

Southern Iowa Development and Conservation Authority

— SIDCA —

Member counties include:

Appanoose, Clarke, Davis, Decatur, Jefferson, Lucas, Monroe, Van Buren, Wayne, and Wapello.

The mission of the Authority is to implement projects related to the unique natural resources, rural development, and infrastructure problems of southern Iowa.

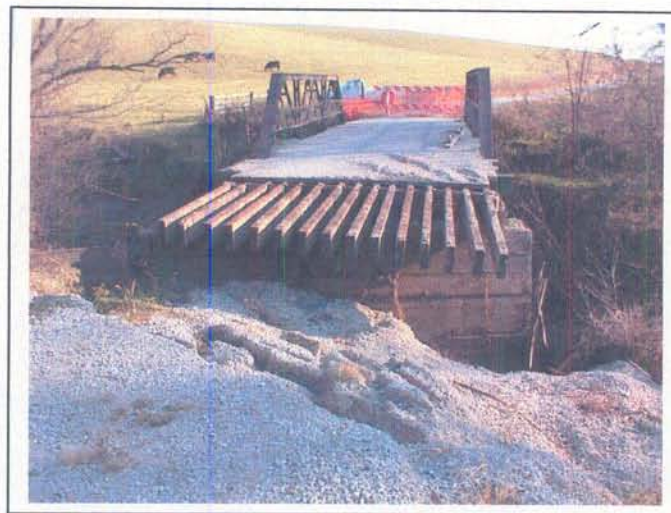
The overall benefits of on-road structures include:

- Helps reduce infrastructure costs for the counties.
- Improves the rural development potential of the area.
- Removes weight limits and width restrictions of bridges for wide loads.
- Provides flood control benefits to county roads and bridges down stream.
- Effective at capturing up to 95% of eroded soil carried in runoff.
- Reduces agricultural chemicals flowing into water resources. Many of the lakes in southern Iowa are water supply water bodies.
- Stabilizes eroding stream banks and control gullies.
- Provides the opportunity to improve rural fire suppression efforts through the installation of dry fire hydrants.
- Provides for livestock watering.
- Provides added fisheries and wildlife benefits.
- Adds recreational and scenic benefits to southern Iowa.



The SIDCA board had obligated all of the \$250,000 FY2002 appropriation prior to learning of a nearly 12% cut in the appropriation in March of 2002. Also, legislative funds were initially allocated to SIDCA for FY2003 appropriations, yet due to state budget cuts, were recalled, therefore, no FY2003 funds were received.

- SIDCA **did not** use any of the funding for administration or related expenses.
- All of the funding has been committed to projects in each of the ten counties.
- To date, numerous projects have been completed.
- All of the funds have been committed toward actual construction of projects.
- This has resulted in the **leveraging of over \$800,000** in federal and local funds against the state appropriation.
- The ten county engineers estimate 55 – 60 structures could be constructed in the next 5-year time period, with available funding.
- SIDCA has already received project applications for FY2003 and FY2004 funds.



In addition to the items listed above, unique features from the FY 2002 project allocations on a county basis include:

Appanoose County – The project will replace a badly deteriorated wooden box culvert and improve traffic safety by providing safer slopes for a greater recovery area for traffic.

Clarke County – This site will benefit from culvert size reduction, as well as better erosion control of the area.

Davis County – In utilizing a structure in place of a bridge, estimated savings for the county is over \$50,000.

Decatur County – This project will involve working with nearby landowners and the local Natural Resources Conservation Service and Soil and Water Conservation District offices, as the structure will assist with new roadway pipe replacement.

Jefferson County – The load limit restrictions will be removed by replacing the old bridge with an on-road structure, estimated savings, \$20,000.



Lucas County – A large project is underway in which the SIDCA funds will help to leverage 75% US Army Corp. of Engineer funds on an estimated \$500,000 project. The project will impound approximately 120 acres of water, be able to open a road that has been closed for 10 years, and also help protect Rathbun Lake, which is a drinking water source lake.

Monroe County – The project will be able to improve roadside safety by using proper clear zone and recoverable fore slopes, as well as greatly improved sight distance at the location.

Van Buren County – The project will replace a bridge with weight restrictions and steep grades on each side with a structure, thus making it more accessible and safer.

Wapello County – Plans to complete numerous smaller structures by cooperating with local landowners, the soil and water conservation district, the county, and other partners, as well as utilizing the SIDCA funds. Two structures have been completed in Wapello County to date.

Wayne County – The project involves cooperation from three different landowners in replacing a bridge with an earthen structure, estimated savings \$50,000.



In addition to the ability to obligate the FY2002 allocation toward structures within the ten county authority area, the Authority, by being created and funded by the state, has become an entity which has been able to attract outside funding sources for other projects, such as:

- Securing \$100,000 of funding for the U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers Recognizance Study of the Lower Des Moines River.

- Sponsoring the U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers Section 206 Project Feasibility Study. This program could feasibly bring 5 million dollars of funding into the Rathbun Lake Watershed for aquatic habitat restoration.

The SIDCA would like to express its deep appreciation for the past funds appropriated.

The current priority of the SIDCA is the accelerated construction of road structures to improve transportation infrastructure and protect water quality in the ten-county region.

The SIDCA would like to request funding for FY2004 in the amount of \$250,000.

One hundred percent of state funds requested will be used to cost share the construction of road structures in the ten-county SIDCA area. Member counties and existing public programs will provide the balance of funds required for the road structures.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the Southern Iowa Development and Conservation Authority request.