

Agricultural Roads Improvement Program (ARIP) Video Tutorial



April 29th, 2026

ARIP Statewide Program Manager, Hillary Pelton

ARIP General Overview

The Agricultural Roads Improvement Program (ARIP) was established as a one-time \$150 million SEG-funded grant appropriation in the 2023-2025 biennium.

- Purpose: provide state funding to assist local governments in improving deteriorating Class B and weight-restricted roads that restrict the ability of producers to transport full loads of agricultural goods and forest products.
- ARIP was continued in the 2025-2027 biennial budget (\$120 million in new funding).
- ARIP may be funded at up to a 90% state cost share.
- From the date of legislation, program must award within 3 years
- and reimburse within 5 years.



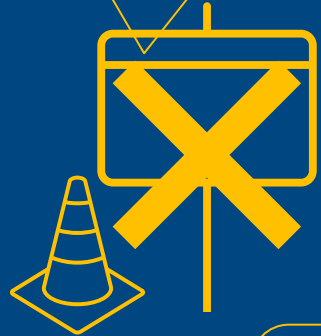
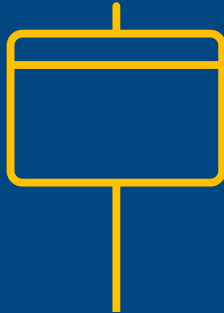
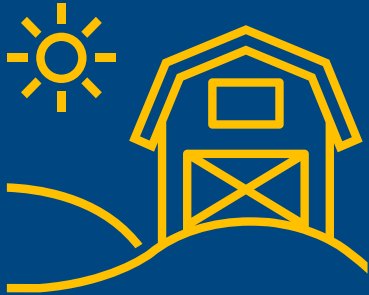
ARIP Project Eligibility

Functionally classified as a local road or minor collector

20 ft or less and not eligible for funding under another federal program

Provides access to agricultural lands or facilities and is used by at least one agricultural producer

No longer Class B or weight posted after project completion unless in emergency circumstances



Class "B" or posted weight limitation for at least one month during the previous year.

Maintained by political subdivision



ARIP Round 1 Applications

In the Round 1 project solicitation, 122 eligible applications were received requesting \$224 million in ARIP funding, representing nearly \$250 million in total project costs.



Agricultural Roads Improvement Program (ARIP) - 2026 Awards

WisDOT Region

- NC
- NE
- NW
- SE
- SW

County Application

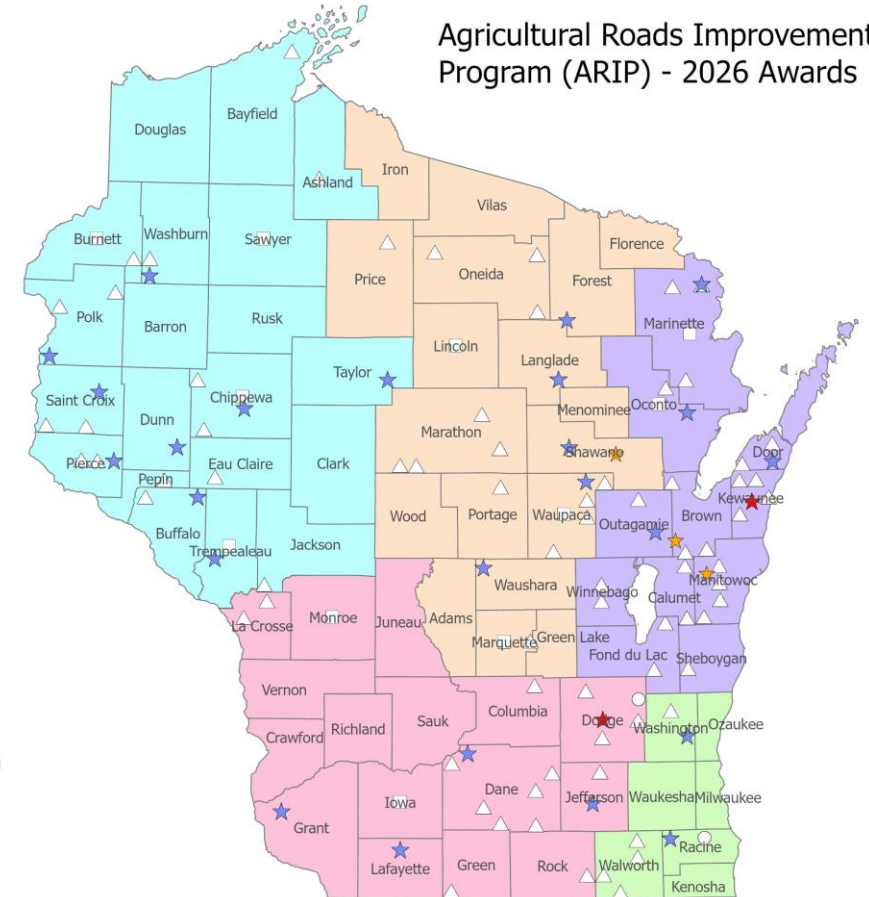
- Application
- ★ Awarded

Town Application

- △ Application
- ★ Awarded

City or Village Application

- Application
- ★ Awarded



ARIP Round 1 Awards

- 29 projects were awarded across 28 counties for nearly \$50 million in ARIP funding
- 120 projects have been awarded in total since the program was established



Agricultural Roads Improvement Program (ARIP) - 2026 Awards

WisDOT Region

- NC
- NE
- NW
- SE
- SW

Town Application

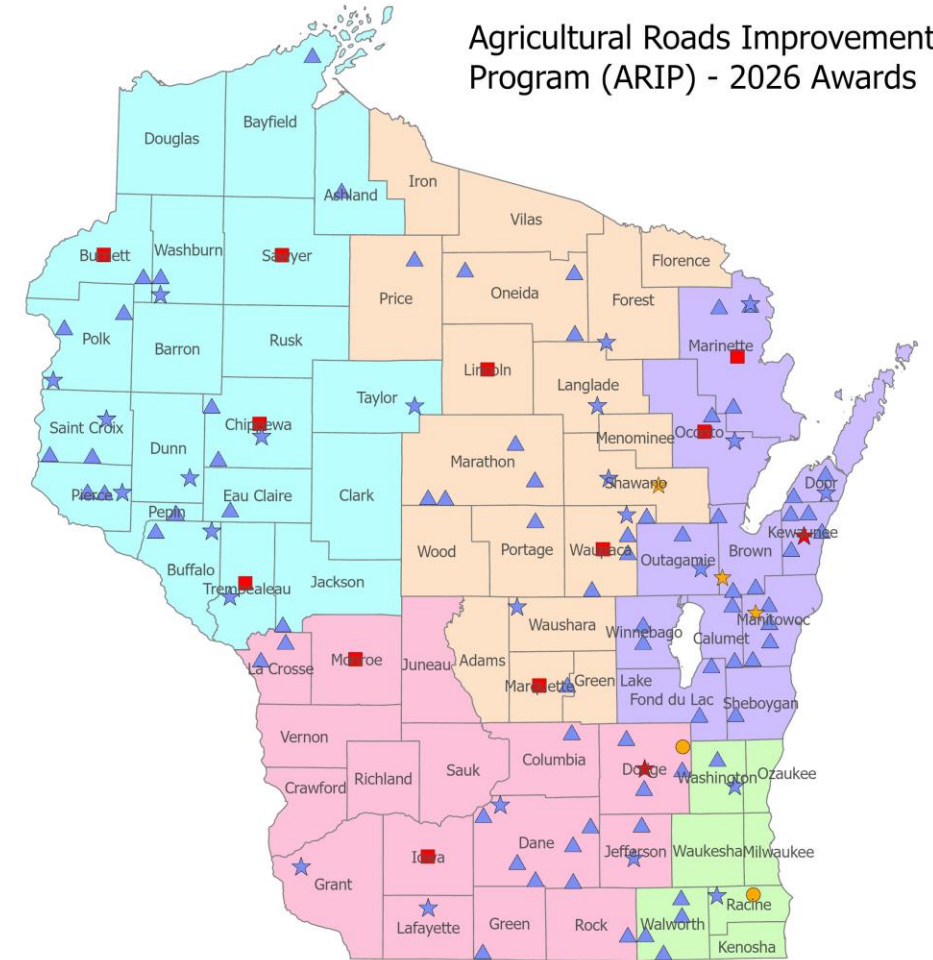
- ▲ Application
- ★ Awarded

City or Village Application

- Application
- ★ Awarded

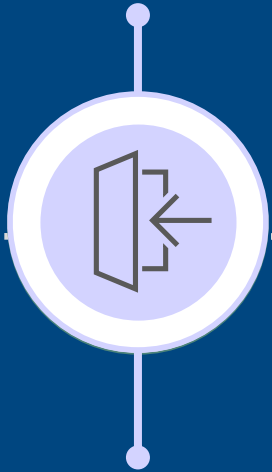
County Application

- Application
- ★ Awarded



Round 2 Timeline – \$70 Million

Project Solicitation
Opens



April 29, 2026

Application
Deadline



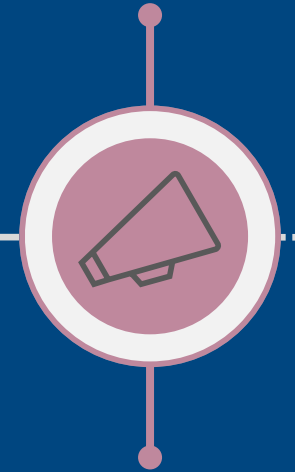
June 29, 2026

Committee
Reviews



July-September

Anticipated Award
Announcements



October-
November



ARIP Webpage

Agricultural Roads Improvement Program (ARIP)

Assistance programs

[Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funding](#)

[Road and bridge](#)

[Transit](#)

[Other aid](#)

In June 2023, [Senate Bill 247 \(Act 13\)](#) established the Agricultural Roads Improvement Program (ARIP) within the framework of the existing [Local Roads Improvement Program \(LRIP\)](#) budget to improve highways functionally classified as local roads, or minor collectors, or culverts, that provide access to agricultural lands or facilities used to produce agricultural goods, including forest products.

- [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) (Updated February 2026)
- [ARIP Annual Summary](#) (Updated June 2025)

Solicitation Timelines




2026-2027 Round 1	
Project solicitation opens	October 6, 2025
Application deadline	December 15, 2025 by 5:00 pm
Discretionary selection committee review and selection	January - February 2026
Anticipated awards announcement	Late March 2026

2026-2027 Round 2	
Project solicitation opens	April 29, 2026
Application deadline	June 29, 2026 by 5:00 pm
Discretionary selection committee review and selection	July - September 2026
Anticipated awards announcement	Late October 2026

Information regarding the ARIP program can be found on our webpage at: <https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/doing-bus/local-gov/astnce-pgms/highway/arip.aspx>



ARIP Webpage Cont'd

Program Resources	
Resource	Description
ARIPWeb	The online ARIP project management tool/portal. This tool is utilized for all program related activities relating to applying for ARIP funding, requesting reimbursement of eligible costs, scope changes, etc.
ARIPWeb Step-by-Step User Guide	A step-by-step guide for utilizing the ARIPWeb online portal.
ARIP Guidelines and Requirements (Updated February 2026)	An in-depth document detailing the background, program and project eligibility, policies, requirements, and application information about the Agricultural Roads Improvement Program (ARIP). This document is written for applicants interested in applying for ARIP funding. It is recommended that applicants read through the guidelines in-full before applying.
ARIP Engineer Attestation (DT2370)	Form required to be included with reimbursement requests submitted to WisDOT by project sponsors.
ARIP Potentially Eligible Roads map application	Map that assists with identifying potentially eligible roads for this program. Please note, this map only highlights roads that are functionally classified as local roads or minor collectors. It does not include information about Class-B or otherwise weight-restricted roadways, or factor in other ARIP eligibility information such as usage by agricultural or forestry producers or posted load restrictions. It is the applicant's responsibility to confirm the other program eligibility criteria as laid out in Wis. Stat. 86.31 (3o) prior to submitting an application.
ARIP Project Award Recommendation Guidelines (Updated December 2025)	ARIP Discretionary Selection Committee's established project award recommendation guidelines.
Informational Video Tutorials	<p>2026-2027 Solicitation</p> <p>ARIP Round 2 Video Tutorial (<i>Coming April 27, 2026</i>)</p> <p>ARIP Round 1 Video Tutorial (October 6, 2025) Video Tutorial Presentation Video Tutorial </p> <p>2024-2025 Solicitation</p> <p>ARIP Round 2 Informational Webinar (August 21, 2024) Webinar Presentation Webinar Video </p> <p>ARIP Round 1 Informational Webinar (February 28, 2024) Webinar Presentation Webinar Video </p>



ARIP Webpage – More Info

Project Eligibility

An eligible project must meet all the following requirements:

1. The project is to improve a highway functionally classified by the department as a local road or minor collector or a bridge or culvert on a highway functionally classified by the department as a local road or minor collector. See the ARIP Potentially Eligible Roads map application to assist with identifying potentially eligible roads for this program. Please note, this map only highlights roads that are functionally classified as local roads or minor collectors. It does not include information about Class-B or otherwise weight-restricted roadways, or factor in other ARIP eligibility information such as usage by agricultural or forestry producers or posted load restrictions. It is the applicant's responsibility to confirm the other program eligibility criteria as laid out in Wis. Stat. 86.31 (3o) prior to submitting an application.
2. If the project is solely for the improvement of a bridge or culvert, the bridge or culvert is 20 feet or less in length and is not eligible for funding under a federal program providing funding for bridge improvements.
3. The highway, bridge, or culvert provides access to agricultural lands or facilities used for the production of agricultural goods, including forest products, and is used by at least one agricultural producer.
4. The highway or the highway upon which the bridge or culvert is located is designated as a class "B" highway under s. 349.15 due to structural deficiencies or has been subject to a posted weight limitation for at least one month during the previous year.
5. After completion of the project, the highway will not be designated as a class "B" highway under s. 349.15 and will not be subject to a posted weight limitation other than under extraordinary or emergency circumstances.
6. The highway, bridge, or culvert is maintained by a political subdivision.

Project Selection

Contacts

ARIP Program Manager - Main Contact for ARIP Inquiries

Hillary Pelton

hillary.pelton@dot.wi.gov

(608) 261-4443



Application Materials

- ARIPWeb application
- Step-By-Step User guide
- ARIP Guidelines and Requirements
- Potentially Eligible Roads map application

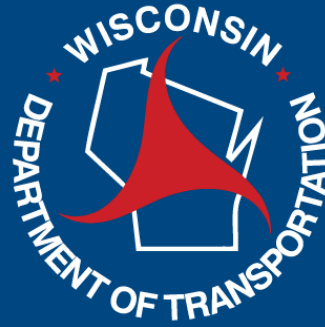
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Applying for Funding – Quick Reference

Step	Key Action	Notes
1. Eligibility	Confirm road qualifies	Local/minor collectors; ≥1 month posted limit
2. Documentation	Collect supporting materials	Maps, photos, resolutions
3. Scope	Define improvements	Must meet trans code standards
4. Estimate	Prepare engineer's estimate	Include local share
5. Application	Complete and attach docs	Submit via ARIPWeb portal
6. Deadline	June 29th by 5:00pm	Late applications not accepted
7. Review	WisDOT validates eligibility and Discretionary Selection Committee review & scoring	Based on need, benefit, cost
8. Award	Selected projects funded	SMA issued, advertisement and construction proceeds





ARIPWeb – Application Reminders & Updates

Copy Forward an Application



State of Wisconsin
Department of Transportation

[Home](#) [Admin](#) [Logoff](#)

Welcome Hillary Pelton
Your password will expire in 7 days

Welcome to ARIP Web!

Apply for Project

Drop My Project

Change Project Scope

Request Reimbursement

View My Work Queue

Search Applications/Projects

Add Material Quantities to
Projects

Add Advertising Information to
Projects

Upload Request/Project
Documents

Questions about the content of this page:
DOTARIPWebSystem@dot.wi.gov

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Eligible Producer Categories

Sand has been added an eligible producer product type

Economic Assessment - Started

This page is for you to demonstrate the economic impact for the producers using the project route. This is critical information that the **ARIP** Discretionary Selection Committee will consider when evaluating your application. The top of the screen is a summary of the number of producers, the estimated total annual sales, and the estimated total volume of goods. Please Note: You may add additional narrative or detail into the cost reduction narrative.

Producer types include: Dairy (Cheese and/or Milk), Animal Producers, Grain Crops, Forestry, Fruit and/or Vegetables, and "Other."

- "Other" **eligible** producer types include **Sand** (for agricultural use), Ethanol, Organic Manure/Fertilizer/Food, Maple Syrup, or others as verified after review.
- "Other" **ineligible** producer types include machinery/equipment, gravel, hardware/metal, non-organic chemicals, and others deemed ineligible after review.

Producer

Hillary's

Contact Name

Hillary Pelton

Phone

(608) 261-4443

Email

hillary.pelton@dot.wi.gov



Select the product category(s) that this producer transports on this road.

Dairy (Cheese) Dairy (Milk) Animal Products Forestry Fruit/Vegetable Grain Crops Other


Sand, Maple Syrup



New Application Question: Route Connectivity

- A new question has been added to the application requesting supplemental information on route connectivity
- This information will help the ARIP Discretionary Selection Committee evaluate project context and route connectivity

Supplemental Information - Route Connectivity

Does the project route connect to a Class A roadway? 

Yes No

Please describe the project route's connectivity, including locations of connecting roadways, any known weight restrictions, and any planned improvement that may affect access.

This information is collected for supplemental purposes only and will not be used to determine project eligibility. It may be considered by the Committee, along with other factors, to better understand overall project context and route connectivity.

- Response is required for all applications
- Applicants must select “Yes” or “No”
- Regardless of response, additional narrative information must be entered in the provided text box



Required Attachments – Proof of load posting

- Documentation must demonstrate the roadway was weight restricted for at least one month in the prior year
- Applies to seasonal, Class B, or special (e.g., bridge closure) restrictions
- Must be uploaded with the application
- Examples of **sufficient documentation** include:
 - ✓ Dated photographs of a weight restriction sign (with location context)
 - ✓ Municipal statement or email confirming the restriction and timeframe
 - ✓ Seasonal posting notice or table (e.g., county posting dates) *for county roadways*
 - ✓ Documentation that reasonably shows:
 - ✓ The restriction existed
 - ✓ The timeframe was (≥ 1 month)
 - ✓ It applies to the roadway on the application



Required Attachments – Proof of load posting Cont'd

- Examples of **insufficient documentation** include:
 - × Undated photos with no timeframe or context
 - × General policies or webpages (no confirmation of when restriction occurred)
 - × County posting info for local roads (no tie to the roadway)
 - × Documentation that does not clearly show:
 - × When the restriction occurred, or
 - × That it applies to the roadway in the application



Application Review & Communication Process

- Applicants receive a confirmation email from ARIPWeb upon submission
- Applications submitted after the deadline or not meeting eligibility requirements will be denied, with notification via email
- Applications needing corrections or clarification will be returned to the work queue
- Email notification for returned applications is sent the next day
- Corrections must be completed within approximately 7 business days or less



Reimbursements of Eligible Project Costs

- ARIP is a reimbursement program (submit via ARIPWeb)
- Quarterly requests allowed (**one** per quarter, may bundle invoices)
- Reimbursed:
 - 100% up to award amount, OR
 - 90% of final costs } **whichever is *less***
- Local sponsors cover any costs beyond ARIP award
- Funds reimbursed within ~30 days (via ACH)



Example ARIP Funding Scenarios

The following funding scenarios are based on a \$100,000 project.

Total Project Costs	\$ 100,000	
Local Sponsor Portion	\$ 10,000	
WisDOT Portion	\$ 90,000	<i>Maximum award amount and 90% funded</i>

If final project costs are above initial awarded project amounts:

Total Project Costs	\$ 120,000	
Local Sponsor Portion	\$ 30,000	
WisDOT Portion	\$ 90,000	<i>Maximum award amount</i>

If final project costs are below initial awarded project amounts:

Total Project Costs	\$ 80,000	
Local Sponsor Portion	\$ 8,000	
WisDOT Portion	\$ 72,000	<i>Maximum of 90% funded</i>



Tips for Success – During Application

- Include additional photographs and/or maps that clearly illustrate the project area and the agricultural or forestry operations served
- Provide a clear and detailed project description, including existing roadway conditions and the scope of proposed improvements
- Explain how the project will reduce trips, improve efficiency, and support a reliable, all-season roadway that supports a 10-year lifespan
- Clearly describe how the roadway will be used following project completion
- Include completed Agricultural Producer Support Forms (designed to be commodity-neutral), as these can help substantiate reported economic impact data
- Provide testimonials or letters of support from producers or stakeholders to further demonstrate project need and benefit
- Highlight whether the project route connects to or is adjacent to Class A all-season roadway



WisDOT Local Program Contacts

Hillary Pelton

ARIP Program Manager

 (608) 261-4443

 Hillary.pelton@dot.wi.gov

Penny Yanke

ARIP Contract Specialist

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Merrill Mechler-Hickson

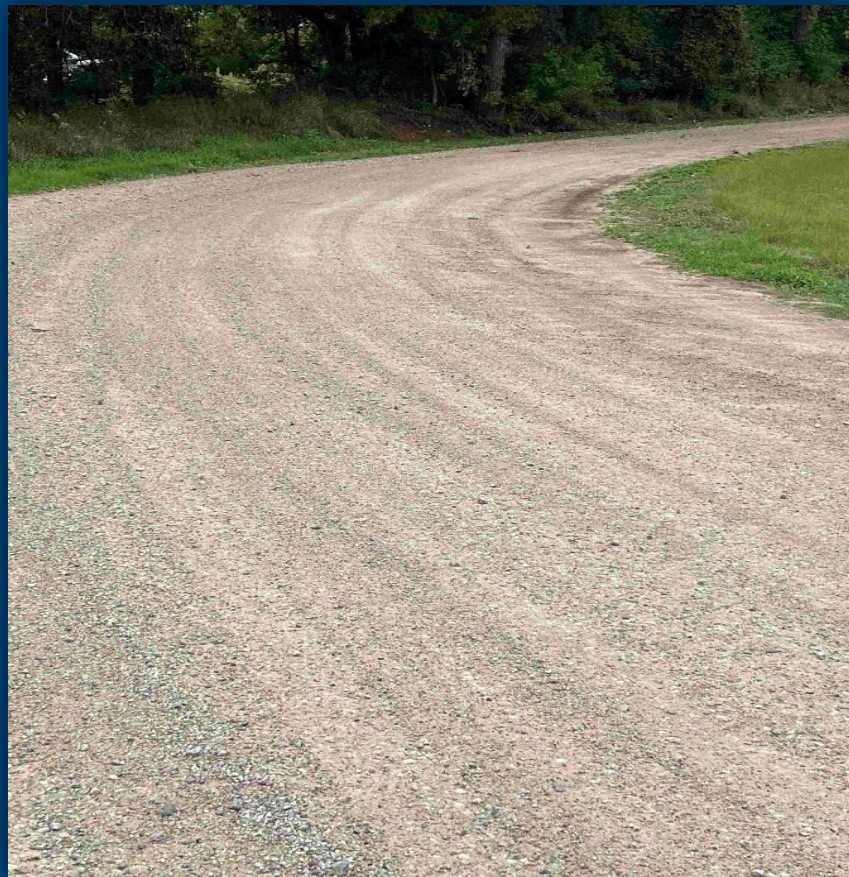
Program and Policy Chief

 (608) 261-8977

 merrill.mechlerhickson@dot.wi.gov



Thank you!



“Our Town would have had to stretch the complete rebuild of this road over approximately 3-4 years due to today's costs and the extensive deteriorated state it was in. And with limited road budget, we could not have addressed any other road projects during those years. With limited budgets that all municipalities face, the ARIP grant was a blessing.”

The application is thorough, but not difficult to complete. The DOT staff for ARIP are easy to work with and were available for guidance when needed. We will continue to apply for this grant as long as it remains available, and we have roads needing repair.”

