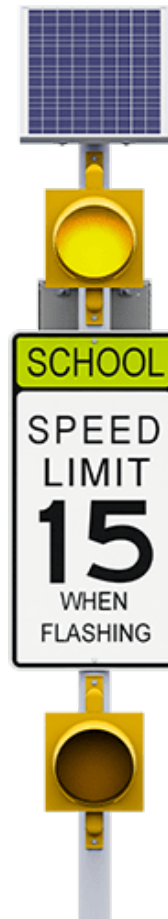


# 2026 OTO Flashing School Zone Beacon Program Funding Guidebook

[Link to Online Application](#)





**OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION**  
A METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

**Quick Facts**

**Available Funding**

The estimated amount of funding available for this Call for Projects is \$250,000. The amount awarded through this call for projects will be dependent upon the number of applications received.

Approximate Federal Funds	<b>\$250,000</b>
---------------------------	------------------

OTO may limit the awarded amount per applicant in order for different jurisdictions within the OTO area to benefit from the funds. Funding will be awarded geographically in different rounds, meaning that in the first round only the highest priority location of each application will be considered and if there is still funding available, the second round will consider the second highest priority location and so forth.

**Eligibility Requirements**

Projects: Projects are limited to equipment purchases for flashing school zone beacon sign packages with poles. Each project location should have a minimum of two (2) sign packages. Applicants will be responsible for the installation, including permits and maintenance of the equipment.

Eligible Entities:

Eligible entities are defined as –

- i. a local government;
- ii. a regional transportation authority;
- iii. a transit agency;
- iv. a school district, local education agency, or school;
- v. a tribal government;
- vi. a metropolitan planning organization that serves an urbanized area with a population of 200,000 or fewer;
- vii. a State, at the request of an entity described in in 23 USC 133 clauses (i) through (ix).

**Timeline**

The table below represents a possible timeline for a project completion. Projects may proceed more quickly.

Applications Due	March 1, 2026
Award Notification	March 2026
Bid award for equipment	April 2026
Project Close	Acceptance of delivery

**Project Selection**

Each project will be evaluated based on three different scoring criteria. Points will be awarded based on the information provided in each part of the application and will be evaluated by a selection subcommittee.



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OTO may limit the awarded amount per applicant in order for different jurisdictions within the OTO area to benefit from the funds. Funding will be awarded geographically in different rounds, meaning that in the first round only the highest priority location of each application will be considered and if there is still funding available, the second round will consider the second highest priority location and so forth.

OTO understands the relatively short turnaround and will accept applications with pending council resolutions.

### **Additional Information Available Through:**

David Knaut  
Ozarks Transportation Organization  
2208 W Chesterfield Blvd., Suite 101  
Springfield, MO 65807  
(417) 865-3042 x 107  
[dknaut@ozarkstransportation.org](mailto:dknaut@ozarkstransportation.org)

### **Virtual Office Hour for Q&A**

OTO will offer a virtual office hour on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026 at 10am to answer questions regarding the call for projects or assist with the application process. Please use the below link to access the virtual office hour or contact David Knaut ([dknaut@ozarkstransportation.org](mailto:dknaut@ozarkstransportation.org)) to receive a calendar invitation:

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/23066869034485?p=ppJmlcpA9MYEqUMS50>

Meeting ID: 230 668 690 344 85

Passcode: 5Pb3B3R5

### **[Link to Online Application](#)**

NOTE: This application handbook is for use in applying for funds allocated to the Ozarks Transportation Organization for projects located within the OTO area (see page 3).

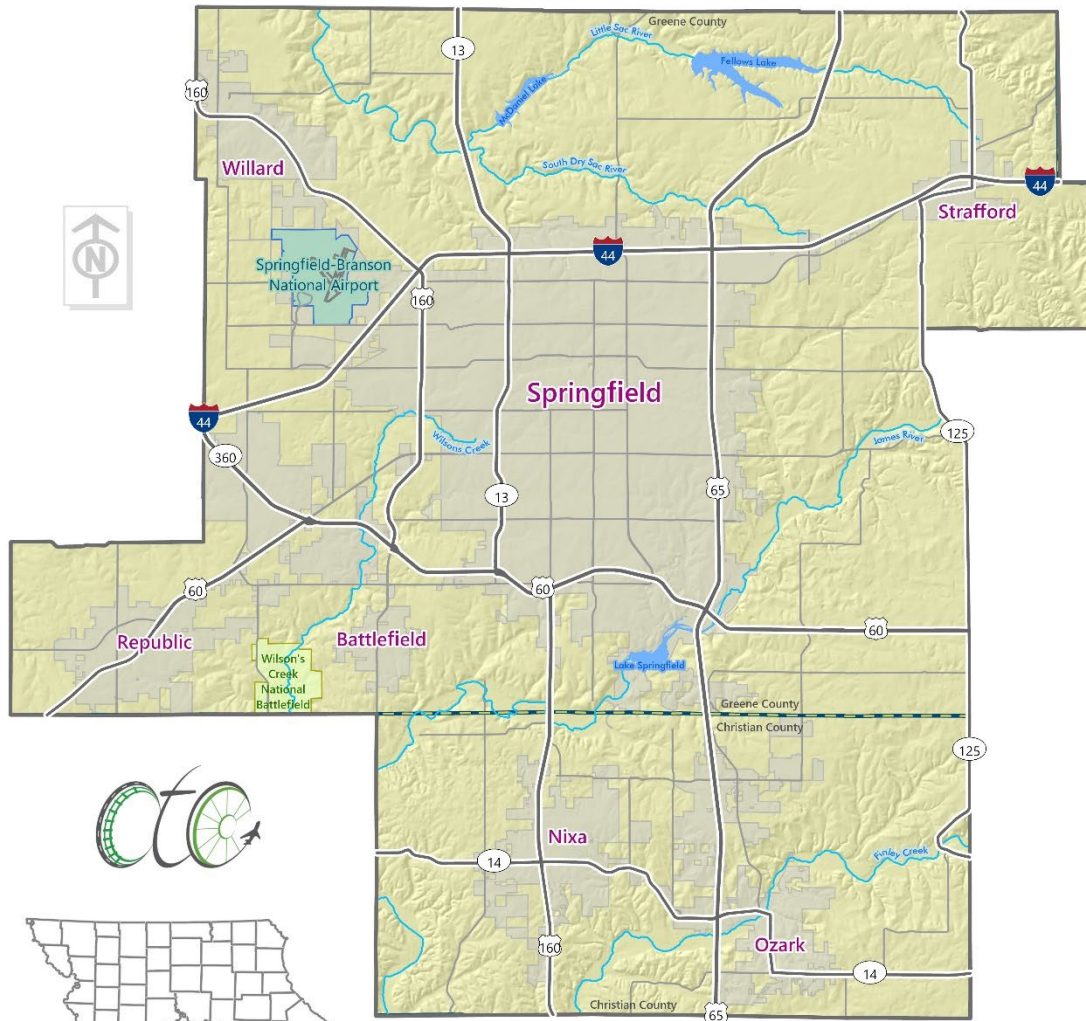
*Application Deadline: 4 pm (CST), March 1, 2026*



**OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION**  
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**Ozarks Transportation Organization MPO Study Area**

Approved by the Governor of Missouri 2/8/2002



- Major Roadways
- Arterial Roadways
- Rivers
- County Line
- Cities
- Lakes



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**Available Funding**

OTO is making available federal funds for the purchase of Flashing School Zone Beacon signs.

The estimated amount of funding available for this call for projects is \$250,000. The amount awarded through this call for projects will be dependent upon the number of applications received.

Approximate Federal Funds	<b>\$250,000</b>
---------------------------	------------------

OTO may limit the awarded amount per applicant in order for different jurisdictions within the OTO area to benefit from the funds. Funding will be awarded geographically in different rounds, meaning that in the first round only the highest priority location of each application will be considered and if there is still funding available, the second round will consider the second highest priority location and so forth.

**Regulations Associated with Available Funds**

All aspects of projects paid for with federal funds are governed by the Local Public Agency Manual published by MoDOT. These may be found at <https://www.modot.org/local-public-agency>.



# OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION

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## Eligibility Requirements

### Eligible Projects

The call for projects will be limited to equipment purchases of school zone flashing beacon sign packages. The planned equipment package will consist of a basic, clock controlled, and solar powered system with sign and pole for an estimated amount of \$7,500 per sign package. Each project location should have a minimum of two (2) sign packages, meaning costs should be estimated at \$15,000 per location. Applicants will be responsible for the installation, including permits and maintenance of the equipment.

### Project Award Size Restrictions

There are no preliminary award size restrictions, however members are encouraged to be responsible with federal funds. The scoring committee will have the discretion to consider award size in recommending funding.

### Eligible Entities

Eligible entities are as

- i. a local government;
- ii. a regional transportation authority;
- iii. a transit agency;
- iv. a school district, local education agency, or school;
- v. a tribal government;
- vi. a metropolitan planning organization that serves an urbanized area with a population of 200,000 or fewer;
- vii. a State, at the request of an entity described in in 23 USC 133 clauses (i) through (ix).

Eligible Entities must adopt a resolution supporting the proposed project and its implementation should the project be funded.

### Match Requirements

Eligible Entities must provide a minimum local match of 20% of total project costs for a project to be eligible for funding. In most cases, this match must be a cash match. In-kind contributions in the form of construction labor by local forces are not eligible. If an applicant chooses to provide a local match in excess of 20%, the OTO reserves the right to substitute federal funds for the pledged local match in excess of 20% if sufficient federal funds are available. Applicants which plan to install signs at one location, for example one sign on the north end of road in the school zone and one on the south end of the road, will need to apply for two signage packages at an estimated cost of \$15,000 and need to apply for \$12,000 in federal funds and provide \$3,000 in local match. Applicants which plan to install signs on two different roads around a school, need to apply for four sign packages with a total costs of \$30,000 and apply for \$24,000 in federal funding and provide \$6,000 in local match.

Please note that federal transportation funding is a reimbursement program, so the applicant must have funding available for the nonfederal match and the federal share.



# OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION

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## Timelines

### Application Process

February 9, 2026	Notice of Funding and Guidebook Posted
February 23, 2026	Virtual office hour for Q&A (see page 2 for details)
March 1, 2026	Application Deadline
March 5, 2026	Technical Subcommittee to select projects
March 26, 2026	Board of Directors meeting to review TIP amendments for selected projects

### Project Selection

All project applications which are received by the application deadline will be considered for funding. A technical subcommittee of the Ozarks Transportation Organization will review and select projects in accordance with the evaluation criteria and funding guidelines. The OTO Board of Directors will review the final project selection.

### Evaluation Criteria

Each project will be evaluated based on three different scoring criteria. Points will be awarded based on the information provided in each part of the application.

- **Location (Up to 20 points)**  
Project locations that are on roads which are part of OTO’s regional High Injury network will receive 10 points and 5 points if the road is part of a local high injury network as established in OTO’s Destination Safe Streets Plan.  
Up to additional 10 points are available based on the speed limit outside the school zone. Scoring will be based on range of speed limits outside of school zones of all applicants.
- **Number of students (Up to 10 points)**  
Points will be awarded based on the number of students that will be affected by the project. If applicant has multiple locations, they need to provide the number of students at each location. Scoring will then be based on range of student numbers of all applicants.
- **Project Need (Up to 10 points)**  
A project can earn up to 10 points based on the described project need. Applicants can provide description of why the project is needed at that specific location, for example, high amount of students crossing the road, reported speeding issues or crashes.

### Important Notes on Project Selection

If projects receive the same rating, the project will be awarded to the application that has the highest number of students affected.

OTO may limit the awarded amount per applicant in order for different jurisdictions within the OTO area to benefit from the funds. Funding will be awarded geographically in different rounds, meaning that in the first round only the highest priority location of each application will be considered and if there is still funding available, the second round will consider the second highest priority location and so forth.

Projects will not necessarily be funded in the order of their associated scores. Due to the availability of funds and the Ozarks Transportation Organization’s desire to spend all the allocated funds, projects may be selected which will best obligate the funds available.

Projects which do not meet the intent this call for projects may not be funded.



# OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION

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## FAQs

- How will I receive the grant money I am awarded?  
This program reimburses the eligible entities for costs incurred. It does not provide money up front.
- What if equipment prices come in higher than \$6,000 per sign package?  
These federal funds require a 20% local match for all expenditures. OTO has estimated each sign package to be \$7,500, which would utilize \$6,000 of federal funds and \$1,500 of local match to be provided by the project recipients.  
  
If the bid unit price per sign package exceeds \$7,500, the project recipient will be responsible for all costs above the \$6,000 federal share. If additional funding is available, OTO **may** consider covering a portion of the overage.  
  
If the bid unit price per package comes in under \$7,500 each, the federal and local funds will be reduced proportionally.
- Will my project have to go out for bid?  
The Ozarks Transportation Organization will coordinate a cooperative purchase with details on the procurement following the award.
- Are there specific rules I have to follow if I am awarded funding for my project?  
All projects are governed by the Local Public Agency Manual. These may be found at:  
<https://www.modot.org/local-public-agency>  
  
In addition, project recipients are responsible for any permits required by the road maintaining agency (generally the City, County or MoDOT).
- What happens after I find out my project is approved for funding?  
Once approved by the Ozarks Transportation Organization, OTO will work on coordinating a cooperative purchase of the equipment.
- When can I start construction on my project?  
After OTO places the order, the selected vendor will provide an estimated ship date. At this time, OTO can't predict when the equipment will be shipped, as these types of products can have a long lead time. Project recipients will be kept informed during the process, so they can plan the installation.
- Will I have to maintain my project after it is built?  
All projects are required to have a project maintenance plan for a minimum of 25 years.





# OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION

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## Application Instructions

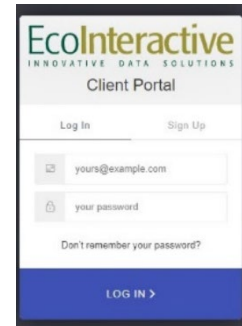
In completing the responses to each Section, please refer to how the project addresses the relevant Evaluation Criteria listed on the Funding Score Sheet found on page 15 of the Guidebook.

The application is to be [submitted online](#). Please review all required information before completing the application. The following items will need to be uploaded as part of the application process and these are identified throughout these instructions as well as each relevant point in the application itself. Uploads may not exceed 250 MB per file. More information on how to upload files is included later in the guidebook. These items will also be **highlighted** throughout these application instructions.

- Resolution of Support – The primary entity and all co-entities each need to provide a resolution of support from their governing body, including financial contribution if applicable.
- Project Need Backup information – Provide backup information that supports your description of the project need like reported speeding concerns.

### Getting Started

Applications will be submitted through [OTO's TIP tool which can be accessed through the OTO website](https://portal.oto.ecointeractive.com/) - <https://portal.oto.ecointeractive.com/>. You will need to login to the Client Portal to submit an application. If you don't already have a login, click sign-up to request access. You can also reset your password from this page.



### Signing up

The system will ask you to set up email and login credentials.

### Organization

You will then be requested to select the organization you represent. If you do not see your organization listed, please email Natasha Longpine at [nlongpine@ozarkstransportation.org](mailto:nlongpine@ozarkstransportation.org).

### Requested Plans

You will need to select an organization to see the options for Requested Plans. You will have the choices of TIP and CFP. To submit an application, you must select **CFP**. You may also request TIP access if you will need system access at the time of the annual Transportation Improvement Program update, but **CFP** should be selected at a minimum.

### Requested Access Level

If you will be submitting or collaborating on an application, select Sponsor as an access level. Sponsors will be able to see all applications associated with a single Organization, as selected earlier during registration.

**ProjectTracker**

Sign up by filling in your personal details.

**Email \***  
Enter your email address

Please provide a valid email

**First Name \*** Enter first name      **Last Name \*** Enter last name

**Password \***  
Enter password

Please create a valid password - Use 8 to 30 characters with a mix of letters, numbers & symbols

**Confirm Password \***  
Confirm password

**Phone Number \***  
Enter phone number

**Organization \***  
Select Organization

**Requested Plans \***  
Select plans

**Requested Access Level \***  
Select access level

**Requested Project Access \***  
Select project access



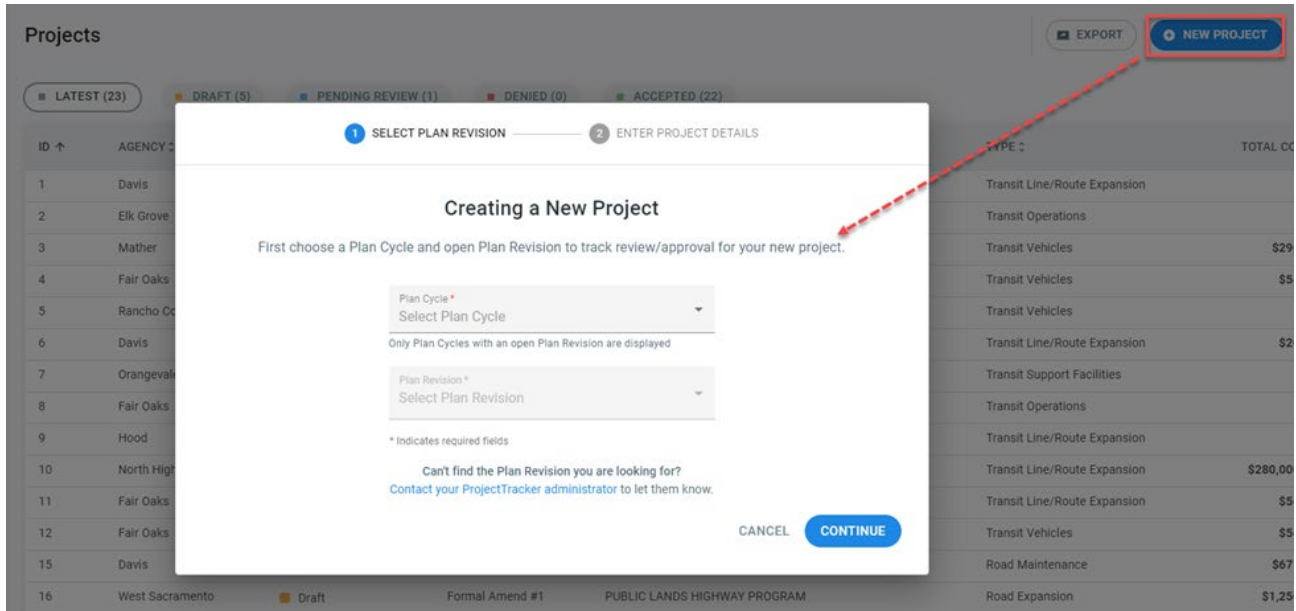
# OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION

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## Requested Project Access

Select My Organization's Projects. Be sure to complete the Captcha and click Create Account. OTO staff will be notified of the request for account access and will review/approve the new account. You will then receive an email to confirm your information and then you should be able to login.

Once you have successfully logged in, you will see your organization’s dashboard. From there, you can submit an application by clicking the new project button in the top right corner. For Plan Cycle, please select “CFP/CFP 2026 - School” and for Plan Revision please select “March 2026 School Beacons.”



In the next step, please provide a unique title/name for the project, select project type “Bicycle and Pedestrian,” applicant’s agency, and provide a brief description of the project. Please note that the project title and description can be edited before submittal, but it is important that applicant select the correct agency because projects are only visible to the submitting agency.

Once an applicant has created a project, they will be brought to a webpage where additional information can be provided. This information is organized by tabs across the top, described in more detail below.



## Programming

The first tab is the Programming tab. In the Programming tab, the title and the description of the project can be edited under “Project Information” and applicant should select the County of the Project.



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PROGRAMMING OBLIGATION MAP IDS / CONTACTS ATTACHMENTS REVISION HISTORY PROJECT QUESTIONS 1

**Project Information**

Project Title \*  
Project Title

Project Description \*  
Project Description

Project Type \*  
Bicycle and Pedestrian

Lead Agency \*  
Ozarks Transportation Organization

Municipality  
Select Municipality

Transit Project Subcategory  
All Other Project Types Subcategory (Non-Transit)  
Select All Other Project Types Subcategory (Non-Tr...

Funding Notes

**Location Information**

In the location information section, applicants should enter the Route/Road Name, and the start and ending point of each school zone that is included in the project. When entering the location information, please choose the appropriate system type (first field on the left) and “N/A” as location type (see screenshot below). The start and endpoint are text fields and applicants can enter road names or descriptions.

If there is more than one location, please click “add new location”, and enter the details for all additional locations.

PROGRAMMING OBLIGATION MAP IDS / CONTACTS ATTACHMENTS REVISION HISTORY PROJECT QUESTIONS 1

**Location Information**

System \* Location Type \* Route/Road Name Bridge Number From To Length 0

ADD NEW LOCATION

Applicants will also enter the funding amounts under Programming Information. In the upper right corner of the Programming Information section, select which project element/phase is being applied for and then select the fiscal year (FY) “2026” under “CFP Years – CFP 2026 – School” and the funding type (Federal, state, or local) and enter the amounts.

Applicants should select CAP (Capital) because the project will only be for purchasing equipment. Estimated cost per flashing school zone beacon is \$7,500 per package. Each project should include at least two packages per roadway/ location, with a total estimated cost of \$15,000.

Programming Information Min Match 0% Effective Match 0% Show Match Calculator

Choose columns (7)  
ENG, ROW, CON, PLN, O...

FY *	FUND TYPE *	ENG	ROW	CON	PLN	OPER	CAP	ADMIN	TOTAL
No Programming Information Defined									

ADD ROW



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Applicants will also need to provide a short narrative under Change Reason Details. This feature will allow applicants to reuse their application for future funding rounds if needed.

**Obligation**

Applicant may skip this tab.

**Map (Up to 20 points)**

Under the Map tab, applicants can draw the location of their project. Applicants will zoom in to the project location(s) and select to draw points showing the proposed location of the signs. Applicants will be able to draw multiple points on the same map and have to draw a point for each sign. If the project has multiple project locations, please make sure to add all locations in the Programming tab as well. If there is a need to redraw a project, click on the cursor symbol, and then select the project location and delete it or adjust the vertices.

Project locations that are on roads which are part of OTO’s regional High Injury network will receive 10 points and 5 points if the road is part of a local high injury network as established in OTO’s Destination Safe Streets Plan.

Up to additional 10 points are available based on the speed limit outside the school zone. Scoring will be based on range of speed limits outside of school zones of all applicants.

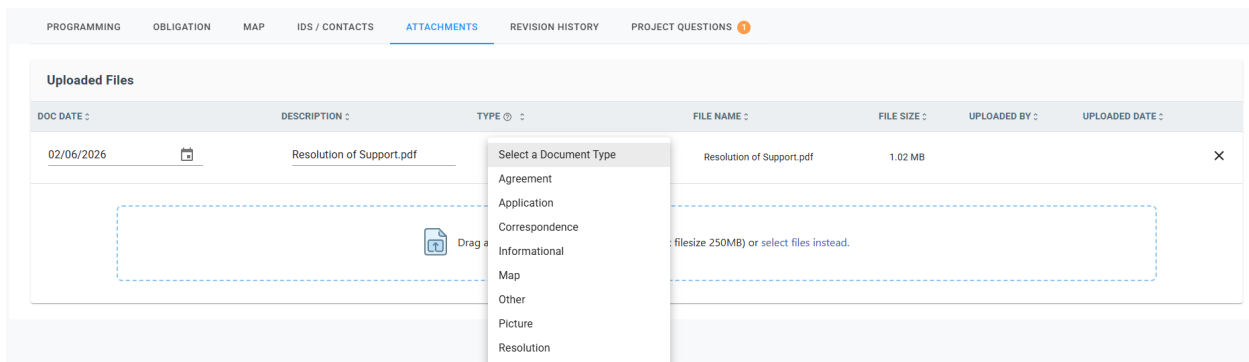
The scoring subcommittee will determine the appropriate points based on the provided locations in the map.

**IDs/Contacts**

Applicant may skip this tab.

**Attachments**

Under the attachments tab, applicants can upload required documents, including, **resolutions**, and supplemental backup information, including pictures and additional maps. Please select the document type after file has been uploaded.



**Revision History**

Informational, applicant may skip this tab.



# OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION

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## Project Questions

The Project Questions Tab will show applicant if required questions are not completed. Click on the tab to enter the information to each question. Please complete all the questions and enter N/A if a question is not applicable to your project.

### Section A Eligible Entity

It is important to accurately list the project entity's contact information so that they may be contacted with questions relating to the project proposal. Please include a **resolution of support** from the eligible entity and any co-entities, including the amount of financial contribution from co-entities (if applicable).

Eligible Entities must provide **funding commitment documentation** such as resolutions, letters, or ordinances including funding amounts if project is awarded.

Eligible Entities include:

- i. a local government;
- ii. a regional transportation authority;
- iii. a transit agency;
- iv. a natural resource or public land agency;
- v. a school district, local education agency, or school;
- vi. a tribal government;
- vii. a metropolitan planning organization that serves an urbanized area with a population of 200,000 or fewer;
- viii. a State, at the request of an entity described in clauses (i) through (ix).

### Section B Project Details (10 Points)

Applicants are asked to provide information on projects, including number of students per location, which school the project will benefit and age and condition of current signs.

Up to 10 points are available to projects based on the number of students the project affects.

### Section C Project Need (Up to 10 Points)

Applicants are asked for a description of the project need. The description should include reasoning on why the location for the project was located and a narrative of what issues the project is addressing. If project provides multiple locations, please provide a ranking of the different locations in case there are more applications than funding available. Please upload any **supplemental information** that supports the description of the need.

A project can earn up to 10 points, depending on the need described.

### Section D Signature

All applications must be signed to be considered. Applications are considered signed by electronically acknowledging the application agreement at the end of the list of Application Questions.



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**Submittal Instructions**

Please submit applications through the online portal by 4 pm (CST), March 1, 2026.

Please use the **Application Checklist** on page 14 to help ensure your application is complete.

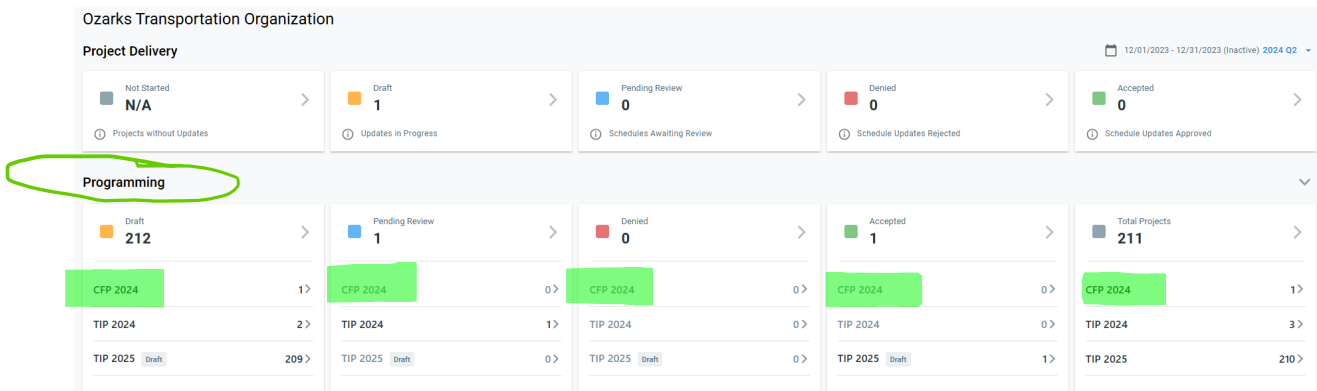
If you have questions or difficulty submitting your project, please contact David Knaut at 417-865-3042 x107.

Applicants need to save changes before exiting the website or before submitting the application. Applicants can “unsubmit” and edit their application prior to the application deadline. However, the application needs to be submitted to review prior to the below deadline:

**Application Deadline: 4 pm (CST), March 1, 2026**



A quick way to access previously drafted or submitted projects is through the dashboard. Select “CFP 2026 - School” under the Programming section of the dashboard to filter and access your project application(s).





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<b>Application Checklist</b>		
<b>Included</b>	<b>Application Component</b>	<b>For More Information –</b>
<b>General Project Requirements</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the entity contributing at least 20% of total project costs?	Match Requirements, page 5
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the entity an eligible entity?	Eligible Entity, page 5
<b>Application Requirements</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the application include an adopted local resolution of support is required from the applying agency(ies)?	Section A: Eligible Entity, page 12
<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the application include all proposed sign locations in the map?	Map, page 11
<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the application include information for all affected schools?	Section B: Project Description, page 12
<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the application include photos and maps of the project site?	Section B: Projection Description, page 12
<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the application include a project need description including a ranking of locations (if applicable)?	Section C: Project Need page 12
<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the application include all other required documentation? Application cannot be submitted without required questions answered.	Various
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the application signed/ acknowledged?	Section D: Signature, page 12



**Funding Score Sheet**

<b>Relevant Section</b>	<b>Evaluation Criteria</b>	<b>Max Score</b>	<b>Points Received</b>
Map	Location – Project Locations are on roads that are part of OTO’s regional or local High Injury Network and speed limit/ traffic volume of roadways	20	
B	Number of students affected by project	10	
C	Project Need – Description of project need based on local conditions	10	
<b>Maximum Points</b>		<b>40</b>	