

# LOCAL BRIDGE PROGRAM

## OVERVIEW

ARDOT's Local Bridge Program provides Federal-aid funding for improvements to or replacement of bridges located on public roads that are off the Federal-aid Highway System, known as Off-System bridges. In order to begin the process of funding determination, a Local Public Agency (LPA) must make the funding request via letter to the ARDOT Director. The request should include the bridge's structure number, if available, and a description of the location.

## ELIGIBILITY

Eligible bridges must be:

- Located on a route that is off the Federal-aid Highway System\*; and
- On the National Bridge Inventory; and
- Owned by a county, town, township, city, municipality or other local agency, or federally recognized tribe.

Priority will be given to projects that will improve or replace bridges that:

- Are in poor or fair condition; or
- Are posted for weight restrictions or operationally restricted; or
- Have demonstrated safety issues.

## GUIDELINES

- The annual maximum Federal-aid funding available for the Local Bridge Program will be announced each year and will be prioritized and awarded based on statewide needs.
- The number of projects per LPA may be limited per FFY based on availability of funding.
- All phases of approved projects will be eligible for funding. ARDOT will provide 90% Federal-aid funding and the LPA will provide the 10% local match.
- Development of approved projects will progress in two steps.
  - Step 1: Development of a feasibility study, including 30% design plans and cost estimate.
  - Step 2: Upon completion of the feasibility study and request of the LPA, the project will proceed to final design and construction.
- A \$5,000 deposit is required from the LPA before initiating a feasibility study.

ON ARKANSAS PUBLIC  
ROADS THERE ARE:



200+

OFF-SYSTEM BRIDGES  
IN POOR CONDITION



900+

OFF-SYSTEM BRIDGES POSTED  
FOR WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS  
OR OPERATIONALLY RESTRICTED



Local Programs Division  
501-435-3255

For additional information visit:  
[ARDOT.gov/LocalBridgeProgram](https://www.ardot.gov/LocalBridgeProgram)

Local Bridge Program projects must be requested via letter by the Local Public Agency that will serve as the project Sponsor. Once a request is received, ARDOT will evaluate the bridge to determine eligibility and notify the Sponsor via letter.

#### MILESTONES

- LPA requests project via letter to the ARDOT Director
- ARDOT determines project eligibility
- LPA passes project resolution and becomes the project Sponsor
- ARDOT and Sponsor execute agreement of understanding detailing roles and responsibilities
- Sponsor submits \$5,000 deposit to ARDOT for feasibility study
- ARDOT initiates a feasibility study, which includes development of 30% design plans and cost estimate
- Sponsor reviews feasibility study
- Upon Sponsor's request, ARDOT continues project development
- ARDOT prepares final plans and cost estimate
- ARDOT coordinates with Sponsor for project advertisement
- ARDOT advertises project
- Sponsor submits funding for local share of project to ARDOT
- ARDOT executes construction contract
- Upon completion of improvements, Sponsor resumes responsibility and maintenance of the structure



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*\* To be considered off the Federal-aid Highway System, the bridge must be located on a route that is Functionally Classified as a Rural Minor Collector or a Local Road.*