

## **Missouri Local Public Agency Off-System Bridge Program Statewide Large Bridge and Emerging Needs Fund**

### **Purpose**

Federal funds are allocated to each state for use on the Bridge Replacement Off-system (BRO) program, which allows local agencies to plan for needed bridge replacement projects. These projects involve local agencies working with the Regional Bridge Committee (RBC) to prioritize their bridge needs and get their project scheduled in the Local Bridge Improvement Program (LBIP), using available federal and local funds. Local agencies are occasionally confronted with unexpected damage/situations on structures (emerging need) or have a unique need to address a larger ( $\geq 200$  feet) and poor condition local bridge that has a cost that would require a significant portion of the funds allocated to a region each year to complete the project (large bridge).

The regional approach allocates available funds for BRO eligible projects across the state based on the area of poor deck. The Statewide Large Bridge and Emerging Needs fund will be used as a supplemental funding source that is available to the different regions thru an application process as outlined below. This funding approach would assist in adding an occasional bridge project based on emerging needs to the LBIP. It would also assist with offsetting some of the cost for selected large bridge projects when their replacement would take a significant portion of the yearly regional funding allocation to fund such a large bridge project. This fund will be managed by the Statewide Bridge Committee (SBC).

### **General Requirements**

1. Bridge is on the National Bridge Inventory (NBI).
2. Bridge is in poor condition based on the most recent NBI data.
3. Bridge is classified as off-system bridge based on the functional class of the route. Off-system means bridges on roadways with a functional classification of Rural Local, Urban Local, or Rural Minor Collector.
4. LPA is required to provide the 20% local funding match for the BRO program.
5. When a structure is submitted for funding consideration as an Emerging Need, inspection or review by a qualified bridge Inspection Team Leader will be required to update the structure information.

### **Eligibility**

Emerging Needs could be categorized as damage from acts of nature or traffic, which requires permanent or long-term closure to traffic and results in the need for major rehabilitation or replacement of the structure. The event would typically close the structure to traffic and result in the structure being considered Poor Condition. General criteria for eligibility are shown below, but other items may be considered by the SBC.

1. Partial or total collapse of a structure as the result of an overweight vehicle.

2. Partial or total failure of a structure as the result of acts of nature. Acts of nature would be considered major flooding, severe storms, and earthquakes.
3. Partial or total collapse of a structure as the result of a vehicle collision.
4. Severe damage on a structure from a vehicle collision resulting in the closure of the bridge until it can be replaced.
5. Severe damage or failure of a structure from a fire resulting in the closure of the bridge until it can be replaced.
6. Project proposal must include some funding from the Regional BRO allocation in addition to this fund.

The Large Bridge definition would be a structure that would require a significant portion of the normal federal funding allocation for a region to replace the structure. The primary focus would be to assist an LPA within a region in replacing larger structures with supplemental funding used in conjunction with other federal and local funds from the region. General criteria for eligibility are shown below.

1. Existing bridge length (NBI Item 49) is  $\geq 200$  feet.
2. Project has a cost that would require a significant portion of the funds allocated to a region each year to complete the project.
3. Project proposal must include some funding from the Regional BRO allocation in addition to this fund.

### Application Process

#### Emerging Needs:

1. When an Emerging Need develops, the local agency will be required to complete the Statewide Large Bridge and Emerging Needs Funding Request Form and submit it to the RBC for review. A narrative should be included on the form to describe the event that happened resulting in the closure and need for replacement of the structure.
2. The RBC will review the application and determine what regional funds are available for use on the project request. At the time of review, the RBC can determine if they want to request use of supplemental funds from the Large Bridge and Emerging Needs fund.
3. To request funds, the RBC will submit the form to the respective District LPA Staff.
4. The District LPA Staff will be responsible for submitting the request form to the SBC by emailing the form to [BRO\\_SBC@modot.mo.gov](mailto:BRO_SBC@modot.mo.gov).
5. Submitted funding request forms will be reviewed by the SBC and a response will be provided within 30 days to the District LPA Staff on the request for any available funds. The District LPA Staff will then notify the RBC.

#### Large Bridge:

1. The local agency will submit a Local Bridge Program application to the RBC as part of the normal LBIP regional process. As part of the review and scoring of applications by the RBC, the RBC may identify that the structure meets the requirements to be classified as

large bridge and determine whether they want to request supplemental funds from the SBC for the project.

2. If the RBC decides to request supplemental funds for the large bridge project, then the RBC should fill out the Large Bridge and Emerging Needs Funding Request form and submit the request to the respective MoDOT District LPA staff along with the Local Bridge Program application. The District LPA staff will be responsible for submitting the request form and application to the SBC by email ([BRO\\_SBC@modot.mo.gov](mailto:BRO_SBC@modot.mo.gov)). Each year, the SBC will meet to consider all requests that have been submitted that year for funding assistance on large bridge projects.
3. The SBC will review all of the project requests and make a final determination on which projects are selected for supplemental funding, including the year that the funds will be available. The project will be required to have been reviewed and selected for funding by the RBC and should include regional and local agency funds to be used in conjunction with funding from the Large Bridge and Emerging Needs Fund.
4. The RBC will be notified of the results from the SBC review and decision on all funding requests that are submitted. The SBC may select more than one project for funding, and a project may use portions of the available funds from more than one yearly allocation to the Large Bridge and Emerging Needs Fund.

### **Program Start and Funding**

1. Funding for this program will start with federal fiscal year 2023.
2. \$2 million of BRO funds will be set aside for this fund each year prior to the yearly allocation of funds to each region.
3. Requests for funding from the Large Bridge fund will coincide with the annual regional call for projects and will be submitted by the RBC and Emerging Needs will be handled as received.
4. SBC will periodically review use of the Large Bridge and Emerging Needs Fund and adjust the process as necessary.