Road Safety Program 2023/24-2025/26

Frequently Asked Questions

transport.nsw.gov.au   March 2024

Program overview

Q. What is the Road Safety Program 2023/24-2025/26?

The Road Safety Program 2023/24-2025/26, equally funded by the Australian and NSW Governments, aims to create safer roads for people across the state.

The Australian and NSW Governments have committed $540 million to this Program to deliver road safety improvements across NSW. $91.8 million of funding is available to councils.

The Program aims to improve road safety by minimising the occurrence of severe injuries and fatalities, with a focus on vulnerable road users like pedestrians and cyclists. It targets both urban areas and rural high-speed roads, aiming to reduce off-road and head-on collisions.

Q. Who is eligible to apply for Road Safety Program 2023/24-2025/26 funding?

Transport for NSW and all local government areas within NSW can apply for funding under this Program. This includes the unincorporated areas in western NSW as well as the Lord Howe Island Board.

Q. When do applications for the Road Safety Program 2023/24-2025/26 open and close?

Applications for council projects open on Monday 4 March 2024 and close on Friday 10 May 2024. Applications must be submitted through the Safer Roads Portal Management

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System (Safer Roads Portal) by midnight on 10 May 2024.

Applications must be at 'Under Review' status in the Portal by this date to be considered for funding.

Q. What are the criteria for a Road Safety Program 2023/24-2025/26 application?

The Program has four criteria:

- Road safety outcomes
- Evidence of economic benefits
- Construction readiness and risk
- Evidence of road safety risk rating improvements.

Please refer to the Program Guidelines for more information on Program criteria.

Q. How much funding is available for councils?

$91.8 million is available to councils across NSW.

Q. Is there a Regional Outer Metropolitan and Greater Sydney funding split?

Unlike previous Program years, the fixed funding split between rural and urban areas does not apply to the Road Safety Program. Funding will now be prioritised based on demonstrated evidence, project demand, and other needs.

The application process and next steps

Q. Can the closing date for applications be extended?

No. Due to the strict timeframes of the Program, applications must be submitted by midnight on 10 May 2024. If you need help with your nomination, please contact your local Transport team using the contacts provided below.

Q. What are the next steps for applications for the Road Safety Program 2023/24-2025/26 after the application close date?

Transport for NSW will undertake an integrity review of each application. Applications will then be presented at a formal Safe Systems Review Committee (SSRC) where projects will be either endorsed or not endorsed.

Upon completion of the SSRC, Transport will make recommendations to the Australian and NSW Governments on a prioritised list for funding consideration. The Australian Government is the final decision maker for approved projects.

All applicants will receive written advice on the outcome of each application. This advice is expected from July 2024.

During the assessment process applicants may be contacted if there is additional information required. For nominations requiring additional information, applicants will need to prioritise their resubmission within the timeframes provided by Transport.

Q. When will announcements be made on successful applications for the Road Safety Program 2023/24-2025/26?

It is anticipated that successful applications will be announced in mid-2024. Unsuccessful applications will also receive written advice at this time.

Project delivery

Q. What are the delivery timeframes for the Program?

Funded construction activity can commence as soon as projects are approved. All work must be completed by 31 March 2026 and project completion reports submitted by 15 April 2026. It is up to each applicant to manage the delivery schedule to ensure all approved projects are completed and project completion reports are submitted and approved by this date.

The Program funding ends on 30 June 2026. Applicants should plan for circumstances such as COVID-19 outbreak, extreme weather conditions, unexpected delays based on recent experience, and incorporate these risks into the project planning and delivery. If construction cannot be completed during the required timeframe, the Australian Government and NSW Government will use discretion to retain unspent funding associated with the Program.

Q. Why do projects need to be completed by 31 March 2026 when the Program runs to 30 June 2026?

The Australian Government requires Transport to compile and submit the Program Completion Report by 30 April 2026. To meet this deadline, Transport requires all projects to be completed and project completion reports submitted by 15 April 2026.

Q. What happens if a project is completed and is open to traffic, but the project completion report is not submitted by 15 April 2026?

The final milestone payment to councils is dependent on the project being completed and the project completion report with supporting evidence submitted. If the project completion report is not finalised by 15 April 2026, then the final milestone payment will not be issued. There is no extension allowed for this Program.

Q. Given the strict Program timeframes, what happens in the event of a natural disaster (bushfires, flooding etc.) or another unplanned event (i.e. COVID lockdown)?

There will be no time extensions for this Program. The applicant should consider any potential delays when proposing works for approval.

Other funding streams

Q. Can Road Safety Program 2023/24-2025/26 funding be combined with other funding sources?

Co-funding from councils, other government programs or other Transport for NSW programs is acceptable. Information must be provided in the application about all other funding sources for the proposed work. Timing of other funding sources needs to be considered to ensure the project can be completed within the specified timeframe of this Program.

Transport programs require all other funding sources to be committed.### Q. Do councils need to co-contribute?

Co-contributions from councils is encouraged but is not mandatory.

Q. If a council is interested in accessing the Safer School funding and one of the side projects is located on a state road, should this be a separate project handled by Transport, or are we expected to collaborate on a joint proposal?

Contact your local Transport representative for further discussion. This should be a project proposed for development and delivery in association with Transport.

Q. Is the Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Sub-Program funding the same funding stream as Get NSW Active?

No, this is a separate Program with separate funding.

Q. Some projects qualify for both the Get NSW Active Program and the Road Safety Program 2023/24-2025/26. If a council project is funded by both programs, how should the council manage its priorities with multiple projects needing funding?

It is recommended to nominate all council priorities for funding under the Road Safety Program 23/24-2025/26 provided it complies with the guidelines and can be delivered within the nominated timeframes.

All eligible projects will be evaluated and assessed. If a council project is funded through another Program, the council can withdraw the project submission.

Successful projects under the Get NSW Active Program are expected to be announced before the Road Safety Program 2023/24-2025/26. If a project is successful in the Get NSW Active Program, the council would need to withdraw the project from the Road Safety Program 2023/24-2025/26.

Star Rating

Q. What is Star Rating?

Sections of road are rated on a scale of 1 to 5-stars, with 1-star being the least safe and 5-star being the safest. Safe roads with design elements such as dual lane divided carriageways, good line marking and wide lanes have a higher star rating. Lower-rated roads are likely to have single lanes and be undivided with poor line marking and hazards such as trees, poles and steep embankments close to the edge of the road.

The iRAP ViDA demonstrator tool can be used to assess and compare the before and after road and roadside risk rating of a length of road when implementing safety treatments.

All project outcomes must result in a minimum 3-star rating for the main Road Safety Program 2023/24-2025/26.

This is not required for the School Zone Infrastructure Program and Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Program.

Q. Am I required to complete my own Star Rating before making a formal submission?

Yes, applicants are required to complete their own before and after Star Rating to support their application.

A link to the iRAP demonstrator tool can be found here – **Star Rating Demonstrator (irap.org).**

Applicants will need to register to use the tool, which can be accessed through the above link.

Once completed, the information will then need to be uploaded in the 'notes and attachment' section as part of the application in the Safer Roads Portal.

Safer Roads Portal

Q. How do I get access to the Safer Roads Portal?

For access to the Safer Roads Portal please email srp.support@transport.nsw.gov.au with the following details:
- Name
- Council / organisation
- Email address
- Phone number.

Once approved you will be sent a link to the Portal.

Q. I'm having technical difficulties with the Safer Roads Portal. What should I do?

Please take a screenshot of the error you are encountering and send the image with your details to srp.support@transport.nsw.gov.au.

Q. Are applicants able to edit their application?

Applicants can make changes to their application if it is within the nomination period.

If the application has been submitted in the Safer Roads Portal and is in 'Under Review' status and the applicant wishes to make changes whilst the nomination period is still open, the applicant will need to contact srp.support@transport.nsw.gov.au and request the application to be 'Returned to Applicant'.

Once the nomination period has closed, the application will be assessed, and any recommendations will be provided to the applicant. Applicants are then able to make the recommended changes.

No new projects will be accepted after the nomination period closes.

Project parameters

Q. Can councils include the cost of using a specialist consultant to draft applications as part of project applications?

No, funding does not cover the cost for consultants to prepare applications. However, if you need help with your nomination please reach out to your local Transport team using the provided contacts below.

Q. Can I submit more than one application?

Yes, applicants can apply for funding for more than one project. When completing the application in the Safer Roads Portal applicants will be asked to advise if more than one application is being submitted. If the answer is yes, the applicant will then be asked to advise the priority of the project (i.e. priority 1 of 3).

Each project will need to have a separate application in the Safer Roads Portal and will each have a unique project identification (i.e. Project-1234).

Q. Can allocated funds be used for administrative or labour costs associated with the delivery of Program work?

Yes. Grant funding may be used for administration and/or management costs associated with the delivery of projects under the Program. These costs will need to be itemised and built into the project cost estimate.

Q. If I am successful with multiple projects, am I able to transfer the

funding between projects if there is an underspend in one and an overspend in another?

No, each application will be required to submit a P50 and P90 contingency amount in the cost estimate.

Any underspends will need to be returned to the Program.

Further information will be provided to successful applicants.

Q. Is Audio Tactile Line Marking (ATLM) an eligible project on a Regional or Local Road?

Yes, ATLM is eligible for consideration under this Program. Refer to Transport Delineation and Pavement Marking Standard, released October 2023, to ensure proposal complies with technical requirements for ATLM installation.

Q. Would a zebra crossing on a State Highway passing through town be considered eligible?

State Road projects are eligible to be submitted by Transport for NSW. Councils should contact local Transport representatives to nominate a site for consideration.

Q What is the cost cap for a project?

The maximum project value is $10 million. All projects must be completed within the Program's deadlines. These timelines require projects to be open to traffic and fully completed by 31 March 2026 with the Project Completion Report submitted by 15 April 2026.

Q. Are new bus shelters eligible projects?

No, bus shelters are not funded by the Road Safety Program 2023/24-2025/26. The Program may fund safety infrastructure associated with a bus stop, such as a crossing facility to and from a bus stop, and bus pick up and drop off facilities adjacent to schools.

Q. Is property acquisition for the proposed project covered under the funding deed?

Yes, however, applicants should be aware that property acquisition often requires additional time, so they should consider the delivery timeframes accordingly. Transport will need the Council resolution that confirms the purchase price and authority to invoice Transport and should contain the contract of sale and valuation.

All projects must be open to traffic and fully completed by 31 March 2026, with the Project Completion Report submitted by 15 April 2026. There is no extension of time allowed for this Program.

Q. Can High Pedestrian Activity Areas (HPAA) projects be submitted for this Program?

HPAAs are funded through an alternate Transport Program. The development of HPAA's should occur in partnership with your Network Safety / Community Partner representative from Transport.

However, you can apply for the traffic calming infrastructure required for an area through the Road Safety Program 2023/24-2025/26. The speed zone reduction is not part of this Program.

Transport will advise councils of new programs as they become available.

Q. Does the Program allow for the development of projects?

Development only projects are not eligible under this Program.

Q. Is there a limit on how many projects councils can apply for?

There is no limit on the number of applications. Projects must meet criteria set out in the Australian Government Guidelines and NSW Supplementary Guidelines.

Q. Will kerb blisters be accepted as well as kerb extensions?

Yes, these treatments are accepted and can be part of broader Local Area Traffic Management plans that offer calming benefits, especially for vulnerable road users.

Q. Are there Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) or Fatal and Serious Injury (FSI) requirements within this Program?

Projects do not need to meet a minimum BCR or FSI as required through the Australian Government's Blackspot Program.

Q. Can councils seek funding for design and construction in their proposals?

Yes, funding for design can be included if construction is also part of the project and if the entire project is completed within the Program's specified timeframes.

Q. Should councils combine projects into one submission, or provide a separate submission for each project?

This depends on the location and scale of the projects. For example, if the projects are all within one school zone, or along the same stretch of road, then one combined submission is appropriate.

Applicants must discuss and seek agreeance from Transport before grouping a submission.

Q. Should shared pathways be three metres in width or is 2.4 metres acceptable?

The Austroads Guide indicates a local access shared path desirable minimum width at 2.5 metres, and a regional shared path desirable minimum width at three metres. However if there are constraints within the site for a three metre pathway, pathways narrower than three metres can be submitted with supporting evidence.

Further, the width of the path should be determined through usage (proposed or actual) and it is recommended to consult with the Austroads Guide to determine what is the appropriate path width for each site.

Q. Is the installation of traffic signals included as eligible projects within the Program?

Yes, traffic signals could be eligible projects. As part of the application it is recommended that the Agreement In Principle (AIP) from Transport is submitted as supporting evidence.

Please consider the approval process required for installing traffic signals and ensure that the installation aligns with the Program's delivery timeframes.

Variations, reporting and payments

Q. How will payments be made to councils?

Council will receive payments upon completion of project milestones. Council will be required to provide evidence at the completion of each milestone before payments are made.

Further details on milestones and payments will be provided to successful applicants.

Q. What happens if the project requires more funding?

Applicants are required to include a contingency in their cost estimate to ensure there is enough funding to complete the project. If the contingency is exhausted, the applicant can apply for additional funding although there are no guarantees this funding will be provided. Council should not plan to access additional funding when making a submission to the Program.

Q. What is the process for submitting a change to the project if it involves adjustments to cost, scope, schedule, or a combination of these factors?

The applicant will be required to submit a formal request with evidence and justification for the change. Further information will be made available to successful project applicants.

Q. What will the reporting requirements be for this Program and how

often are they required?

At a minimum, monthly reporting is required on all projects as per existing reporting processes.

From time-to-time Transport may request specific or detailed information on a project. It is a requirement for applicants to provide this in a timely and efficient manner when requested to do so.

Further information on reporting requirements will be provided to successful applicants.

More questions?

Please direct your questions to the appropriate email address below.

Request to access Safer Roads Portal	SRP.support@transport.nsw.gov.au
For technical issues with the Portal	SRP.support@transport.nsw.gov.au
For access to the iRAP ViDA Star Rating Demonstrator Tool	Click this link.
Advice on Road Safety Program	nswfederalroadsafety@transport.nsw.gov.au
Project proposal assistance including cost estimation template, star rating and other technical information (Regional)	Contact your Regional Community Partnering Lead
Project proposal assistance including cost estimation template, star rating and other technical information (Greater Sydney)	Sydney.Blackspot.Nominations@transport.nsw.gov.au or your Greater Sydney Road Safety Team contact