

MaineDOT

Transportation Federal Opportunity Readiness Merit Criteria (TransFORM)

Special federal funding opportunities such as grants and earmarks (Congressionally Directed Spending) are the vehicles in which communities, regional organizations, and the State can make transformative improvements to Maine’s transportation system that promote economic vitality, improve safety, promote a higher quality of life, and maintain a healthy environment. Dedicated Federal, State, and local funding can at best maintain the systems we have. To truly make a difference in Maine through better, wiser, and more responsible transportation systems, special federal funding is essential. MaineDOT considers projects to be ready to apply for special federal funding if they meet 5 TransFORM criteria:

1. There must be local and/or regional consensus around the solution to the problem and some form of demonstrated support. In most cases some public process will be needed to get to a point of readiness. At times this may need to be an endorsement, resolve or commitment of funding from a local elected body.
2. Often, MaineDOT provides part of the required match (on average 10% of total project costs) for projects that the Department has been meaningfully involved with from the start. There needs to be a local commitment for the remainder of the match before the project can move forward.
3. Planning project scope and preliminary design needs to be far enough along to ensure that the project can be built as conceived. Right-of-way, environmental permitting and physical constraints must be evaluated.
4. The planning and design must be sufficient to generate reliable project costs.
5. Analysis of the project must be robust enough to ensure that the project is sustainable and will not create significant unintended consequences. The project should also provide good value for the taxpayer money invested.

If an organization has worked with MaineDOT from the beginning and these TransFORM criteria have been met, MaineDOT will consider co-applying or sending a letter of support for their application for special funding. MaineDOT may also elect to assist applicants with the match as described above.