

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 638

BY WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO THE STRATEGIC INITIATIVES GRANT PROGRAM; AMENDING SECTION 40-719, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING THE STRATEGIC INITIATIVES GRANT PROGRAM; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. That Section 40-719, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

40-719. STRATEGIC INITIATIVES PROGRAM AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES GRANT PROGRAM. (1) The Idaho transportation department shall establish and maintain a strategic initiatives program. The purpose of the program is to fund transportation projects that are proposed by the department's six (6) districts and local units of government. Proposed projects shall compete for strategic initiative program selection and funding on a statewide basis based on an analysis of their return on investment in the following categories:

- (a) Safety, including the projected reduction of crashes, injuries and fatalities;
- (b) Mobility, including projected traffic-flow improvements for freight and passenger cars;
- (c) Economic opportunity, including the projected cost-benefit ratio for users and businesses;
- (d) The repair and maintenance of bridges;
- (e) The purchase of public rights-of-way; and
- (f) Child pedestrian safety on the state and local system.

(2) (a) There is hereby established in the state treasury the strategic initiatives program fund, to which shall be deposited any appropriated moneys for funding of the strategic initiatives program.

(b) Unless otherwise specified, moneys transferred into the strategic initiatives program fund after May 30, 2017, shall be apportioned as follows:

- (i) Sixty percent (60%) to projects proposed by the Idaho transportation department's six (6) districts; and
- (ii) Forty percent (40%) to local units of government for the purpose of operating a strategic initiatives program administered by the local highway technical assistance council LHTAC established in section 40-2401, Idaho Code.

(c) The strategic initiatives program for local units of government shall be exempt from the requirements contained in subsection (1) (c) of this section.

(3) (a) ~~The Idaho transportation department~~ LHTAC shall establish and maintain a strategic initiatives grant program, which shall be separate

1 from the strategic initiatives program described in subsections (1) and  
2 (2) of this section. The strategic initiatives grant program shall be  
3 for the purpose of assisting local units of government to mitigate the  
4 impact of new alignments on the state highway projects system on local  
5 roads, state highway projects, or for economically significant local  
6 transportation projects that require the funding or technical assis-  
7 tance of ~~the Idaho transportation department~~ LHTAC to facilitate.

8 (b) There is hereby established in the state treasury the strategic  
9 initiatives grant program fund, to which shall be deposited any appro-  
10 priated moneys for funding of the strategic initiatives grant program.

11 (c) Fifty percent (50%) of the funds appropriated to the strategic ini-  
12 tiatives grant program described in this subsection shall be awarded  
13 to large urban areas that have a population greater than fifty thou-  
14 sand (50,000), and fifty percent (50%) of such funds shall be awarded  
15 to rural areas or to small urban areas with a population that is less  
16 than fifty thousand (50,000). ~~For fiscal year 2024 only, the first~~  
17 ~~thirty-six million dollars (\$36,000,000) appropriated to the strategic~~  
18 ~~initiatives grant program shall be used by the Idaho transportation de-~~  
19 ~~partment on local roads to mitigate the impact of adding new connections~~  
20 ~~of state highways to interstate highways. The Idaho transportation~~  
21 ~~department~~ Large urban areas as described in this paragraph shall be  
22 required to match twenty percent (20%) of any funds received pursuant to  
23 the strategic initiatives grant program. Unsuccessful strategic ini-  
24 tiatives grant program applicants shall be required to reapply in order  
25 to be considered for a subsequent grant opportunity. LHTAC shall report  
26 annually to the transportation and defense committee of the house of  
27 representatives and the transportation committee of the senate of the  
28 legislature regarding the strategic initiatives grant program.

29 (4) Interest earned on the investment of idle moneys in the funds estab-  
30 lished pursuant to this section shall be paid to such funds. All moneys in  
31 the strategic initiatives program fund shall be used for funding the strate-  
32 gic initiatives program. All moneys in the strategic initiatives grant pro-  
33 gram fund shall be used for funding the strategic initiatives grant program.  
34 All moneys in the funds established pursuant to this section are hereby con-  
35 tinuously appropriated to ~~the Idaho transportation department~~ LHTAC.

36 SECTION 2. An emergency existing therefor, which emergency is hereby  
37 declared to exist, this act shall be in full force and effect on and after  
38 July 1, 2024.