



Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Economic Development Programs

Freight Railroad Infrastructure Improvement Program

The Freight Railroad Infrastructure Improvement Program (FRIIP) provides loans for up to 100 percent of the eligible costs of improvement projects that will rehabilitate a railroad line, connect an industry to the national railroad system, or make improvements to enhance transportation efficiency, safety, and intermodal freight movement. The program helps fund rail-related projects for new businesses and existing businesses wanting to expand or relocate. The projects improve transportation efficiency and reduce shipping costs, much of which is realized by rail users and their customers.

Eligibility: Loans are awarded to private industries, railroads and local governments to improve rail infrastructure, and to construct new rail-served facilities. The overall goal is to boost economic development and jobs, and increase the use of rail service.

Funding: The program is funded through a revolving loan fund. Interest rates are determined on a project-by-project basis ranging from zero percent up to the prime rate. Projects are financed over a period of 10 years. Funding cannot exceed \$3 million per project.

Applying: Funds may be subject to an annual application deadline depending on availability. Please inquire for up-to-date information.

For more information on FRIIP contact:

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Division of Transportation Investment Management
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wisconsindot.gov/FRIIP

Harbor Assistance Program

Harbor Assistance Program (HAP) grants assist harbor communities along the Great Lakes and Mississippi River in maintaining and improving waterborne commerce. Typical projects include dock reconstruction, mooring structure replacement, dredging, and the construction of facilities to hold dredged material. The program will finance up to 80 percent of the eligible cost of the transportation improvement.

Eligibility: A public or private port facility may sponsor a HAP grant application. The project must benefit facilities that are used for waterborne cargo transfer, ship building, commercial fishing or a ferry service. Additionally, it must pass a rigorous benefit-cost analysis. Project selection criteria are spelled out in Section 85.095, Wis. Stats. and Wis. Admin. Code TRANS 28 and include the following: economic impact of the project; type and urgency of the project and priority of the project.

Funding: The program has been funded at about \$6 million annually, but funding levels are set in each biennial budget.

Applying: Applications are accepted on February 1 and August 1 in years when funds are available.

For more information on HAP contact:

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Wisconsin Department of Transportation Economic Development Programs

State Infrastructure Bank Program

The State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) program offers a range of loans and credit options to help finance eligible surface transportation projects. The program provides low interest loans, loan guarantees, interest rate subsidies, lease-buy options and other financial leveraging instruments in order to preserve, promote and encourage economic development or to improve transportation efficiency and mobility.

Eligibility: A county, city, village, town or other government entity, a private non-profit organization that is sponsored by an eligible community, or a Transit Commission may apply.

Funding: The SIB has total assets of approximately \$3 million, a portion of which is available for new loans at any particular time. An estimated \$200,000 – \$300,000 are made available for new loans each year from the repayment of existing loans. Loans are made at market interest rates unless a hardship exists, in which case a reduced rate may be granted by the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT).

Applying: Applications are accepted on a first come, first served basis.

For more information on SIB contact:

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Transportation Economic Assistance Program

The Transportation Economic Assistance (TEA) program provides financial assistance to help communities with road, rail, harbor or airport improvements to attract an employer to Wisconsin, or encourage a state employer to expand in the state. The program will finance up to 50 percent of the eligible cost of the transportation improvement.

Eligibility: A municipal or county unit of government must sponsor a TEA application. Local communities must ensure the number of jobs anticipated from the proposed project will be attained within three years from the date the agreement is signed and will be retained for another four years. The project must have the local government's endorsement, and it must benefit the public.

Funding: The program allocates \$3.4 million annually for TEA projects. The award amount is dependent upon the number of jobs created and the award criteria includes the amount of private investment and jobs retained by the business(es), which will utilize the transportation improvement. Maximum award is \$1 million per project.

Applying: Applications are accepted on a first come, first served basis.

For more information on TEA contact:

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