Chapter 136-720 WAC
LOCAL ROAD PROGRAM—PROJECT SUBMITTAL, SELECTION, AND INITIAL ALLOCATION OF PROJECTS

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WAC

136-720-010 Purpose and authority.
136-720-020 LRP program cycle—General.
136-720-030 LRP program cycle—Prospectus submittal.
136-720-040 LRP program cycle—Field review by county road administration board.
136-720-050 LRP program cycle—Total project rating and priority array.
136-720-060 LRP program cycle—Selection and approval of projects for LRP funding.
136-720-070 Limitations on use of LRP funds—Matching funds.

WAC 136-720-010 Purpose and authority. Chapter 36.170 RCW provides that the county road administration board shall administer the county local road program (LRP). This chapter describes the manner in which counties may request LRP funds for specific project types and the manner in which the county road administration board will select projects and allocate LRP funds to such projects.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 36.78.070 and 36.170.010. WSR 26-08-028, s 136-720-010, filed 3/23/26, effective 4/23/26.]

WAC 136-720-020 LRP program cycle—General. The county local road program cycle consists of the following basic steps:

(1) The county road administration board establishes a funding period if it determines that sufficient future LRP funds are available to provide for new LRP projects. This determination can take place during any of CRAB's regularly scheduled meetings.

(a) Should the board determine there are adequate LRP funds available to be allocated to LRP projects and, under advisement from the counties, the board's action shall include the determination of:

(i) Project type and the amount to be allocated to each project type listed in WAC 136-710-020;

(ii) Timeline in which eligible counties are to submit projects;

(iii) Funding limits per project;

(iv) Limits on the number of projects per county;

(v) Matching requirements for the funding period.

(b) The board's LRP funding allocation may include all or any subset of the project types described under WAC 136-710-020, as well as federally classified urban or rural areas, and this decision may be unique and may vary between funding periods.

(2) Each eligible county prepares and submits a prospectus to the county road administration board;

(3) County road administration board staff conducts a field review of each prospectus and provides to each submitting county an evaluation and scoring of all priority elements which are based on a visual examination, using the priority rating process;

(4) For each prospectus submitted, county road administration board staff computes the total priority rating score and assembles all projects into rank-ordered arrays by project type; and

(5) The county road administration board reviews the rank-ordered arrays in each project type and, based upon the LRP funds projected to be allocated for the next project program period, selects and approves specific projects for LRP funding.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 36.78.070 and 36.170.010. WSR 26-08-028, s 136-720-020, filed 3/23/26, effective 4/23/26.]

WAC 136-720-030 LRP program cycle—Prospectus submittal. Each eligible county shall, for each project for which it seeks LRP funds estimated to be available in the next project program funding period, submit a prospectus to the board with the following requirements:

(1) The format and content of the prospectus shall be prescribed by the board, and each prospectus shall be submitted on forms provided by the board and must include a vicinity map, a typical cross-section (existing and proposed), and photos.

(2) Each prospectus shall be signed by the county engineer.

(3) If a design deviation is required, an evaluation and determination by the county engineer must be submitted in accordance with WAC 136-710-060 and 136-710-070.

(4) If a project is for the improvement of a road which continues into an adjacent county and the project terminus is within 1,000 feet of the county line, the prospectus shall include a statement signed by the county engineer of the adjacent county certifying that the adjacent county will cooperate with the applicant county to the extent necessary to achieve a mutually acceptable design.

(5) All prospectuses shall indicate that the design of the project shall begin not later than one year from the date of project approval by the board, and that construction of the project shall begin not later than four years from the date of project approval by the board.

All counties shall use current cost pricing to estimate project costs. Inflation and contingency rates will be applied by the board based upon project type.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 36.78.070 and 36.170.010. WSR 26-08-028, s 136-720-030, filed 3/23/26, effective 4/23/26.]

WAC 136-720-040 LRP program cycle—Field review by county road administration board. After all prospectuses are received, the county road administration board will schedule and conduct an on-site field review of each project. During the field review, conducted jointly with the county engineer or his/her designee (unless waived by the county engineer), the assigned county road administration board staff person will review the overall project scope with the county representative and, using the priority rating process developed by the board, determine the rating score of all priority elements which are based on a visual examination. To ensure both uniformity and professional judgment in the visual ratings, the assigned county road administration board staff person shall be assigned by the deputy director and be a licensed professional civil engineer in the state of Washington or have significant experience in the design of road and bridge projects, and the same person shall review and rate all projects statewide. All field reviews will be completed, each project's type will be set, and the visual rating scores returned to each submitting county.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 36.78.070 and 36.170.010. WSR 26-08-028, s 136-720-040, filed 3/23/26, effective 4/23/26.]

WAC 136-720-050 LRP program cycle—Total project rating and priority array. County road administration board staff will review all prospectuses and ensure that:

(1) All necessary information is included;

(2) The project is eligible for LRP funding;

(3) The project schedule indicates that preliminary engineering will begin not later than one year from the date of project approval by the county road administration board, and that the construction of the project will begin not later than four years from the date of project approval by the county road administration board; and

(4) The total project priority rating is mathematically correct and the visual rating scores determined during the field review are included.

(5) Existing and proposed roadway cross sections, project narrative, and preconstruction photos are attached.

After county road administration board staff review, all accepted prospectuses will be placed in a declining total project rating array. After review by the county road administration board at its next regular meeting, the priority array for each project type will be provided to each county. These arrays will be preliminary only and will be provided to the counties to assist them in their internal budgeting and programming. No notations as to whether a particular project will or will not be funded will be included. Projects not adopted in the six-year transportation program by board's process outlined in WAC 136-720-060 will be dropped from the array of eligible projects and the revised array will be presented to the county road administration board.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 36.78.070 and 36.170.010. WSR 26-08-028, s 136-720-050, filed 3/23/26, effective 4/23/26.]

WAC 136-720-060 LRP program cycle—Selection and approval of projects for LRP funding. (1) At the board's next regularly scheduled meeting, the county road administration board will select projects and allocate anticipated LRP funds to projects. The preliminary priority arrays as developed in WAC 136-720-050 will be updated to exclude any county which is ineligible under WAC 136-700-050, and projects will be selected from these arrays. Selections will be made by each project type statewide in declining priority rank order, provided that no county shall be allocated LRP funds in excess of the limits as set in WAC 136-720-020.

(2) The statewide net amount of LRP funds available for allocation to projects in the funding period will be based on procedures outlined in WAC 136-720-020 and appropriated by the legislature.

(3) Acceptance of the LRP allocation for a project by the full execution of a CRAB/county contract as described in WAC 136-730-030 constitutes agreement to complete the project in compliance with the scope, design, and project limits in the prospectus. All material changes to the scope, design, or project limits must be approved by the county road administration board prior to commencement of construction.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 36.78.070 and 36.170.010. WSR 26-08-028, s 136-720-060, filed 3/23/26, effective 4/23/26.]

WAC 136-720-070 Limitations on use of LRP funds—Matching funds. LRP funds requested and allowed to a project are limited to the match requirements established by county road administration board at the time of call for projects developed in conjunction with policy following RCW 36.170.060. The match requirements will be applied to the total eligible project development costs, which may include preliminary engineering and construction costs for all project types identified in WAC 136-710-020 and right-of-way costs for project types identified in WAC 136-710-020 (2) through (6).

Even though additional and eligible project development costs may be incurred by a county for a specific project, the maximum amount of LRP funds for that project is limited to the amount allocated and shown in the CRAB/county contract, unless the allocation is increased pursuant to WAC 136-740-020.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 36.78.070 and 36.170.010. WSR 26-08-028, s 136-720-070, filed 3/23/26, effective 4/23/26.]