



Illinois Department of Transportation

Office of Highways Project Implementation / Bureau of Local Roads & Streets
2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Room 205 / Springfield, Illinois / 62764

May 8, 2026

CIRCULAR LETTER 2026-05

FY 2026-2028 TRUCK ACCESS ROUTE PROGRAM (TARP) NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

COUNTY ENGINEERS / SUPERINTENDENTS OF HIGHWAYS / MUNICIPAL ENGINEERS / DIRECTORS OF PUBLIC WORKS / MAYORS / METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS – DIRECTORS / TOWNSHIP HIGHWAY COMMISSIONERS / CONSULTING ENGINEERS

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT or Department) has announced that it is accepting applications for the Truck Access Route Program (TARP). The program will continue to be funded in FY 2026-2028 at the \$7.0 million funding level per year, for a total of \$21.0 million available for this solicitation.

The TARP application form with instructions is available as a fillable form on the [TARP website](#). Each candidate project must have completed the online application and submitted a project location map, project location photographs, and cost estimate to DOT.LocalPolicy@illinois.gov. The online application seeks information pertaining to prior commitments by the Department, a description of industries, municipalities, and truck generators along the proposed route, projected growth in the area, and the number of trucks using the proposed route. The project location map should clearly identify the proposed route and each of the project termini. Information pertaining to phased construction that will initiate or complete a designated truck route should also be provided.

Only roadway sections determined to be eligible for upgrading to a designated truck route will be funded from the program (unless phase construction is approved). Eligible routes must terminate at a designated truck route or jurisdictional boundary and begin at a truck generator, another designated truck route or jurisdictional boundary. Roadway sections that were upgraded with TARP funds before 2016 are eligible for funding from this program. Any roadway sections that have received TARP funding from 2016 to 2025 are not eligible.

For background the changes to truck route designation, please see [CL2020-01](#). To evaluate existing designated truck routes and/or jurisdictional boundaries, please refer to [IROADS - Illinois Roadway Analysis Database System](#). You can also use [Getting Around Illinois](#) to review only truck routes.

The TARP is not intended for use in pavement preservation or maintenance projects. The program will provide \$100,000 per lane mile and \$50,000 per eligible intersection, with total project funding up to one-half of the project cost, subject to a maximum of \$2,000,000 per project. TARP funds may be used for project

construction only and should only be submitted for projects that will be ready to advertise within 2 years.

Completed project applications, including attachments, should be submitted no later than June 29, 2026. Project award notifications are anticipated to be announced in Fall 2026.

In summary, each candidate application submittal should contain the following information:

1. [TARP](#) project application form (online submittal)
2. Project location map (email submittal)
3. Photographs of the existing facility (email submittal)
4. Project cost estimate (email submittal)

If you have questions pertaining to this program, please contact Holly Primm, Local Planning & Programming Manager at (217) 782-1662 or by email at Holly.Primm@illinois.gov. Questions regarding scoping and design issues should be addressed to the appropriate District Local Roads Field Engineer.

Sincerely,



Holly Bieneman
Acting Bureau Chief of Local Roads and Streets
Director, Office of Planning and Programming

Attachments

cc: Lora Rensing, IDOT, Director, Office of Highway Project Implementation
Russ Renner, Illinois Association of County Engineers
Molly Rockford, Illinois Association of County Engineers
Brad Cole, Illinois Municipal League
Jerry Crabtree, Township Officials of Illinois
Craig Smith, Township Highway Commissioners of Illinois