# RPA 10 Application Process

In a typical year, the application process noted below is used to ensure that transportation needs from throughout the region are met.

## Typical Application Processes

### STBG Process

CRDS 2040, the region’s long range transportation plan was approved in 2017. CRDS 2040 notes that substantial transportation infrastructure needs exist around the entire region and that funding should be distributed throughout the region to accommodate these needs. An update to the long range transportation plan is currently underway. Although the plan isn’t complete, the public input process has reiterated the desire for geographic equity of public funding. Accordingly, the RPA provides STBG funding targets to each of the seven counties and three cities with a population greater than 5,000. The target amounts to the three cities are based on population. The target amounts to the counties are based on the same formula used to distribute Road Use Tax Funds. The following targets were provided to the cities and counties during this four-year programming cycle:

Cities

Anamosa $155,921

Vinton $1,424,969

Washington $190,598

Counties

Benton $2,577,725

Cedar $824,631

Iowa $0

Johnson $0

Jones $1,018,716

Linn $710,588

Washington $311,332

To ensure that all eligible applicants are able to apply, applications are distributed by ECICOG to each city and county in the region on September 1 and due back to ECICOG by December 15. All applications must be submitted to ECICOG for review. Applications from the County Secondary Roads Department and cities within the county are forwarded by to the respective County Board of Supervisors for preliminary review and local prioritization. These county recommendations and copies of the full applications are reviewed for regional prioritization and discussed by the TTAC and Policy Committee. The Policy Committee is responsible for final regional approval. If Iowa DOT concurs, approved regional STBG applications will be allowed to “swap” the federal funding for state funding.

### ITAP Process

ITAP applications are reviewed on a competitive basis. Typically, applications are distributed to each city and county in the region on September 1 and due back to ECICOG by December 15. The Regional Trails Advisory Committee (RTAC) meets in early January to review all new applications. The RTAC review is based on a pre-determined set of criteria, including project readiness, applicant’s ability to complete the project, the project’s relationship to the transportation system, the project’s associated benefits, benefit/cost and predicted usage. All applications are reviewed in pairs to determine project rankings and final scoring. The RTAC prepares a recommendation for the Policy Committee based on the rankings. The recommendation and copies of the full application are reviewed by the Policy Committee before they make a final determination for funding.

### Pre-Application Workshop

For the past few years, the region has required potential applicants to attend a pre-application workshop. The workshop is intended to ensure that all applicants understand the program and process prior to submittal of an application.