RCTP SCORING CRITERIA CHANGE

PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE RURAL COUNTY TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM (RCTP) GRANT APPLICATION SCORING CRITERIA REMOVING POINTS FOR LOCAL MATCH.

JANUARY 7, 2024

BACKGROUND

- RCTP provides grants to cities in Clinton, Delaware, Dubuque, and Jackson counties with populations under 5,000 for non-federal-aid transportation projects.

- Through RCTP, the counties award local county fund to the cities.

- Counties then receive federal funds from the RPA to use on a federal-aid eligible transportation project.

- A city can receive up to $25,000 per fiscal year.

- A minimum of 20% local match is required.

- RPA (ECIA) staff administer the program on behalf of the counties and assist cities in preparing applications.

- Each county has a total of $70,000 available annually.

APPLICATION SCORING CRITERIA

- RCTP grant applications are evaluated based on a pre-determined scoring criteria.

- The scoring criteria are provided, along with other relevant information, in the program guidelines document at the start of the application process.

- The evaluation is conducted by a scoring committee consisting of representatives from organizations within the ECIA area that are ineligible to apply for RCTP grants.

- Applications can receive a maximum 100 points.

- Cities that have received funding in recent years will have up to 75 points deducted from their score.

SCORING CRITERIA REVIEW

- Following the FY 2025 RCTP cycle the RPA board asked staff to review the scoring criteria with input from cities.

- The primary concern was points awarded for local match percentages above the 20% minimum.

  - Higher local match percentage doesn't necessarily reflect project merit.

  - Local match percentage can change after funds are awarded.

- Staff recommend removing local match points from the scoring criteria.

PROPOSED SCORING CRITERIA CHANGE

Current

Category	Points
Traffic	20
Safety	20
Local Match	20
Community Support	20
Existing Conditions	20
Total	**100**

Proposed

Category	Points
Traffic	25
Safety	25
Community Support	25
Existing Conditions	25
Total	**100**

TRAFFIC (MAXIMUM 25 POINTS)

- Points assigned based on a traffic count to city population ratio. (Traffic Count) / (Population of the City) = Ratio.

- Iowa DOT traffic counts or estimates, or traffic counts produced by a third party using standard FHWA approved traffic count procedures.

- Total city population from the most recent decennial census.

Ratio	Score
Greater than or equal to 0.20 and less than 0.40	5
Greater than or equal to 0.40 and less than 0.60	10
Greater than or equal to 0.60 and less than 0.80	15
Greater than or equal to 0.80 and less than 1.00	20
Greater than or equal to 1.00	25

SAFETY (MAXIMUM 25 POINTS)

- Points assigned based on a safety benefit/cost ratio.
- Iowa DOT Benefit/Cost Safety Analysis Worksheet, Iowa DOT crash data, and crash reduction factors from the Crash Modification Factors Clearinghouse.
- If the Subcommittee determines that a project is a safe routes to school project, it may award up to 5 additional points in the safety category

Benefit Cost Ratio	Score
Greater than or equal to 0.4 and less than 0.60	5
Greater than or equal to 0.60 and less than 0.80	10
Greater than or equal to 0.80 and less than 1	15
Greater than 1.0	20
Safe Routes to School	5

COMMUNITY SUPPORT (MAXIMUM: 25 POINTS)

- The Project Ranking Subcommittee will award 0 to 25 points in the Community Support category based on the level in community support demonstrated in the application.

- Applicants can demonstrate community support by submitting:

  - Letters of support from citizens, businesses, schools, churches, or other organizations,

  - Signed petitions

  - Meeting minutes,

  - Newspaper articles

  - other relevant documentation

EXISTING CONDITIONS (MAXIMUM: 25 POINTS)

- The Project Ranking Subcommittee will award 0 to 25 points in the Existing Conditions category based on conditions of the existing infrastructure and project area.

- The committee will also consider how effective the proposed project will be in addressing the deficiencies in the existing infrastructure.

- Applicants can demonstrate existing conditions through

  - Photographs

  - An engineer's evaluation

  - Or other relevant documentation.

POINT DEDUCTION FOR PRIOR RCTP AWARDS

- No changes proposed to current point deduction table.

Year RCTP Funds Awarded	Score Deduction
Awarded one year ago	-75 points
Awarded two years ago	-50 points
Awarded three years ago	-25 points
Awarded four years ago	-10 points
Awarded five or more years ago	No deduction

TENTATIVE FY 2026 RCTP APPLICATION TIMELINE

- January 23 – Updated guidelines presented to RPA board for approval

- January 30 – Application window opens

- February – Virtual training session (Date and time TBD)

- March 20 – Application deadline

- Mid-May – Ranking committee meets to rank applications

- End of May – Ranking committee recommendations sent to county boards for approval

- Early June – Funding agreements sent to cities

THANK YOU

- Contacts:

Dan Fox	Jack Studier	Dylan Michels
dfox@ecia.org	jstudier@ecia.org	dmichels@ecia.org

- Program Webpage

  - https://eciatrans.org/grants_rfps/rctp.php