

# MassDOT Municipal Small Bridge Program



MMA Workshop-  
Bridges and  
Culverts:  
Repair, Replace,  
Reconstruct



Chief Engineer, MassDOT Highway Division-  
Patricia Leavenworth P.E.

# Presentation Outline

- Program Overview
- Program Details
- Review & Approval Process
- Application Form
- Update From October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016 Eligible Applications



# Eligible Bridges “BRI’s”

- 10' – 20' span length
- Bridge must be on a public way
- Not eligible for federal aid
- 1,300 Municipally Owned BRIs in Massachusetts
  - MassDOT received 50 applications in October 2016





# Funding

- Non-federal aid state funds
- \$50 million over five years
- Approved projects will be funded through reimbursement agreements
- The maximum amount of reimbursement, including design and construction costs is \$500,000 per year, per municipality



# Municipality's Responsibility



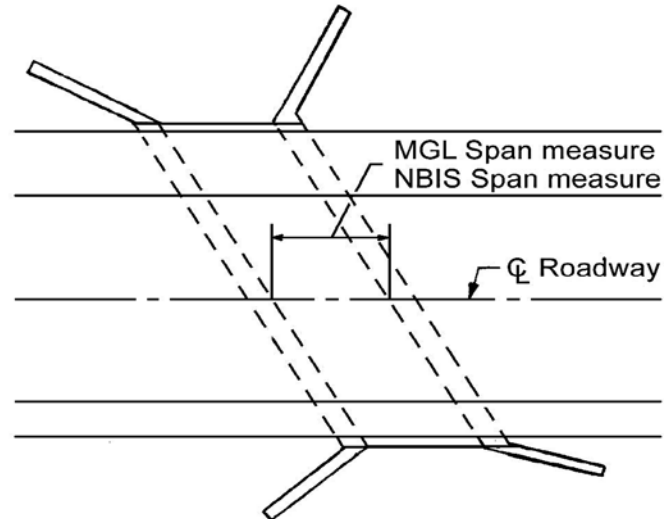
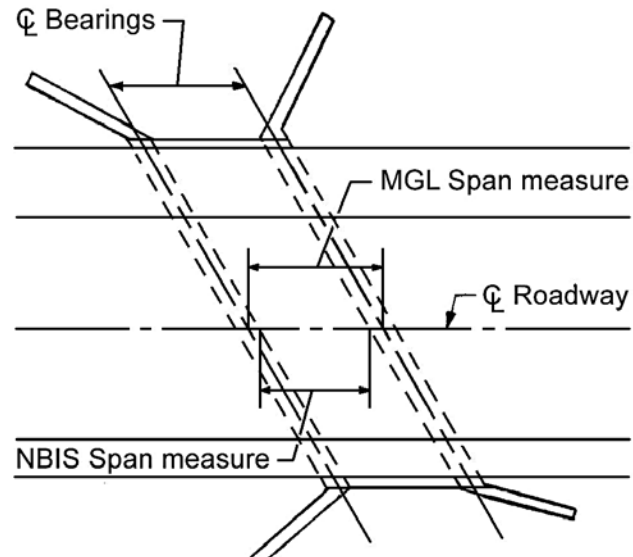
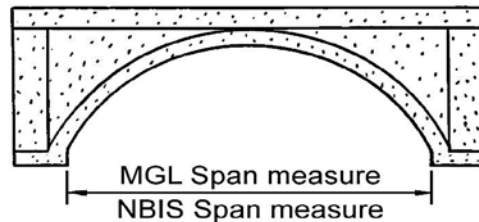
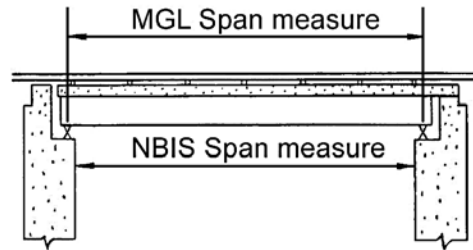
- ✓ Administering the project through the design and construction phases:
  - Including procurement of a prequalified designer and bidding and oversight of the construction contract by a prequalified contractor
- ✓ Obtaining and certifying the they've obtained all required environmental permits and acquired all required right-of-way
- ✓ Coordination with all affected utility companies

# Program Description – Key Points

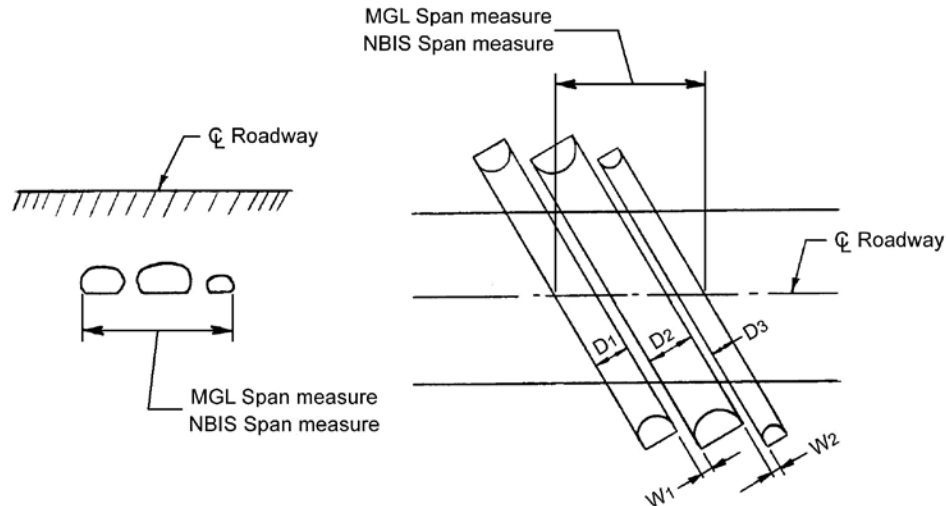
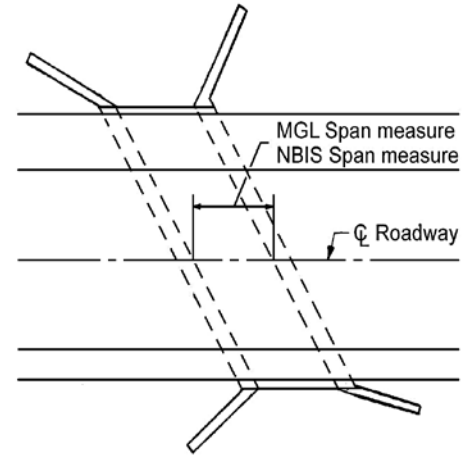
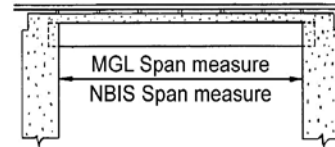
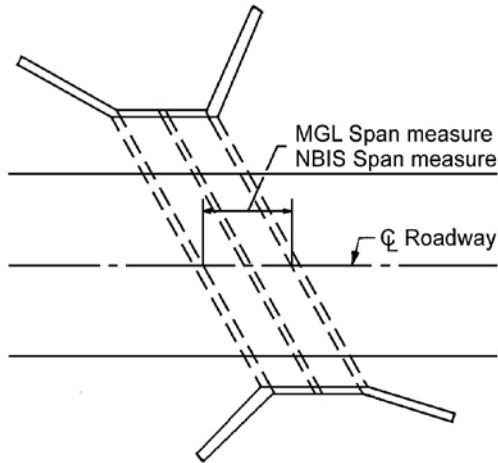
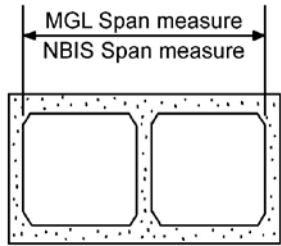


- Applications accepted 3 times per year – **Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>, Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> & June 30<sup>th</sup>**
- Emergency applications can be submitted anytime
- Maximum reimbursement is **\$500,000** per municipality **per year**
- Project can be for replacements or for preservations
- Multiple bridges can be combined in one application (\$500k maximum for entire application)

# Definitions & Method of Measuring Length of Span



# Definitions & Method of Measuring Length of Span





# Program Website



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Highway Division

Highway Transit RMV Aeronautics

The Official Website of The Massachusetts Department of Transportation - Highway Division

Home > Doing Business With Us > Local Aid Programs > Municipal Small Bridge Program

### Municipal Small Bridge Program

**Overview**

The Small Bridge Program was signed into law on August 10, 2016 by Governor Charlie Baker. The 5 year, \$50M program will provide reimbursable assistance to cities and towns of up to \$500K per year to aid in the replacement and preservation of municipally owned bridges with spans between 10' and 20'. These bridges are **not eligible** for federal aid under existing bridge replacement or rehabilitation programs and an increasing number of them are at high risk for full or partial closure in the near future due to their present condition.

This is a need and merit based program that will seek to fund those applications that demonstrate a critical need (i.e. emergency closure, detrimental detour routes for first responders) or will substantially extend the life of an existing bridge.

All applications will be submitted by the city or town to their local district highway office. From there, projects will be screened for eligibility and forwarded to MassDOT's Bridge Section in Boston with a recommendation. Projects will again be evaluated and scored, with final recommendations being made to the Chief Engineer, who will issue to each municipality a final decision.

**Timeline**

Applications will accepted three (3) times per year - Oct. 31st, Feb. 28th, and June 30th. Therefore, the first round of applications will need to be submitted to their respective Highway District on or before October 31, 2016.

[Download the application](#)

If a municipality feels they have an emergency situation, they may submit an application at any time to their district or contact MassDOT Chief Engineer Patricia Leavenworth at 857-368-8999.

**Contact Information**

Questions regarding your application should be directed to your District Bridge Engineer.

- District 1**  
Mark DeVilder  
413-637-5774
- District 2**  
Mark Banasieski  
413-582-0539
- District 3**  
Mohammed Nabulsi  
508-929-3849
- District 4**  
Leonard Aversa  
781-641-8497
- District 5**  
Shane Sousa  
508-884-4222
- District 6**  
Shu Tao  
857-368-6191

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### Municipal Small Bridge Program

**Program Description**

There are approximately 1,300 bridges in Massachusetts that have span lengths between 10' and 20' that are on municipal roads and the cities and towns which own these bridges are responsible for maintaining and/or replacing them as necessary. This may include preservation, rehabilitation or replacement of these structures. Recognizing the difficulty smaller municipalities have in meeting this responsibility, MassDOT has established the Municipal Small Bridge Program to assist communities with the costs associated with the design and construction of these structures.

This program targets small bridge projects that are not eligible for federal aid under existing bridge replacement or rehabilitation programs, and are a high risk for full or partial closure in the near future due to their present condition. The program also allows for bridge preservation projects.

Funding for this program will utilize non-federal aid state funds. The Application for this program is available on the MassDOT website. Applications will be accepted at three times during the year - Oct. 31, Feb. 28, and June 30. The Application must be submitted by a Municipal official with contracting authority. Approved projects will be funded through reimbursement agreements between MassDOT and each selected municipality.

An Application for an emergency situation can be submitted for review at any time. The municipality must provide an explanation as to why it is an emergency situation.

This program provides for State reimbursement to municipalities of up to 100% of the total design and construction cost of eligible projects addressing preservation, rehabilitation and replacement of municipally owned bridges. The maximum amount of reimbursement, including design, construction and administrative costs is \$500,000 per year per municipality. An Application received within 12 months of an approved application will not be considered.

The municipality will be responsible for administering the project through its design and construction phases including procurement of a designer, and bidding and oversight of the construction contract. The selected designer must be pre-qualified by the MassDOT Architects and Engineers Review Board in the category of Basic Bridge Design/Rating. The selected construction contractor must be pre-qualified by MassDOT in the category of Bridge Construction. The municipality will be responsible for obtaining all environmental permits, coordinating with any affected utility companies and securing any required right of way.

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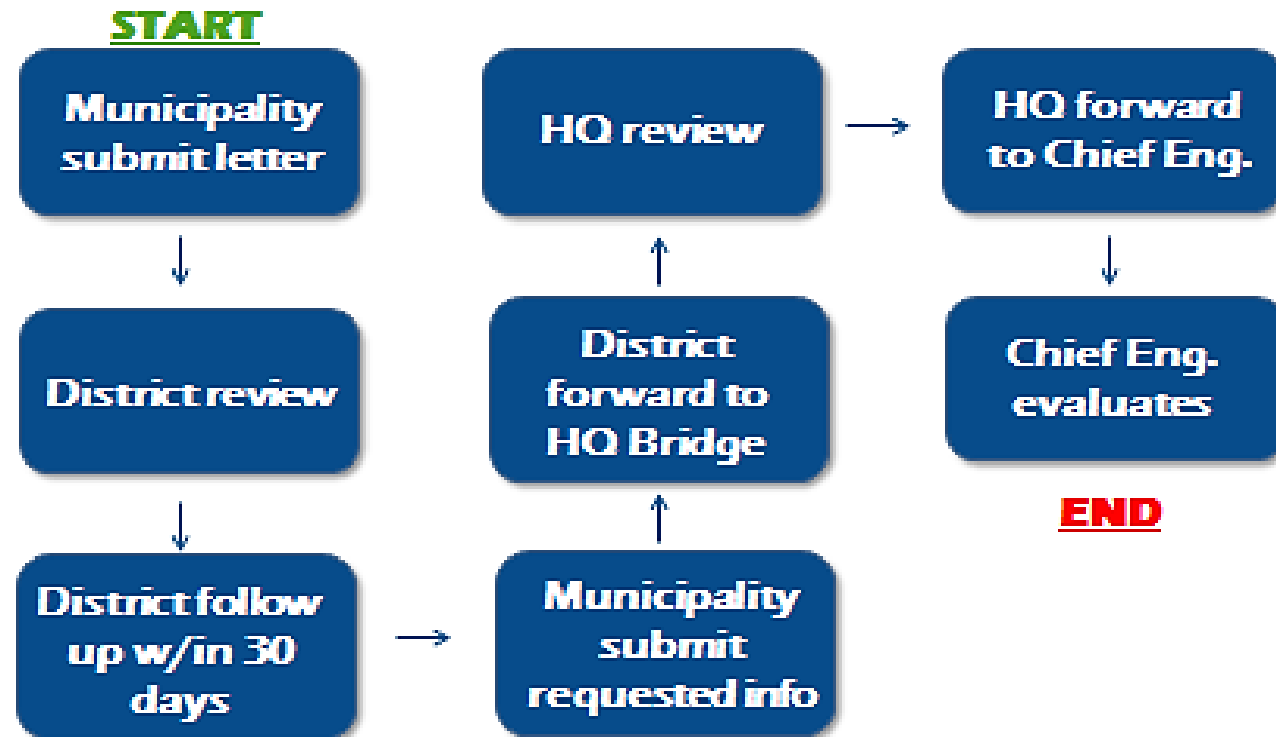
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<http://www.massdot.state.ma.us/highway/DoingBusinessWithUs/LocalAidPrograms/MunicipalSmallBridgeProgram.aspx>

# Review and Approval Process

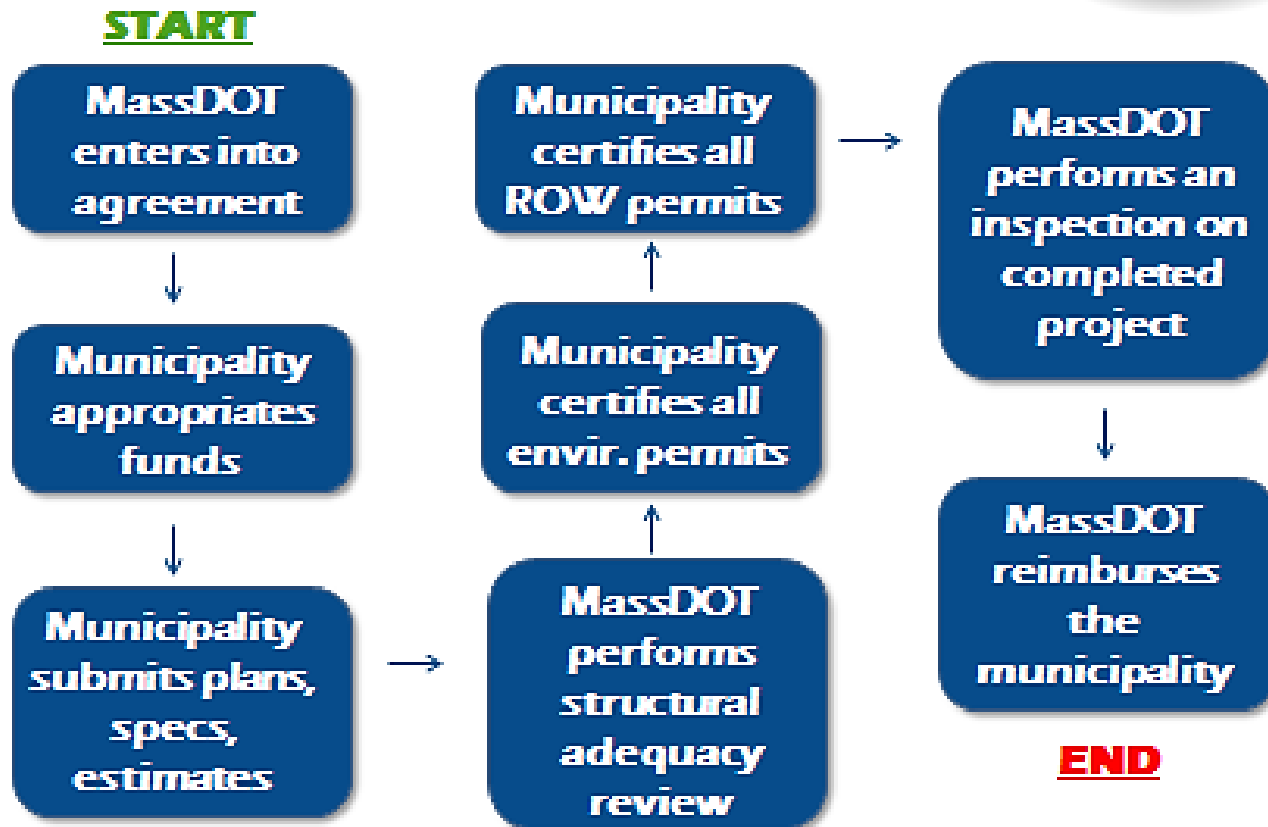
## Application Process

Applications accepted on a rolling basis



# Reimbursement Process

## Reimbursement Process



# What Makes a Great Application?

- 100% completely filled out
- 10' – 20' bridge span length, on a public way
- Part B → Confirmation of Applicability: These questions will be scored as “PASS / FAIL”. If the answer to any of these questions is “No”, the application will be rejected
- Not eligible for federal aid and demonstration for financial need
- Supporting documents e.g. inspection field reports, detour routes, pavement condition, photos, permits needed, engineering consultant evaluations, etc.

# Example of an Application

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## Part B: Applicability

1. Is the span of the bridge greater than 10 feet and less than or equal to 20 feet? Yes ☒ No ☐  
Comments: Both bridges meet length criteria
2. Is the bridge on a public way? Yes ☒ No ☐  
Comment: Both bridges on public way
3. Is the bridge on the State Bridge Inventory? Yes ☒ No ☐  
Comment: Both bridges on State Bridge Inventory
4. Are all municipally-owned bridges in the City/Town with reduced weight-carrying capacity properly posted as previously directed by MassDOT? Yes ☒ No ☐  
Comment:
5. Can the 25% design be submitted within 6 months of the application approval? Yes ☒ No ☐  
Comment:



# Example of an Application

## 2. Description of Demonstrated Public Need

- a. What is the length (in miles) of a suitable detour around the bridge?

The distance of a detour from bridge to bridge, for the lower [REDACTED] Road Bridge around [REDACTED] Hill Road, or from the upper [REDACTED] Road Bridge around [REDACTED] Hill Road is 8.6 miles, or 22 minutes.

- b. Please describe the emergency services carried by the bridge. Consider how often the roadway is used as a fire, police, and/or EMT route.

The Highway Superintendent's greatest concern for the detour is the ability of the Town's Fire Engines to get to isolated homes. Efforts to address perennial drainage issues on the detour caused by inclement weather and mud season continue.

- c. Please describe how the bridge serves the local economy (commercial and industrial). Consider the following: agricultural, tourist/recreational sites, commercial district, major employer, other economic generators, etc.

The [REDACTED] bridges serve small agricultural farms, second home owners, and residents needing to get to and from work. The [REDACTED] Road bridges lead to the Legate Hill precipices, with viewsheds, often taken by tourists during Fall leaf-peeping.

- d. Please describe the essential services carried by the bridge. Consider the following: heating oil, propane gas, trash/recycling, septic tank service, school busses, mail, other delivery services, etc. and if a viable detour for these services currently exists.

Heating oil, propane gas, school buses, mail, septic, and delivery services travel these routes. The Town continues to try to ensure the detour around [REDACTED] Hill Road is a viable option; however inclement weather and mud season may prove otherwise.

# Example of an Application



## Municipal Small Bridge Program Application

- a. Please provide the current annual Chapter 90 apportionment for your municipality and balance of uncommitted funds. Please explain why the limited funds of the Municipal Small Bridge Program are needed to advance the project.

Annual apport. = \$181,645; \$307,383 committed for FY17 repairs; \$154,728.68 towards FY18 repairs totalling \$281,850, see attached Pavement Management Program. \$3.2M budget, 78% raised through real estate taxes, \$402k is allocated for Highway.

- b. What other sources of funds does the municipality have to repair its bridges? Please explain why these are insufficient or inappropriate for this project.

The Town approved its first article at Town Meeting this year for Highway capital improvements, \$40k, reduced to \$20k, to be used for [REDACTED] bridge. It simultaneously voted down \$350k in equipment requests. There are 36 municipally owned bridges here.

# October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016 Eligible Applications By District



District	Applications for Preservation	Applications for Replacement	Total
1	6	7	13
2	0	7	7
3	9	6	15
4	1	5	6
5	2	6	8
6	0	1	1
Total	18	32	50

# MassDOT Municipal Small Bridge Program



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