



# MaineDOT

## 2026 Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund

### Project Rating Criteria

MaineDOT and State partners will review and award funding for projects that align with the goals of the **2026 Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund**. Projects will undergo review by an interagency group through a competitive selection process, culminating in a prioritized list of projects for funding. This is a qualitative scoring process that determines the extent to which each project aligns with the program's objectives and goals, categorizing them as follows: i) **fully align**, ii) **primarily align**, iii) **align**, iv) **partially align**, or v) **do not align** with the 2026 Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund.

#### 1. Project Qualitative Scoring Classification

##### Fully Aligned

A project that is considered fully aligned will meet **all** program and funding goals as described in the Request for Applications (RFA) and **will clearly identify and document** damage from climate change to the existing infrastructure and directly respond to future climate conditions, utilizing the 2026 Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund Resiliency Guidelines.

##### Primarily Aligned

A project that is considered primarily aligned will meet **most** of the program and funding goals as described in the Request for Applications (RFA) and **will identify and document** damage from climate change to the infrastructure and respond to future climate conditions utilizing the 2026 Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund Resiliency Guidelines.

### Align

A project that is considered partially aligned will meet **some** of the program and funding goals as described in the Request for Applications (RFA) and **may identify and document** damage to the infrastructure from climate change or future damage to the infrastructure and attempt to respond to future climate conditions utilizing the 2026 Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund Resiliency Guidelines.

### Partially Aligned

A project that is considered partially aligned will meet a **minimum** of the program and funding goals as described in the Request for Applications (RFA) and **may identify and document** damage to the infrastructure from climate change or future damage to the infrastructure and attempt to respond to future climate conditions utilizing the 2026 Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund Resiliency Guidelines.

### Not Aligned

A project that is considered not aligned will **fail** to meet the program and funding goals as described in the Request for Applications (RFA) **and does not identify and document** damage from climate change to the infrastructure or clearly identify future damage to the infrastructure, and does not directly respond to future climate conditions utilizing the 2026 Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund Resiliency Guidelines.

## **2. Project Rating Based on the Program's Goals**

### Project Information

A project should clearly identify its eligibility, which includes existing publicly owned infrastructure in Municipalities, Tribal Governments, and Infrastructure Districts by providing title, right, or interest (TRI) to show proof of legal standing.

A project should identify and describe the location of the existing project, existing conditions, and the need for the proposed improvements. A project should demonstrate readiness and include a clear and realistic timeline. All projects must be completed by 9/30/2029. There **will not** be any opportunity for a no-cost extension.

### Infrastructure Resiliency

A project should demonstrate existing or projected impacts of climate change, such as sea-level rise or increased precipitation affecting the infrastructure, and illustrate how proposed resilience measures address future climate conditions. Projects that fully align with this program will demonstrate that the existing infrastructure is currently experiencing climate-related stressors. A successful project will provide documentation of past flooding events or infrastructure failures or demonstrate susceptibility to failure due to current conditions or limited resilience to climate stressors. Infrastructure should be sized to mitigate hazards that may be caused or intensified by future climate conditions. See 2026 Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund Resiliency Guidelines for more information. A project should **clearly identify received or anticipated environmental permits.**

### Public Safety and Emergency Management

A project should demonstrate how it will enhance public safety and improve emergency management practices in the context of climate adaptation. A successful project will document a measured coefficient of failure, such as number of homes and/or businesses cut-off. A project should demonstrate a reduction or elimination of existing maintenance costs.

### Community Benefits

A project should demonstrate a significant and compelling community benefit and capture broader co-benefits, such as i) improved public access, ii) mitigation of potential pollution or adverse impacts on the environment, including but not limited to water quality, to waste management control, or hazards mitigation, iii) protection of public health, and iv) enhance community resilience planning to prepare for, respond to, and recover from climate-related disasters.

### Budget

A successful budget will provide a detailed financial description that directly aligns with the project's narrative, demonstrating that the project is feasible, realistic, and cost-

effective. A well-supported budget includes a cost assessment and other budget management tools (e.g., expense categorization/tracking, and financial reporting and analytics).