

## **Bridge and Tunnel Enterprise #BTE\_20240904**

Committing BTE funds for the Federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 USDOT Bridge Investment Program (BIP) discretionary grant opportunity to plan the replacement of two bridges as part of the I-70 West Applewood to Lakewood Critical Bridge Replacement Planning Project.

**Approved by the Bridge and Tunnel Enterprise Board of Directors on September 19, 2024.**

**Whereas**, in 2009, the Colorado General Assembly created the Colorado Bridge Enterprise (BE) in C.R.S. § 43-4-805 as a government-owned business within CDOT for the business purpose of financing, repairing, reconstructing, and replacing designated bridges, defined in C.R.S. § 43-4-803(10) as those bridges identified by CDOT as structurally deficient or functionally obsolete and rated by CDOT as poor; and

**Whereas**, in 2021, the Colorado General Assembly passed Senate Bill 21-260, which was signed into law by the Governor on June 17, 2021, expanding the BE to include both designated bridge projects and surface transportation infrastructure projects for tunnels and renaming the expanded enterprise the Statewide Bridge and Tunnel Enterprise (BTE), C.R.S. § 43-4-805(2)(a)(I)(2021); and

**Whereas**, in 2023, the Colorado General Assembly passed House Bill 23-1276, which was signed into law by the Governor on May 15, 2023, approving the expansion of the scope of the BTE authority to include preventative maintenance for bridges rated as fair and good and to include the repair, reconstruction, replacement, and maintenance of bridges rated as fair if they are bundled with a project to address a designated bridge; and

**Whereas**, the BIL authorizes and appropriates up to \$9.62 billion and \$80 million in total to be awarded through the BIP by the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) in FYs 2023 through 2026 for Bridge Project and Planning Project grant applications, respectively; and

**Whereas**, a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for FY 2023 through 2026 BIP Bridge Project and Planning Project grants was issued by the USDOT on December 20, 2023 to solicit applications for (1) Bridge Project grants, which are defined as a project with total eligible costs not greater than \$100 million, and (2) Planning; and

**Whereas**, applications for FY 2025 Planning Project grants are due to the USDOT by 11:59 PM E.S.T on October 1, 2024; and

**Whereas**, the FY 2025 Planning grant funds will be awarded on a competitive basis for planning, feasibility analyses, and revenue forecasting associated with the development of a project that would be subsequently eligible to apply for assistance under the BIP; and

**Whereas**, the USDOT has designated six project outcome criteria which will be used to evaluate and rate the responsiveness of an application: (1) state of good repair, (2) safety and mobility, (3) economic competitiveness and opportunity, (4) climate change,

sustainability, resiliency, and the environment, (5) equity and quality of life, and (6) innovation; and

**Whereas**, Staff performed an evaluation of potential projects for the Department to submit under a BIP grant application for the planning category and recommend the Region 1: I-70 West Bridge Replacement Project based on the USDOT's evaluation criteria; and

**Whereas**, the Bridge and Tunnel Enterprise Board of Directors (BTE Board) is being asked to commit BTE funds to address two structurally deficient structures included in this project and increase the competitiveness of the Department's application.

**Now therefore be it resolved**, the BTE Board commits to providing \$355,000 of funding to plan the replacement of two BTE-eligible bridges as part of the I-70 West Applewood to Lakewood Critical Bridge Replacement Planning Project if the Department's application is awarded a grant by the USDOT.

**Now therefore be it further resolved**, in order to show the Department's financial commitment to the I-70 West Applewood to Lakewood Critical Bridge Replacement Planning Project, the BTE may commit funding in an amount not-to-exceed the limits stated herein for future federal discretionary grant opportunities.

  
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Herman Stockinger, Secretary  
Bridge and Tunnel Enterprise Board of Directors