right of way. Oversizing or overdesigning the drainage system to accommodate existing off-right of way drainage, future need, or to meet permit requirements, may be allowed on an individual case basis.

b. Ineligible:

1. Betterment of the system. The cost between the required size and proposed size is not eligible unless as noted above.

Utility Relocation

a. Eligible:

1. Adjustment or relocation of existing public utilities (watermain, sanitary sewer, lighting, etc) located in existing public right of way or permanent public easements, necessitated by the construction project.
2. Adjustment or relocation of private utilities (gas mains, electric, communication cable, etc.) that are in the utility company’s own private easement, when necessitated by the construction project.

b. Ineligible:

1. Adjustment or relocation of private utilities in a public easement or right of way.
2. Watermain services and sanitary or storm sewer laterals.

Landscaping and Beautification

a. Eligible:

1. Elements associated with typical surface restoration, including topsoil, seed, fertilizer, mulch, and sod, including watering sod during the period of the construction contract.
2. Clearing or removal of existing trees and shrubs regardless of size and type.
3. Replacement of removed trees that are 6 inches in diameter or greater.

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4. Wetland mitigation landscaping within the standard road right-of-way.
5. Existing permanent individual streetscape and landscape items impacted by the project.

b. Ineligible:

1. Irrigation systems. (Private systems within acquired grading permits are eligible.)
2. New streetscape, landscape items.

Streetlights and Pedestrian Lighting

a. Eligible:

1. Relocation or adjustment, an existing street lighting system necessitated by the project.
2. New lighting system, if approved by the RTF or MPO, and the local agency documents a safety need.
3. Replacement of existing lighting on bridge funded projects.
4. Roundabout lighting.

b. Ineligible:

1. Ornamental lights and/or poles are ineligible, unless required by SHPO (State Historical Preservation Office) permit.

Signs, Signals, and Pavement Markings

a. Eligible:

1. Signals, signs and pavement markings in accordance with the current Michigan Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MMUTCD), AASHTO, and MDOT design guidance.

b. Ineligible:

1. If decorative mast arms/signal poles, wayfinding signs, specialty painting, etc. is desired, the difference in cost from the base version and the decorative version is not eligible.

Bridge and Culvert Structures

a. Eligible:

1. Bridge removal, replacement, rehabilitation, or preventive maintenance.
2. Approaches to logical touchdown points.
3. Standard nameplate as described in MDOT Standard Plans.
4. Boardwalks and similar structures.

b. Ineligible:

1. Special nameplates and decorative railings.

Traffic Operation Centers (TOCs), ITS Improvements

a. Eligible:

1. Capital and operating costs for traffic monitoring, management and control facilities and programs. (TOCs can be funded for up to three years through the CMAQ program, if selected. The three-year limit may not apply to some existing TOCs if grandfathered in.)
2. Vehicle-to-infrastructure communication equipment.
3. Traffic & Road ITS Capital Improvements.