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Surface Transportation Block Grant Awards

(Rock Island, March 1, 2024) — The Quad Cities Transportation Policy Committee awarded \$15,186,379 of Surface Transportation Block Grant funds in the Quad Cities. These projects will be implemented in the next five years. Bi-State Regional Commission is a regional planning agency with voluntary members of local governments and designated as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Quad Cities by the federal government. Bi-State Regional Commission delegates transportation programming authority to the Transportation Policy Committee to solicit applications and award funds in the Illinois-Iowa Quad Cities. One of these funds is Surface Transportation Block Grants (STBG). These funds are typically awarded to road projects that improve the conditions and performance of public roads. Governmental jurisdictions in the MPO can apply for STBG funds for roads classified as a collector or above. Projects can include reconstruction, resurfacing, and pavement rehabilitation, as examples.

The total amount of federal funds requested from the Illinois Quad Cities was \$15.3 million. The total amount of federal STBG funds available was \$4.7 million. The awarded projects include:

- Moline: \$1,217,689 for the resurfacing of 16th St. (Avenue of the Cities to 19th Avenue).
- Rock Island County: \$1,680,000 for the pavement rehabilitation of County Highway 78 (Rock Island-Milan Parkway) (E 1st Street/Airport Road to U.S. 67).
- Rock Island: \$2,141,556 for the reconstruction of 31st Avenue (11th to 17th Streets).

The total amount of federal funds requested from the Iowa Quad Cities was \$13.1 million. The total amount of federal STBG funds available was \$10.1 million. The awarded projects are as follows:

- Davenport: \$8,133,157 for the reconstruction of West 53rd Street (Brady Street to Welcome Way, Excluding the Welcome Way and Brady Street Intersections, Welcome Way to Candlelight Creek, and Northwest Boulevard to Pine Street).
- Bettendorf: \$2,013,467 for the reconstruction of Maplecrest Road (18th to 29th Streets).

STBG projects are evaluated for the categories of “Level of Service,” “Safety,” and “Physical Condition.” Each of these categories is scored equally. Projects may also receive additional consideration for demonstrating the expected ability to improve air quality, facilitate freight movement, aid connectivity, or improve travel for employment centers. After a point value is assigned to each item considered in the evaluation, the points for each project are totaled. The final advisory ranking is then determined by graphing the projects by their individual total number of points to identify natural breaks or clusters of projects. As these breaks occur, projects can be classified into three priority groups, “A,” “B,” and “C.” “A” candidate projects are characterized as the highest priority, while “C” projects are the lowest priority. Projects awarded in this round were the top ranking projects received.

For more information on the STBG evaluation process, visit: <https://bistateonline.org/transportation-and-mobility/quad-cities-metro-planning/tip-and-funding-projects-quad-cities-mpo> or contact Bi-State Regional Commission at (309) 793-6300.

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