MnDOT - District 3
7694 Industrial Park Road
Baxter, MN 56425

October 29, 2026

To: District 3 Counties and Cities with State Highways Within Their Jurisdiction

RE: MnDOT Fiscal Year 2026 Local Partnership Program Solicitation

The purpose of the Local Partnership Program (LPP) is to address transportation issues on the trunk highway system that are of concern to Local Units of Government but are typically not large-scale or high enough priority that they are directly selected as projects in the regular MnDOT Transportation Program. Select projects must:

- Provide a clear benefit to the trunk highway system as well as to the local community
- Be developed and administered by the local agency
- Have preliminary design, final design, right-of-way and utility relocation costs (as appropriate) paid for by the local agency
- Be designed to MnDOT Trunk Highway Standards for work on the trunk highway

This program exists to provide funding for projects that deliver benefit to both the local community and the trunk highway system. These funds are intended to pay for a portion of the trunk highway eligible construction costs of the project. The right-of-way, utility relocation, mitigation, preliminary design and final costs are not eligible for funding. This program can pay for the eligible trunk highway costs and up to 8% of the construction engineering costs (for inspection, contract administration, surveying and materials testing as applicable, based on the trunk highway eligible costs). MnDOT District 3 participation on the project is based on funds available and eligibility as determined in MnDOT's Cost Participation Policy, which in turn is based upon Minnesota Statutes.

The Cost Participation Manual can be found here: https://www.dot.state.mn.us/policy/financial/fm011.html

Application and Selection

MnDOT District 3 (D3) will be accepting candidate projects for the Fiscal Year (FY - July 1 to June 30) 2031 Local Partnership Program, due by January 29, 2027. The proposed budget is:

- Estimated $2,100,000 for FY 2031 (final amount TBD)

These funds may be flexible and may be combined or shifted into other fiscal years as necessary. There is no minimum or maximum award amount. Eligible project costs can include up to 8% for construction engineering. To apply for funding, submit a letter of intent/need for the project, a sketch/layout of the project and an estimate with state/local costs broken out. Submit to LPP Project Manager, Luke Wehseler. Email: luke.wehseler@state.mn.us. A response will be sent back to assure we have received the application.

Schedule

- Application Deadline – January 29, 2027
- Project follow up/scoring – Spring 2027
- District 3 approval and award amount of selected projects – Spring/Summer 2027
- Kick off meeting for project pre-scoping – Date to be determined

The D3 Selection Committee (composed of District 3 staff, one County Engineer, and one City Engineer) will score and select the projects. Scoring is based on the selection criteria attached to this letter. Applicants are encouraged to include this criterion in their letter of intent.

Please submit all applications no later than **Friday, January 29, 2027**. For questions regarding the Local Partnership Program, find more at the website http://www.dot.state.mn.us/stateaid/lpp.html or contact me at: 218-821-0618.

I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Luke L. Wehseler
MnDOT District LPP Project Manager
7694 Industrial Park Road
Baxter, MN 56425
Ph: 218-821-0618
Email: luke.wehseler@state.mn.us

cc: Mike Ginnaty
Angie Tomovic
Steve Voss
Mark Vizecky
Scott Smith