



Division of Planning & Engineering
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 16, 2026

TO: Mike Behm, Director
Division of Planning and Engineering

FROM: Joanne Hight, Program Manager
Office of Administration

SUBJECT: Transportation Commission Meeting – June 25, 2026
Item for Consideration

Consideration of 2026 Local Federal Bridge Preliminary Engineering Program

In 2023, the Department of Transportation (SDDOT) had programmed a bridge replacement for Douglas County located 0.5 N & 3.7 W of Armour on 280 Street over Andes Creek. In 2026, SDDOT was awarded a federal grant to assist in replacement of the bridge over the Missouri River on SD44 commonly known as the Platte-Winner Bridge. With this grant award, SDDOT also received funding for the replacement of the Douglas County bridge which had been programmed in the STIP in the amount of \$1.94 million.

Attached is a proposal for a Federal Preliminary Engineering (PE) Program to offer local governments the opportunity to competitively apply for grants to conduct surveys, hydraulics, design, and environmental assessments to develop plans that will be ready for letting. This program would repurpose the \$1.94 million that was previously intended for the Douglas County bridge to prepare local government projects for letting if additional future funding is secured.

cc: File

2026 LOCAL FEDERAL BRIDGE PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING PROGRAM FACT SHEET

- The South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) is proposing a \$1.94 million Local Federal Preliminary Engineering (survey, hydraulics, design, and NEPA).
- Criteria for the Local Federal Bridge Preliminary Engineering (PE) Program will be as noted below:
 - ✓ SDDOT will accept requests for bridge preliminary engineering projects by application – due August 1, 2026. Submit applications via email to DOT.LOCGOVASSISTOFFICE@state.sd.us.
 - ✓ Poor condition bridges on fully maintained roads in all counties, cities and towns will be eligible.
 - ✓ Applications will be separated and ranked based on federal aid eligible routes and non-federal aid eligible routes.
 - ✓ A modification of the Bridge Improvement Grant (BIG) Score will be used to rank (Local Planning element of BIG Score will not be included)
 - Bridge condition (50 points)
 - User impact (20 points)
 - Bridges over a named creek (5 points)
 - Bridges over a river (10 points)
 - Bridges over a railroad (10 points)
 - Bridges that have survey and hydraulics completed through SDDOT by application deadline (5 points)
 - ✓ SDDOT will administer Preliminary Engineering – survey, hydraulics, design, and NEPA to develop plans that will be ready for letting.
 - Local Public Agency (LPA) will select a consultant from SDDOT Consultant Retainer list for Bridge Design and SDDOT administer contracts for professional services for survey, hydraulics, design, and NEPA.
 - ✓ For bridges on non-federal aid eligible routes, Preliminary Engineering participating costs are eligible at 100% Federal aid.
 - ✓ For bridges on federal aid eligible routes, Preliminary Engineering participation costs are eligible at 81.95% Federal aid, LPA will be responsible 18.05%.
 - ✓ BIG Preliminary Engineering projects that are complete are eligible (for design and NEPA). BIG Preliminary Engineering projects that have been granted but are not completed by August 1, 2026, are not eligible. Projects awarded a PE grant in this program will not be eligible to receive Bid Review Ready points if pursuing a BIG replacement award.
 - ✓ SDDOT reserves the right to adjust schedules and timelines that best fit each individual project and deferrals or advancements may occur depending on available funding and project readiness.