

## High Priority Bridge Replacement Program (HPBRP)

The IMPROVE Act of 2017 included a list of 526 local bridges in need of repair. These bridges were identified by the Department based on bridge inspection reports, which are updated every two years. It is the intent of the Department to address all of these bridges within 14 years. In order to do so, this program was created to prioritize and rehabilitate or replace these local bridges.

### **Eligible Activities:**

The HPBRP, per TCA § 54-4-601, provides funding for priority bridges not located on the State system of highways, known as off-system bridges, for local governments meeting the eligibility requirements in TCA § 54-4-504(c).

"Bridge" means a structure on a public road, including supports, erected for carrying traffic over a depression or an obstruction, such as water or a highway or railway, and having an opening measured along the center of the roadway of more than twenty feet (20') between under-copings of abutments or spring lines of arches, or extreme ends of openings for multiple boxes; it may also include multiple pipes, where the clear distance between openings is less than half of the smaller contiguous opening.

Potentially eligible bridges are prioritized by the Department and must follow the flowchart which can be found in Appendix A.

### **Funding:**

This program can pay up to 100% of the total project cost. It can be used alone or in combination with other bridge programs, as detailed below, to rehabilitate or replace off-system bridges in Tennessee.

#### ***1990 State Bridge Grant Program***

In order to be eligible for the 100% state HPBRP funding, a county must use at least 33% worth of 1990 State Bridge Grant funds for a bridge on the IMPROVE Act list first. After 33% of a fourteen-year allocation has been committed to a bridge project, the HPBRP can be used to fund the remainder of the project and other bridge projects on the IMPROVE Act list.

### ***Federal Off-System Bridge Replacement Program (BRZ)***

For bridges eligible for BRZ and on the IMPROVE Act list, HPBRP can be used to cover the match for BRZ bridge projects in order to maximize both programs.

### **Application Process:**

The TDOT Local Programs Development Office will offer eligible bridge projects to local governments based on their priority and the program flowchart (Appendix A). The Department will manage the bridge project unless otherwise noted by the local government.

Any project undertaken pursuant to this program shall be maintained by the local government, as defined in TCA § 54-4-502, within whose jurisdiction the bridge lies.

**HIGH PRIORITY BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM FLOWCHART  
APPENDIX A**

