April 26, 2021

Dear Mayor/County Executive:

On behalf of Governor Phil Murphy, I am pleased to announce that applications will now be accepted for the New Jersey Department of Transportation’s (NJDOT) Fiscal Year 2022 State Aid programs. **The deadline for grant application submissions is July 1st, 2021.** Grant awards are expected to be announced in November.

As you may know, the Transportation Trust Fund Reauthorization Act of 2016 increased funding for Local Aid programs to counties and municipalities from $190 million per year to $430 million. The reason for the steep increase is that the majority of New Jersey’s roadway mileage—about 90 percent—are under local government jurisdiction and are in as much need of repair as the state roadway network.

Our Commitment to Communities continues as we look for ways to improve our processes with technology. Behind the scenes our Division of Local Aid and Economic Development staff have been converting project management paper processes to an electronic format, the Project Management and Reporting System (PMRS). You will continue to submit applications through SAGE (System for Administering Grants Electronically), but you will now be required to submit your Resolution of Support through the PMRS platform. PMRS will be used for project management processes when you receive a grant starting in FY 2022. Older projects will be phased into the platform.

Another new feature Local Aid is providing is a Map Maker Tool. This tool will standardize all map submissions. Anyone can use this tool to draw a map, print it out and share with others. Our Local Aid Resource Center is available to assist you. Please see the attached flyer regarding PRMS training and more information regarding these new tools.

The following is a brief description of each grant program:

* **Municipal Aid -** This $151.25 million program has been a significant resource in funding local transportation projects. All municipalities are eligible. The Department continues to encourage municipalities to consider using the Municipal Aid Program to fund projects that support walking and biking in their communities, especially now that additional funds are available. NJDOT has set a goal to award up to 10 percent of the Municipal Aid Program funds to projects such as pedestrian safety improvements, bikeways and streetscapes. An additional $10 million is provided in Urban Aid for a total of $161.25 million.
* **Transit Village -** This $1 million program provides grants for traditional and non-traditional transportation projects that enhance walking, biking and/or transit ridership within a half mile of the transit facility.  Only New Jersey municipalities that have been designated as Transit Villages by the Commissioner of Transportation and the inter-agency Transit Village Task Force are eligible to apply. The eligible town list can be found at:

 <http://www.state.nj.us/transportation/business/localaid/transitvillagef.shtm>

* **Bikeways** -This $1 million program is intended to fund bicycle projects which create new Bike Path Mileage. It is available to all counties and municipalities. The Department continues to work toward the goal of achieving 1,000 miles of dedicated bikeways in New Jersey. Special consideration will be given to bikeways that are physically separated from motorized vehicular traffic by an open space or barrier, but on-road bike lanes and other bike routes and facilities are also eligible.
* **Safe Streets to Transit -** The intent of this $1 million program is to encourage counties and municipalities to construct safe and accessible pedestrian linkages to transit facilities, in order to promote increased usage of transit by all segments of the population.

All projects funded through the Transportation Trust Fund must comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). ADA guidance, program descriptions and application guidance materials can be found on the NJDOT website at: <http://www.state.nj.us/transportation/business/localaid/stateaid.shtm>

If you choose to apply, please be aware that Municipal Aid regulations require projects receiving this type of grant to award a construction contract within 24 months from the date of grant notification.

I encourage you to submit applications for these Local Aid programs. Each program application will be evaluated independently, affording counties and municipalities the opportunity to receive funding in more than one category.

The enclosed map provides contact information for each Local Aid District Office. Consult with your Local Aid District Office if you need assistance. Please keep in mind that a separate application for each project must be completed and submitted on or before **July 1st, 2021**, on-line through SAGE, at: <https://njsage.intelligrants.com/Login.aspx?APPTHEME=NJSAGE>

As the Commissioner of Transportation, I am committed to maintaining and improving New Jersey’s local transportation infrastructure by providing financial assistance, technical expertise and training for traditional and non-traditional local transportation initiatives. Our counties and municipalities will be well positioned to design and construct important local projects without the need to impact property taxes. Your success in building projects and spending the additional capital will mean success not only for your constituents, but for the entire state.

Thank you for your continued interest and support of NJDOT and best wishes for success with your project applications.

Sincerely,

Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti

Commissioner

Enclosures

c: Municipal/County Clerk; Municipal/County Engineer