
APPENDIX E – DISASTER RELIEF FOR LOCAL BRIDGES POLICY

York Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Disaster Relief for Local Bridges Policy Adopted February 27, 2020

In August 2018, localized storms affected several municipalities in York County causing significant damage to the local infrastructure. In order to qualify for federal emergency assistance for this event the threshold dollar amount was set at \$19 million. Pennsylvania had a total of \$17 million in damages during this event, and approximately \$15 million alone occurred in York County.

One of the affected municipalities inquired if YAMPO could offer any financial assistance to help with repairs to their infrastructure from this storm event. This brought attention to the fact that while the State has funding for emergency repairs for state infrastructure; no safety net exists for local municipalities. Local municipalities depend on annual liquid fuel allocations and general funds for all infrastructure needs.

The scenario above has prompted YAMPO to develop a Disaster Relief for Local Bridges Policy to help municipalities fund bridge repairs.

YAMPO Funding Policy

YAMPO will consider funding a bridge project after the following areas are satisfied:

- Problems to Address
- YAMPO Disaster Relief Funding Guidelines
- Municipal Partnership

Each area is further described below.

The funding scenario will be as follows:

- Add to the current TIP if funding is available or
- Place as top priority candidate on next update of the TIP

It is the YAMPO's intention to be of assistance to municipalities in these situations, however, YAMPO cannot guarantee a municipality will receive disaster relief bridge funding even if all criteria is met due to limited funding available.

Problems to Address

The following problems are to be addressed through the implementation of this policy.

- A flooding event that occurs and which does not result in a declaration of emergency for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- A State Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Application has been denied.

York Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (YAMPO) Disaster Relief Funding Guidelines

The following guidelines are to be used as **ABSOLUTES**:

- No federal disaster funding is available
- No state disaster funding is available
- Only bridges will be considered for disaster relief funding
- The bridge must be on the Bridge Management System
- The Municipality has adopted the York County Hazard Mitigation Plan

The following factors are to be considered when the above mentioned problems occur:

- Use Consumer Price Index to evaluate if municipalities have raised taxes to keep up with inflation
- Total repair costs of roads and bridges impacted/damaged by the special weather event exceed the municipality's annual liquid fuel allocation
- Percent of the municipalities bridges effected during the event
- YAMPO's Bridge Prioritization for the bridge(s)
- Is bridge located in an EJ population
- Age of bridge –Is this a new bridge or was bridge in need of replacement soon
- A Transportation Connectivity Study has been completed by the York County Planning Commission

Municipal Partnership

The YAMPO recognizes the need for a safety net for municipalities, and will work in partnership with the municipality. This will include working with the YCPC to develop a Transportation Connectivity Study. In return, the municipality is required to have adopted the most recent version of the York County Hazard Mitigation Plan. The municipality is also required to adopt a resolution that commits the municipality to the predetermined percentage of the local match if the bridge is selected for the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) set forth by YAMPO.