



PROGRAM PURPOSE

The Timber for Transit Program is designed to advance the use of domestic forest products in transportation infrastructure projects across Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont to showcase the capabilities of wood in these applications. Highly competitive projects will demonstrate and widely promote the utility of high value forest products (e.g. glued laminated timber, cross laminated timber, composite materials, etc.) in transportation infrastructure and commit to enhancing climate resilience in rural communities.

AVAILABLE FUNDS

The Northern Border Regional Commission may award up to \$25,000,000 over the next three years for projects that demonstrate the capabilities of wood in transportation infrastructure*.

*Transportation Infrastructure as defined for the Timber for Transit program:

Transportation infrastructure shall mean construction, alteration, or repair, for the purpose of transporting people and goods, including fixed installations and rights of way necessary for transporting from one point to another, including infrastructure that improves economic mobility for individuals, and may include roads, railways, airways, waterways, canals and terminals such as airports, railway stations, bus stations, parking, and seaports.

AWARD SIZE

Projects will be classified according to feasibility or implementation categories during the pre-application review process conducted by both NBRC and the member States (New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine). Eligibility for the higher maximum will also be determined during the Pre-application review process. For detailed explanations of the feasibility and implementation categories, please see below, and the 2024 Timber for Transit Program Manual.

The purpose of this funding is to advance the use of wood-based materials and composites (subsequently identified in this document as “advanced wood materials”) through applied research and demonstration projects that showcase the suitability of such materials to transportation and transportation adjacent infrastructure.

Whether funded directly or through partnerships, funds will be awarded to support projects, which may include one (or multiple) of the following:

Feasibility Projects will be awarded a minimum of \$250,000, and a maximum of \$1MM

1. State or regional inventory assessments of the suitability of wood components to address needed transportation infrastructure improvements and/or new construction.
2. Architectural and engineering designs, cost analyses, and permitting necessary for implementation projects as identified below*.

Planning resources: For reference, “Standard Plans for Glued Laminated Timber Bridge Superstructures” developed by the USDA Forest Service are available [here](#). For additional information from the National Center for Wood Transportation Structures, visit woodcenter.org.

Implementation Projects will be awarded a minimum of \$1MM and a maximum of \$5MM.

1. Transportation infrastructure projects which utilize commercialized wood products and advanced wood materials to address climate adaptive transportation improvements
2. Design and construction of pilot and demonstration projects that showcase the capabilities and benefits of utilizing advanced wood materials in transportation infrastructure (these may be a hybrid of wood and traditional materials). For example:
 - Permanent vehicular and pedestrian bridges that are publicly owned or where public access to privately owned land is documented. These could include trail bridges, covered bridges, aqueducts, culverts and wildlife crossings, etc.
 - Revitalization of existing and construction of new railway structures such as rail bridges. Deferred maintenance projects will not be considered under this program.
 - Waterfront transportation structures
3. Transportation-adjacent structures that utilize advanced wood materials. For example:
 - Highway rest stops, ferry terminals, train stations, etc.
 - Transportation infrastructure in support of outdoor recreation and tourism
 - Signage and utility transport infrastructure
 - Highway sound barriers and retaining walls

Feasibility & Implementation: Projects which address both feasibility and implementation as described above will be awarded a minimum of \$1MM and a maximum of \$5MM. NBRC will consider awards up to \$5MM for projects that 1) demonstrate alignment with two or more of the funding priorities of the program 2) project has been identified by NBRC or a State(s) as addressing a time-sensitive issue of magnitude or severity that will be addressed by the proposed project and 3) construction takes place in two or more eligible communities/counties/states. Eligibility for the maximum award amount will be determined in the PREAPPLICATION review process conducted by NBRC and the member states.

2024 AGENCY INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

Preference will be given to proposals that:

- Commit to utilizing domestically sourced timber
- Demonstrate evidence of planning for climate resiliency, including but not limited to carbon capture, increased frequency and intensity of storm events, and sea level rise.
- Utilize projects as a tool for university and industry education and training
- Demonstrates alignment with state and community initiatives.
- Include promotion/publication/marketing as part of their project deliverables
- Support, benefit, or engage communities that are historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by poverty or inequality (pursuant to Executive Order 13985, Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government).

Research. Basic research projects will not be considered. Preference will be given to applied research and demonstration projects with a strong connection to industry.

TYPE OF AWARDS

All awards will be made in the form of Grant Agreements. NBRC does not anticipate having substantial involvement in the work conducted under the award.

MATCH AND COST SHARE

NBRC defines match as the minimum required by law to receive NBRC funds. Cost share is defined as the total of other funds necessary to complete the project. Prospective applicants should refer to the NBRC distress criteria to determine the level of required match for the project.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- State governments of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York
- Local governments and secondary and career technical centers (village, town, city and county);
- Other political subdivisions of States (regional planning commissions, authorities of the state);
- Federally recognized Indian Tribes; § 200.54 Indian tribe. Indian tribe means any Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, including any Alaska Native village or regional or village corporation as defined in or established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. Chapter 33), which is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians (25 U.S.C. 450b(e)). See annually published Bureau of Indian Affairs list of Indian Entities Recognized and Eligible to Receive Services
- Non-profit entities. The term 'nonprofit entity' means any organization described in section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under 501(a) of that Code. The non-profit entity must be able to demonstrate they have federal grant experience related to community and economic development.

INELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Ineligible applicants include for-profit entities, LLCs and other entities that are not a 501(c), 40 U.S.C. §15101(c). Ineligible entities are also those entities normally deemed eligible but, due to prior federal or state funding history have been identified as ineligible for future investments. Additionally, a non-profit identified by a state that does not have a federally recognized 501(c) status is not an eligible applicant.

COMMISSION SERVICE AREA

Only projects within the NBRC's service area are eligible for funding under 40 U.S.C. §15733. For 2024, the NBRC service area is:

- Maine: Androscoggin, Aroostook, Franklin, Hancock, Kennebec, Knox, Oxford, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset, Waldo, and Washington counties.
- New Hampshire: Belknap, Carroll, Cheshire, Coös, Grafton, and Sullivan counties
- New York: Cayuga, Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Genesee, Greene, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Livingston, Madison, Montgomery, Niagara, Oneida, Orleans, Oswego, Rensselaer, St. Lawrence, Saratoga, Schenectady, Seneca, Sullivan, Warren, Washington, Wayne, and Yates counties.
- Vermont: all counties within the State

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

The Timber for Transit Program will run two funding rounds in 2024, with pre-application deadlines on March 22 and September 6, and full application deadlines on May 3 and October 18.

Pre-applications are required for funding consideration. They will be reviewed for eligibility, maximum award amounts based on project classification, and adherence to program priorities. Full

applications will only be accepted from those entities expressly invited to apply and must be submitted using NBRC's online application system.

Interested and invited applicants should refer to the 2024 Timber for Transit Manual for detailed preapplication and application submission instructions. The Program Manual is available on NBRC's website at www.nbrc.gov/content/t4t.

CONTACTS

For those considering applications in 2024, please visit the NBRC Timber for Transit Program website for information on eligibility and project development. Questions related to eligibility and NBRC agency priorities can be directed to NBRC Timber for Transit Program Manager, Marina Bowie, mbowie@nbrc.gov, 603.369.3001

Additional Timber for Transit Program information can be found on NBRC's website www.nbrc.gov

Timber for Transit Program Timeline

Program Milestones and Key Dates

Timeline and Program Overview on Website	by December 22, 2023
Program Manual (additional program related materials)	January 2024
Program Information Sessions (Virtual)	February 2024
Grants Management System (GMS) training	January-February 2024

Spring Round Key Dates*

Preapplications due (Required)	March 15, 2024, by 5:00 pm EST
Online Application system open	by April 15, 2024
Application Information Sessions (Virtual)	April 2024
Spring Round Applications due (By invitation only)	May 3, 2024 by 5:00 pm EST
NBRC Commission Meeting	June 20-21, 2024
NBRC notification of awards & notice to unsuccessful applicants	By June 28, 2024

Fall Round Key Dates

Preapplications due (Required)	September 6, 2024 by 5:00 pm EST
Online Application system open	by September 15, 2024
Application Information Sessions	September 2024
Fall Round Applications due (By invitation only)	October 18, 2024 by 5:00 pm EST
NBRC Commission Meeting (Virtual)	Week of December 2, 2024
NBRC notification of awards & notice to unsuccessful applicants	By December 20, 2024