



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Local Transportation Bureau

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Kay Ivey
Governor

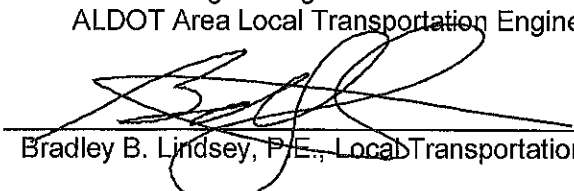
John R. Cooper
Transportation Director

June 18, 2025

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION BUREAU MEMORANDUM 2025-09

TO: Alabama Mayors
Alabama County Engineers
Metropolitan Planning Organizations
Regional Planning Organizations

COPY: Mr. Edward N. Austin, P.E., Chief Engineer
Mr. Clay McBrien, P.E., Assistant Chief Engineer, Policy & Planning
Mr. John-Michael Walker, P.E., Traffic & Safety Operations Engineer
ALDOT Region Engineers
ALDOT Area Local Transportation Engineers

FROM: 
Bradley B. Lindsey, P.E., Local Transportation Bureau Chief

RE: FY 2026 Local Roads Safety Initiative Call for Applications

The purpose of the memorandum is to announce the Call for Applications for the FY 2026 Local Road Safety Initiative (LRSI) Program. ALDOT will allocate federal funds in the amount of \$4.5 million for the LRSI program to be paired with a 10% local match for a total program amount of approximately \$5 million towards safety improvement projects for local agencies. The High Risk Rural Roads (HRRR) Special Rule has been triggered for FY 2026.

Section 148(g)(1) of title 23, United States Code (U.S.C.), establishes HRRR Special Rule, which requires States where the fatality rate on rural roads increased over the most recent two-year period to obligate a specified amount of funds toward HRRR safety projects in the next fiscal year. The HRRR Special Rule requires that Alabama must obligate \$4,124,978 towards projects for High Risk Rural Roads as defined by 23 USC 148(a)(1), "any roadway functionally classified as a major or minor collector or a rural local road with significant safety risks, as defined by a State in accordance with an updated State strategic highway safety plan."

A determination has been made that for FY 2026 the LRSI will be open to cities and counties for both rural and urban non-State maintained roadways with significant safety risks. Applications submitted through this initiative must be in accordance with the most recent Alabama Strategic Highway Safety Plan and applicable Local Road Safety Plan if one has been developed by the county that the location falls within. The HRRR Special Rule requirements will be satisfied through the LRSI program, and projects which meet the requirements of the HRRR Special Rule

will receive priority funding and approval. Once requirements of the HRRR Special Rule have been satisfied, Local Agency projects which do not meet the requirements of the HRRR Special Rules will be considered for funding.

The FY 2026 LRSI will be focused on the reduction of Fatal and Serious Injury Lane Departure and Run-Off-Road crashes by helping drivers stay in their lane, reducing the potential of crashes if drivers leave their lane, or minimizing the severity in the event that a crash does occur. The FY 2026 program will be adopting a systemic risk-based approach to project selection as opposed to a crash hotspot-based approach. However, while crash history is not required to be submitted with the application, it may be included to show that a particular location, in addition to exhibiting numerous roadway risk factors, is also over-represented in crashes. Special consideration will be given for those applications utilizing countermeasures designed to reduce roadway departure crashes, as listed in the FY 2026 LRSI Guidelines.

A 10% non-federal funding match from the sponsoring agency will be required for any application submitted under this program. Applications eligible under the LRSI will be limited to funding of construction only. Additionally, applicants should give consideration during project selection that plan submittals must be finalized and receive FHWA funding authorization prior to **June 1, 2026**.

Applicants are recommended to review the FHWA Office of Safety Proven Safety Countermeasures which are applicable to rural roadways. More information can be found on the Proven Safety Countermeasures at the following link:

<https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/provencountermeasures/>

Applicants are also encouraged to research "Every Day Counts- 5 Initiative: Focus on Reducing Rural Roadway Departures (FoRRRwD)". More information can be found on this program at the following link:

<https://highways.dot.gov/safety/rwd/forrrwd>

All applications **must be submitted electronically** no later than 5:00 pm on **July 25, 2025**.

Applications should be sent in through <https://aldot.submittable.com/submit>

Applicant will receive a confirmation email once an application is submitted. If you do not receive a confirmation, please contact LeeAnn Williams at 334-242-6020 to ensure receipt of the application.

Program Guidance, Frequently Asked Questions, and the FY 2026 LRSI Application may be found on the ALDOT website, on the Highway Safety Improvement Program page under the Local Road Safety Initiative (LRSI) tab (link below).

<https://www.dot.state.al.us/programs/HSIP.html>