

From: Press Release from Iowa Governor's Office [mailto:PressReleases.IGOV@iowa.gov]
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Subject: IOWA BEGINS SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS FOR HIGHWAY AND RAILROAD GRANT FUNDING UNDER THE TIGER DISCRETIONARY GRANT PROGRAM

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Governor Chet Culver ★ Lt. Governor Patty Judge

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**IOWA BEGINS SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS
FOR HIGHWAY AND RAILROAD GRANT
FUNDING
UNDER THE TIGER DISCRETIONARY GRANT
PROGRAM**

DES MOINES – Governor Chet Culver today announced that the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) has begun submitting applications seeking \$440.2 million in highway projects and nearly \$109 million in funding for rail projects under the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) \$1.5 billion Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) discretionary grants for surface transportation projects.

"As Governor, I am committed to rebuilding our state while creating new jobs for Iowans," Governor Culver said. "These grants are just one more way we can work with the federal government to improve our infrastructure, put Iowans back to work, and move our state forward."

Applications are due by Sept. 15. Funding for the TIGER grants is being made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Highway project grant applications were submitted for the following.

1. **U.S. 61 in Lee County.** This \$45.5 million grant application is for funds for construction of a four-lane divided highway to bypass Fort Madison.
2. **U.S. 34/U.S. 75 Missouri River connector in Mills County.** This is a joint application between Iowa and Nebraska for \$143.4 million. This four-lane divided highway project involves the relocation of U.S. 34 in Iowa from Interstate 29 to U.S. 75 in Nebraska, including a new bridge over the Missouri River, and the reconstruction of U.S. 75 in Nebraska from the new connection of U.S. 34 with U.S. 75 north to Fairview Road. The project also includes upgrading the I-29/U.S. 34 interchange.
3. **Interstate 74 corridor over the Mississippi River in Scott County.** This is a joint application between the Iowa and Illinois DOTs for \$126 million. The funds requested are for the construction of the approach span piers for the proposed Mississippi River bridges as part of the ultimate plan to reconstruct I-74 from one mile north of 53rd St. in Davenport, Iowa to 23rd Avenue in Moline, Illinois.
4. **I-80 reconstruction in Iowa City.** This \$41.1 million grant application seeks funds for the reconstruction and widening of I-80 to three lanes each direction from the Iowa River Bridge east to 1.5 miles east of the Iowa 1 interchange in Iowa City. The project also includes redesign of the westbound entrance ramp at the Dubuque Street interchange.
5. **U.S. 30 in Tama County.** This \$23.8 million grant application is for funds for construction of a four-lane divided highway and bypass around the cities of Toledo and Tama.
6. **I-29 in Sioux City.** This \$34 million grant application is for funding for reconstruction and widening of I-29 to three lanes each direction from just west of the Hamilton Boulevard interchange to the Big Sioux River at the South Dakota state line. It is the northernmost segment of a three segment improvement that extends south to approximately 3/4-mile south of the Sergeant Bluff interchange.
7. **U.S. 6/Broadway viaduct in Council Bluffs.** This \$26.4 million grant application seeks funds to provide for the replacement of the existing Broadway viaduct in Council Bluffs. The project is from 8th St. west to 15th St. and includes the approach pavement and the four-lane divided viaduct. The proposed viaduct replacement would also provide a 10-foot pedestrian and bike path that connects to a pedestrian plaza area at the center of the bridge.

Railroad infrastructure applications will be submitted for these projects.

1. **BNSF Railway - Mississippi River bridge at Burlington.** The \$25 million grant application seeks funding to assist with financing a \$124 million project to replace the approach spans on both sides of a new lift span on the Mississippi River Bridge.
2. **Cedar Rapids and Iowa City Railway Co. - track extension in Cedar Rapids.** This \$7 million grant application is for funding for the addition of two 9,800-foot tracks to accommodate full unit trains in preparation for an expansion at the Archer Daniels Midland facility that will increase rail traffic up to 40,000 cars annually.
3. **Iowa Northern Railway Company - bridge and rail line rehabilitation.** This grant application seeks \$19,859,268 to rehabilitate certain bridges and rail line segments between Cedar Rapids and Manly to meet or exceed current industry engineering, safety and operating standards.
4. **Union Pacific Railroad Company - wind belt transportation improvement project.** Funding for this \$24 million grant application would assist with financing a \$48 million project to remove physical impediments and add capacity so that wind energy components may be shipped on the track segment from Missouri through Des Moines.
5. **Union Pacific Railroad Company - relocation of crew change facility near the Mississippi River bridge at Clinton.** The \$33 million grant application relates to the planned \$66 million project to relocate a crew change facility to a rural area near Low Moor as the first step in preparation for a new, higher elevation clear-span bridge that will replace the outdated swing span bridge in the future. Relocation away from the city will also relieve congestion in Clinton.

Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis to projects that have “a significant impact on the nation, a region or metropolitan area and can create jobs and benefit economically distressed areas,” according to USDOT. Primary project criteria include contributions to the medium- to long-term economic competitiveness of the nation; improving the condition of existing transportation facilities and systems; improvements to the quality of living and working environments through livable communities; energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emission reductions; and improving the safety of U.S. transportation facilities.

The maximum amount any one state can receive is \$300 million. Following grant awards, the USDOT will require all grant recipients to report on their activities on a routine basis.

To view the applications and supporting documents, visit Iowa [DOT's Recovery Web site](#).