Rebuild Alabama Act (RAA) Annual Grant Program

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the ALDOT Annual Grant Program? The ALDOT Annual Grant Program is an ALDOT administered transportation infrastructure grant program for projects of local interest created in the Rebuild Alabama Act of 2019.

What projects are eligible? Project applications may be submitted for improvements to any classified road or bridge open to public traffic. The applying sponsor must own and maintain all the roads and bridges included in the project improvements.

Who may apply? Any local governmental entity (county or municipality) within the State of Alabama.

How much funding can be requested? The maximum awarded amount of funding per project is subject to change for any fiscal year. Please refer to the current fiscal year's project guidelines.

Can the total cost of a project exceed the maximum awarded amount? Yes, however any overruns in total project costs, above the amount awarded, shall be the responsibility of the sponsor.

Is a sponsor funding match required? There is no funding match required by the sponsor. However, projects containing a commitment from sponsors to provide local funding will be given favorable consideration, as well as the ability to request additional RAA Funding per the program guidelines for the current fiscal Year.

Will a sponsor have to pay any funds "up-front"? No, the ALDOT Annual Grant is not a "**cost reimbursement program**" and invoicing ALDOT will not be required. Awarded funds will be issued to the sponsoring agency either (1) upon ALDOT's receipt of a Notice of Award from the sponsoring agency to the contractor, or (2) upon ALDOT's receipt of a Purchase Order from the sponsoring agency issued against an in-place annual bid.

How many applications can I submit? Local project sponsors may only submit one application per application cycle. Once a project is selected, a local project sponsor may not submit another application until the awarded project has been let to contract or a purchase order issued against an in-place bid.

How long is the funding available? Funds are available for 1 year from the notice of award. Funds awarded but not let to contract or had a purchase order issued against an in-place bid within 1 year are subject to rescission. If a project is in danger of exceeding the 1-year funding deadline, an extension request must be submitted by the sponsor and approved by ALDOT prior to the expiration of the funding deadline.

If an application is awarded funding, but work has already begun or was already completed, is the project still eligible to receive funds? No, any work started before the sponsor receives an award letter from ALDOT will disqualify the project from being eligible, and any funds awarded will be rescinded.

Who is responsible for preliminary engineering? The sponsor will be responsible for the cost of all required preliminary engineering activities in accordance with ALDOT requirements at no cost to the project. This shall include but is not limited to costs associated with preparing the application, project development, environmental clearances, plan development, and contract letting. Furthermore, the sponsor is responsible for any environmental assessments, clearances, and permitting which may be required. Projects including preliminary engineering will be held to the funding deadlines established in the Annual Grant Program Guidelines.

Must a project be on a certain Functional Classification of roadway? No. Project applications may be submitted for any classification of road or bridge open to public traffic.

Will projects requiring right-of-way or easements be considered for award? Yes. Any application for project improvements that will require the acquisition of right-of-way or easements must be disclosed in the application. Non-adverse conditions (donation, value findings, etc.) should be documented with the application in the form of letters of support from the affected property owners. Applications that require significant and/or adverse right-of-way acquisition should be delayed until the subject right-of-way has been obtained.

Projects requiring right-of-way or easement acquisition will be held to the funding deadlines established in the ALDOT Annual Grant Program Guidelines.

Failure to disclose required right-of-way in the project application may be grounds for rescission and reallocation of awarded project funds.

Who is responsible for right-of way or easement acquisition? The sponsor will be responsible for the cost of all right-of-way and easement acquisition in accordance with program requirements at no cost to the project. The nature of any required right-of-way or easements should be disclosed in the application.

Will projects requiring permitted work on property owned by another entity be considered for award? Project improvement activities should only occur on property owned or on easements obtained by the sponsor. Applications involving work on property owned by another entity will generally not be considered unless the affected property owner is ALDOT. Any proposed work on ALDOT right-of way shall have the written support of the local ALDOT Region Engineer submitted with the application.

Failure to disclose necessary permitted work in the project application may be grounds for rescission and reallocation of awarded project funds.

Who is responsible for obtaining necessary permits? The sponsor will be responsible for acquiring necessary permits at no cost to the project.

Will projects requiring utility relocations be considered for award? Yes, however, any utility relocation costs will be the responsibility of the applicant and will not be an eligible cost to the project. Projects including utility relocations will be held to the funding deadlines established in the Annual Grant Program Guidelines.

Any utility relocations shall be identified in the project application. Failure to disclose required utility work / relocations in the project application may be grounds for rescission and reallocation of awarded project funds.

Who will let the project to contract? The sponsoring governmental agency will be responsible for letting projects locally via competitive bid. In-place bids may also be utilized as long as the bids were awarded following all state and federal competitive bid laws. Only items (materials and/or labor) that are included in the In-place bid are considered eligible costs to the project. No other method of construction, such as force account will be allowed.

Can a sponsor use an in-place annual bid to purchase materials and use their own forces to place the material? Yes, but only the cost of the materials that were purchased through the in-place annual bid would be eligible for reimbursement. The cost of the sponsor's forces (labor and equipment) would not be eligible for reimbursement under this program.

Who is responsible for construction engineering and inspection? The sponsor will be responsible for the construction engineering and inspection (CE&I), as well as the testing and inspection of materials as required by ALDOT specifications.

How does the ALDOT Annual Grant Program affect other Federal/State Funded Programs? Projects identified to receive other sources of Federal and/or State funds may be supplemented with annual grant funds (where allowed by ALDOT). If Annual Grant Program funds are combined with federal funds, the more restrictive federal requirements shall apply to the Annual Grant Program funds as well.

Due to the funding restrictions placed on Annual Grant projects, what potential issues should be taken into consideration when developing applications.

- Right-of-way acquisition or easement/permitting
- Utility / service relocations
- Cultural resources
- Environmental impacts
- Fiscal capability and the sponsoring agency's ability to provide funds to cover overruns and/or total project costs in excess of the award.

How do I apply? Local project sponsors may apply for annual grant funding by submitting a complete and accurate project application. Detailed Annual Grant Program Guidelines and an Annual Grant Application can be found on the Annual Grant webpage:

https://www.dot.state.al.us/programs/RAAGrantProgram.html

Who will select projects for funding? Applications will be accepted, reviewed, and awarded by ALDOT through a competitive selection process.

When will applicants know they have a project selected for funding? All local project sponsors shall be notified in writing consistent with the deadlines established for each round of allocation.