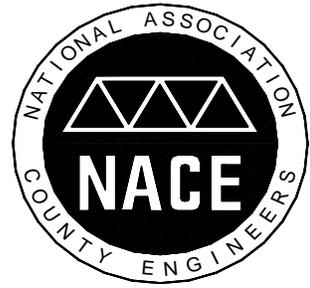


# IOWA COUNTY ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION



Visit the ICEA Service Bureau at [www.iceasb.org](http://www.iceasb.org)

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Affiliated with:



Subject: BUILD Grant Candidates

Dear County:

The Iowa County Engineers Association (ICEA) has been searching for ways to assist counties in funding those awkwardly large structures that seem to elude enough funding sources to allow for replacement or reconstruction. The BUILD Grant just may be that vehicle. ICEA is currently looking at putting a BUILD Grant application together similar to what we did in 2018 for the Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP).

The exact grant program for FFY'21 has not yet been announced, so we do not know if it will still be called BUILD or if it will retain the same funding amounts as prior years. Last year, the program offered a maximum of \$25 Million in funding. We are hoping and are anticipating that any FFY'21 programs will be similar in content and funding.

We are targeting structures that are a struggle to finance, especially when viewed through the lens of examining the overall cost as compared to a given county's annual HBP allocation. We feel that this will "even the playing field" for all counties.

At this point I am asking that each county submit one structure for review. The criteria has yet to be determined, but may be similar to that which was used in 2018 for the CHBP grant. Potential criteria may include bridge length (possible 150ft or greater threshold), ease of NEPA compliance, cost, programming, project complexity, and overall project readiness.

Another thing to consider is that these will be Federal-aid Projects that may be funded at a 75% Grant / 25% SWAP/FM/Local ratio or some other ratio less than an 80/20 split.

There is a short turn-around for projects to be under contract. Two years from grant award, **all projects** covered under our application are to be under contract. Therefore, project readiness will be important. NEPA pre-screening will be important so the project will need to meet Programmatic Categorical Exclusion unless a NEPA clearance has already been obtained

Another note, as in 2018, we will again be hiring a consultant to professionally develop the grant application. This fee may be around \$100,000. Those counties selected to participate in the grant will divide that cost among them, regardless of the outcome of an awarded grant or not.

There is a substantial amount of work involved in the grant application and a short time frame for submission. It is imperative that we have our information assembled and ready to go when the Notice of Funding Opportunity is published so that it can be assembled into whatever format is necessary for the application. Therefore, I am requesting that each county submit one bridge by September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 or submit notification of your desire to forego participation in this endeavor. Submission must be submitted electronically to Danny Waid at the ICEA Service Bureau. Please do not send applications by mail.

Respectfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Todde W. Folkerts". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

Todde W. Folkerts  
President, ICEA

# BUILD Discretionary Grants

The May 18th, 2020 5pm E.D.T. application deadline is set by Congress in the FY 2020 Appropriations Act.

Please identify any area(s) in the application narrative that may be affected by the ongoing COVID-19 situation for the Department's consideration in the project's evaluation.

## U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine L. Chao Announces Availability of \$1 Billion to Upgrade American Infrastructure

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) today published a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to apply for \$1 billion in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 discretionary grant funding through the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

“BUILD grants will upgrade infrastructure across America, making our transportation systems safer and more efficient,” said U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao.

As the Trump Administration looks to enhance America's infrastructure, FY 2020 BUILD Transportation grants are for planning and capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure and are to be awarded on a competitive basis for projects that will have a significant local or regional impact. BUILD funding can support roads, bridges, transit, rail, ports or intermodal transportation.

Projects for BUILD will be evaluated based on merit criteria that include safety, economic competitiveness, quality of life, environmental sustainability, state of good repair, innovation, and partnership.

To better address the needs of rural America, which has historically been neglected, DOT intends to award 50% of BUILD Transportation grant funding to projects located in rural areas that deliver positive benefits for these communities, consistent with the Department's R.O.U.T.E.S. initiative. For this round of BUILD Transportation grants, the maximum grant award is \$25 million, and no more than \$100 million can be awarded to a single State, as specified in the appropriations act.

To provide technical assistance to prospective applicants, DOT is hosting a series of webinars during the FY 2020 BUILD grant application process. A webinar on how to compete for BUILD Transportation Grants for all applicants will be held on February 25, 2020. To register for the webinars visit [www.transportation.gov/BUILDgrants/outreach](http://www.transportation.gov/BUILDgrants/outreach). The deadline to submit an application is May 18, 2020 at 5pm Eastern

