

## Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Award Recipient FAQ

- **Can I utilize Advance Construction (AC) process on HSIP projects?**

Yes, AC funding allows local agencies to deliver projects and incur costs before the award's Fiscal Year. Later, they can seek Federal reimbursement for the full or partial amount. MnDOT utilizes AC financing for federal aid-eligible highway programs. If your project received federal HSIP funds, it qualifies for AC financing. For details, visit the [MnDOT AC Page](#).

- **The cost estimate came in much higher than estimated without scope change. Can I use future year HSIP funds to help fund this increase?**

No, every project is awarded funds specific to a fiscal year (FY) for example 2023. As such the project will be entered in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) document as federal FY 2023 project. Since, the STIP is *financially constrained by year*, the future year funds cannot be used for part of the current year project.

In the above FY 2023 example, it is recommended that the county:

1. Work with State Aid Federal Aid unit to see if additional funding may be available in FY 2023. Restrictions include availability of funds in the FY and the amount allowed according to federal rules. This funding change may lead to [STIP amendment or modification](#), which takes time.
2. Down-scope the project and apply for future year funding for the portion of the project that was postponed, in the upcoming solicitation cycle. Consult with State Aid **Traffic Safety unit** before you down-scope the project **to verify the Benefit-Cost impact**. Depending on the amount being requested, a STIP amendment or modification may be required, which takes time.

- **My district hasn't used up all the target funds in future year, I have a great new safety project that would go together with an HSIP project that has already been awarded future year funds. Can we simply use the remaining district target funds on my new project?**

No, HSIP awards are determined through a competitive solicitation process. Future year projects undergo formal review by the MnDOT Office of Traffic Engineering and the HSIP selection committee. Awards are granted to the highest-scoring projects. Expanding scope beyond the original application to absorb additional federal funds is not permitted.

- **What happens with the unused district HSIP target funds?**

Unused STIP funds from future years are reserved for future solicitations until they are utilized. Current year funds can be allocated to local safety projects within the same district on a first-come, first-served basis. If all district projects are funded and surplus funds remain, other districts may access them similarly. For funding availability inquiries, contact the State Aid Federal Aid Unit

- **My original award had higher local match, can I reduce my local match in my request for additional funds?**

No, you cannot reduce the local match amount. Once the new estimate has been received, the increased amount should be calculated based on the original award. The amount may be limited based on available funds not to exceed the original federal/local split.

In most cases, HSIP awards are at 90/10 split where the locals are required to provide a 10% match. However, the locals may choose to contribute more than 10% to help the project score higher. In this situation, the locals have

taken full advantage of the extra points for the project to score higher and be awarded funds. Lowering the match amount after the fact would create an unfair competitive advantage.

- **We were awarded HSIP funds on a new application, and we would like to combine it with another HSIP project we were previously awarded in the same Fiscal Year and have them built under one contract. Can we do this?**

Yes this is possible but it takes early coordination with State Aid Federal Aid as a [STIP amendment or modification](#) is required to formally combine them. Depending on the scope of the projects the Cultural Resources and/or Environmental clearance documents may need to be redone. Please do not wait until you are preparing your plans to make this request.

- **I installed a countermeasure recently, when can I replace this using HSIP funds?**

HSIP funds can be used to replace countermeasures that have reached the end of their service life. However, this is not a routine maintenance program and requires engineering judgment, prioritization, and justification. Installation, replacement, and other improvement of highway signage and pavement markings, or a project to maintain minimum levels of retroreflectivity, that addresses a highway safety problem consistent with a State strategic highway safety plan may be allowed on project basis. Please refer to the *Recommended Service Life Criteria on the next page* for more details.

The Recommended Service Life covers various roadway features that roadway owners may encounter, but **not all items listed below are eligible for HSIP funding.**

### **Recommended Service Life Criteria**

<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Service Life (years)</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Service Life (years)</u></b>
<b><u>Intersection &amp; Traffic Control</u></b>		<b><u>Roadway &amp; Roadside</u></b>	
Construct Turning Lanes	20	Widen Traveled Way (no lanes added)	20
Provide Traffic Channelization	20	Add Lane(s) to Traveled Way	20
Improve Sight Distance	20	Construct Median for Traffic Separation	20
Install Traffic Signs	10	Wide or Improve Shoulder	20
Install Pavement Marking	2-7*	Realign Roadway (except at railroads)	20
Install Delineators	10	Overlay for Skid Treatment	10
Install Illumination	20	Groove Pavement for Skid Treatment	10
Upgrade Traffic Signals	20	Install Breakaway Sign Supports	10
Install New Traffic Signals	20	Install Breakaway Utility Poles	10
Retime Coordinated System	5	Relocate Utility Poles	20
Construct Roundabout	20	Install Guardrail End Treatment	10
		Upgrade Guardrail	10
		Upgrade or Install Concrete Median Barrier	20
		Upgrade or Install Cable Median Barrier	10
		Install Impact Attenuators	10
		Flatten or Re-grade Side Slopes	20
		Install Bridge Approach Guardrail Transition	10
		Remove Obstacles	20
		Install Edge Treatments	7
		Install Centerline Rumble Strips	7
<b><u>Pedestrian &amp; Bicycle Safety</u></b>			
Construct sidewalk	20		
Construct Pedestrian & Bicycle			
Overpass/Underpass	30		
Install Fencing & Pedestrian Barrier	10		
Construct Bikeway	20		
<b><u>Structures</u></b>			
Widen or Modify Bridge for Safety	20		
Replace Bridge for Safety	30		
Construct New Bridge for Safety	30		
Replace/Improve Minor Structure for Safety	20		
Upgrade Bridge Rail	20		

\* - Depends on the type of pavement marking