

Local Agency Programs (LAP) Federal Eligibility Guidelines

Revised: April 2025

Examples of project elements that are eligible/ineligible for federal and state transportation funds are listed below.

If the local Rural Task Force (RTF) or Metropolitan Planning Organization (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 this is a general guideline. Some funding sources (such as Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ), Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), Federal Emergency Response (ER) program, etc.) have specific fund eligibility requirements based on the approved scope of work or that are part of a conditional commitment for that specific funding source

For project elements requiring approval, questions on listed items, or inquiries about unlisted items, please contact a Local Agency Program Team Leader.

Roadway and Bridge/Culvert Elements

Eligible:

1. Removal of existing road/bridge elements- including structures, pavement, shoulder, base and subbase materials, guardrail, signs, signals, curb and gutter, and other elements associated with or necessitated by a road/bridge project
2. Road/bridge replacement, rehabilitation, or preventive maintenance in accordance with current MDOT standards and MDOT approved AASHTO standards
3. Bridge/culvert approaches to logical touchdown points
4. Standard bridge nameplate as described in MDOT Standard Plans
5. Boardwalks and similar structures

Ineligible:

1. All unique materials and processes that have not been previously approved by MDOT, and FHWA as necessary. Including, but not limited to:
 - New/experimental materials and processes
 - Asphalt and concrete quality assurance
2. Local Agency provided materials and equipment
3. Additional work completed during construction without a prior MDOT approved work order or contract modification
4. Special bridge nameplates and decorative railings

Sidewalks

Eligible:

1. Existing sidewalk and sidewalk ramp repairs/replacement
2. New sidewalk and sidewalk ramps (bridge projects – new sidewalk only if part of an agency’s master plan)
3. Where sidewalk is not eligible due to RTF or MPO restrictions, sidewalk ramp and sidewalk required for ADA compliance is eligible.

Ineligible:

1. Sidewalks replaced due to water service lead, sanitary, or storm service lead work that is not necessitated by the road or bridge project.

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

Eligible:

1. New facility, designed in accordance with current MDOT standards and MDOT approved AASHTO standards. If off-road or outside of the existing road right of way, it must be a part of an overall regional, county or city master plan.
2. Repairs/upgrades on existing facilities to meet current MDOT standards and MDOT approved AASHTO standards

Parking

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. Features required for road work that may be offset due to parking (curb & gutter, etc.)
3. Park & Ride Lots, Trail Heads, Truck Parking Facilities, Vehicle Charging Infrastructure:
 - Trail Heads must be connected to an existing trail

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 the LAP Section Administrator
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. (Link: [Diagonal Parking Review Process](#))
3. Off-Street Parking unless required to mitigate ADA accessibility or as needed to satisfy historically sensitive areas

Storm Sewer and Drainage systems

Eligible:

1. 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.
2. Cleanout of drainage system portions conducive to the proper drainage of new/replaced project elements

Ineligible:

1. Betterment of the system. The cost difference between the required size and proposed size is not eligible unless as noted above.
2. Cleanout of drainage systems as a standalone activity or not directly necessitated by other project work

Utility Relocation

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

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

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

Ineligible (unless project necessitated repair/replacement within acquired permanent/temporary easement):

1. Irrigation systems
2. New streetscape, landscape items (including roundabout landscaping)
3. Aesthetic items or features
4. Electric systems for displays

Streetlights and Pedestrian Lighting

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
5. Safety lighting, if approved as part of a TAP or Safe Routes to School project

Ineligible:

1. Ornamental lights and/or poles are ineligible, unless required by the Section 106 approval or as approved as part of a TAP or Safe Routes to School project

Signs, Signals, and Pavement Markings

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
2. Signs displaying vehicle speeds
3. Speed humps/bumps
4. Raised crosswalks

Ineligible:

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

Traffic Operation Centers (TOCs), ITS Improvements

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

Force Account

Eligible:

1. Construction and work performed under a Force Account project in compliance with the [LAP Force Account Guidance Document](#).
2. Early Preliminary Engineering (EPE)
3. Preliminary Engineering (PE)
 - Maximum of 10% on the participating work only
4. Construction Engineering (CE)
 - Maximum of 15% on the participating work only
5. Right-of-Way (ROW)
 - Title searches, appraisals and acquisitions related to participating work only

Ineligible:

1. Any force account activities related to non-participating work

Miscellaneous

Eligible:

1. Project Permit Fees
2. Contractor Staking
3. Witness Log(s)
4. Monitoring Wells
5. Wetland Credits

Ineligible:

1. Cellular Data Service
2. Audio Video Route Survey
3. Contractor incentives/disincentives
4. Any required payment or reimbursement for unused miscellaneous materials not utilized in the project construction
5. Buildings and site amenities
6. Sound systems, in whole or part