

Bedford County Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road Program Local Program Policies

Equal Access

The Bedford County Conservation District will notify all municipalities in Bedford County when funding is available and of the time period during which applications will be accepted. All municipalities will be provided with the same information and notifications will be sent at the same time.

Applicant Qualifications

Municipalities and other entities applying for program funding must have a minimum of one supervisor or roadwork crewmember that has attended Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance (ESM) Training within the last 5 years. It is strongly recommended that the Roadmaster should have ESM training. Office personnel completing ESM training will not meet this requirement.

Application Evaluation

The Bedford County Conservation District will use a numerical scoring system to rank the priority of projects submitted for funding approval. The scoring system will reflect the need to evaluate projects based on the anticipated reduction or prevention of erosion and sediment pollution to Bedford County waterways. All projects will be scored using the same criteria.

Application Submittal

Applicants may submit any number of project proposals during the open period for applications. Proposals (applications) must include a plan drawing that includes distance to a mapped road intersection, bridge, etc. The drawing should also mark the location of pipes, underdrains, geofabric and geotextile, grade breaks, and other work elements that relate to addressing problems noted in section 3 of the application. A copy of the relevant USGS topo quad with project site delineated can be used to indicate location but a plan drawing with work elements marked is still required. Incomplete or deficient applications will not be considered.

Application Retention

The Conservation District will retain applications for three (3) years for funding consideration. Each year all new and retained applications will be prioritized using the scoring system.

Deficiency Notification

Applications that score well based on preliminary site evaluation but do not adequately address problems will be returned, with an explanation, for correction and/or amplification. District staff will consult with the applicant and the Center for Dirt and Gravel Roads to achieve an adequate work plan when requested by the applicant. Re- submittals must be received by the Conservation District prior to the scheduled QAB project evaluation for consideration in a current funding round.

Non-funding Notification

Applicants who are unsuccessful in a funding round will be notified of the QAB decision not to fund. The notification will include an explanation that will allow the applicant to consider retaining the proposal for consideration in a future funding round, modify the proposal to achieve a better score, or withdraw the application.

Conflict of Interest

Members of the Quality Assurance Board will not evaluate, prioritize or vote on any project of the county Dirt and Gravel Road program in which they or any direct family member has a financial tie or stand to benefit from the completion or lack of completion of that project.

Environmental Performance

The Bedford County Conservation District will not pay for or allow the use of products on Dirt and Gravel Road projects that have not been approved by the State Conservation Commission as environmentally acceptable.

Sub-contracting

Townships that do not perform the Dirt and Gravel Road ESM work themselves and sub-contract the work to third parties must inform the Conservation District of this at the time of the application. A township employee with current ESM training must be on-site during all work performed by the sub-contractor. This requirement will be waived if the sub-contractor has current ESM training.

Paving of Low-Volume Roads

Projects proposed on low-volume paved roads must primarily focus upon impacts to waterbodies that originate from such roads. Correction of these problems shall be addressed through practices similar to projects on unpaved roads, e.g. drainage, road bank and ditch erosion, etc. Applications for projects that are solely focused on repaving (asphalt, chip-seal, or concrete) will not be considered for funding. Repaving costs to repair disturbances to existing paving from pipe replacement and other drainage corrections are eligible for funding. When drainage and erosion issues are accompanied by large-scale road deterioration due to poor sub-base composition or saturation that must be corrected, paving costs can be funded but shall be limited to 50% of the total project cost (exclusive of in-kind contributions).