

**Ohio Public Works  
District 6 Public Works Integrating Committee  
Project Methodology and Scoring**

**Fiscal Year 2026 (Round 39)  
State Capital Improvement Program  
Local Transportation Improvement Program**

## Evaluation and Point System

The D6PWIC will evaluate each project submitted for funding based on the information supplied by each community in the pre-applications. This evaluation will use criteria based on the requirements of Section 164 of the Ohio Revised Code. Evaluations are conducted in open public meetings as required by the Ohio Revised Code. Field checks of proposed projects may be made by committee members and additional documentation may be required to verify information submitted in the pre-applications. The basic methodology to be used in Round 39 (FY26) may contain revisions in the evaluation rating and criteria system. The committee approves revisions for clarity and objectivity of the rating system. Evaluation considerations that have been developed and refined over the past 38 funding rounds are as follow:

1. a.) Is the applicant the appropriate legal authority for submitting this project?

**Does the Applicant own the project? If the Applicant does not own the infrastructure or will not own it when it is built, they cannot apply for OPWC funding for that project!**

b.) Does the project meet the infrastructure needs of the area? Mahoning and Trumbull County populations have been declining for a few decades. The greatest need is to maintain the existing infrastructure. Most of District 6 projects submitted each year are repair and replace. However, District 6 will accept new/expansion projects to help expand the population and/or tax base. The entire list of submitted projects to District 6 represent the current needs for all communities. ORC - 164.06(B)(1)

c.) Will the project be started on time? Construction cannot start until July 1, 2025 or until a contract is in place with OPWC and MUST start by June 2026. Any project with a start date July 1, 2026 or after will be rejected by the OPWC and must apply in the next funding round (40).

\_\_\_ Yes, on all three - **CONTINUE**

\_\_\_ *No on one or more* - **STOP** – Project does not qualify

## For Sewer/Water Projects Only

**2a.** Does the proposed infrastructure activity improve the general health and welfare of the service area? The Sponsor must confirm with supporting documentation and a Certified Engineering Statement. ORC - 164.06(B)(4)

Critical	Failed infrastructure requiring complete reconstruction or improvements that are mandated by EPA orders in the form of a consent decree or court orders.	10 points
Significant	Infrastructure requiring repair or rehabilitation of majority of components or requiring updates or replacements due to EPA findings or recommendations, or chronic backup or flooding, resulting in structure damage.	5 points
Moderate	Infrastructure requiring increased capacity to meet current needs, improve water quality, or to meet a specific development proposal, flooding resulting in land damage.	3 points
No Impact	Pre-application lacks documentation/statement	0 points

**Points will be awarded for either 2b or 2c. Not both.  
Include supporting documentation for either section.**

**2b.** What are the numbers of homes and/or businesses directly impacted by the health and safety hazard? Must be documented (ex: damage reports, call sheets/work orders).

ORC - 164.06(B)(4)

Homes/Businesses Impacted

1 - 2	2 points
3 - 4	4 points
5 - 6	6 points
7 - 8	8 points
9 or more	10 points

**2c.** In projects that have a service area determined by an engineering study (i.e. sanitary sewer or waterline extensions, wastewater or water treatment plant improvements, stormwater, etc.); what is the number of homes and/or businesses directly impacted?

ORC - 164.06(B)(4)

Homes/Businesses Impacted

0 - 19	2 points
20 - 34	4 points
35 - 49	6 points
50 - 79	8 points
80 or more	10 points

## For Transportation Projects Only

**3a.** Will the project alleviate serious traffic problems or safety hazards? Will it respond to needs caused by rapid growth and/or development? These criteria must be documented with Traffic Studies and/or Certified Engineering Statement. ORC - 164.06(B)(4) ORC - 164.14(E)(1) ORC - 164.14(E)(2)

Critical	Road/bridge reconstruction, including widening and/or geometric improvements as documented by appropriate traffic engineering studies that identify the hazard and recommends the proposed improvement.	10 points
Significant	Road/bridge reconstruction, including widening and/or geometric improvements. Projects include roundabouts and road diets.	5 points
Moderate	Road/bridge improvement that is predominately resurfacing without significant reconstruction, widening, or geometric improvements or a new road that will improve traffic flow and access.	3 points
No Impact		0 points

**3b.** Traffic counts are no longer required by the District 6 Public Works Integrating Committee. However, the point system is still based on traffic count totals. It is up to each community to decide whether to ask for a traffic count or not. Requested traffic counts must be conducted within the project limits. Traffic count requests submitted to Eastgate must be received by June 28, 2024. Roads with no traffic count will receive a default number "249" and 2 points will be awarded.

For projects with more than one road, a weighted average shall be determined using a cost-based method. A worksheet must be included with the pre-application. When developing the weighted average, roads without a traffic count shall use "249" as a default number.

For Round 39 (FY26), traffic counts from 2020 through 2024 are acceptable.

### Existing Traffic

0 - 249	2 points
250 - 499	4 points
500 - 999	6 points
1,000 - 3,999	8 points
4,000 & Over	10 points

## For All Projects

4. What is the condition of the infrastructure? Must be documented

ORC - 164.06(B)(2) ORC - 164.14(E)(9)

Critical	Primary component has failed, and the infrastructure is closed, or inoperable. The infrastructure requires a significant repair/upgrade to return to the intended level of service and meet current design standards. Infrastructure closed for any reason except failure will receive "0" points.	10 points
Poor	Infrastructure has major deficiency with imminent failure, major repairs are required.	8 points
Moderate	Infrastructure contains a major deficiency and will require repair to function and meet current design standards.	5 points
Fair	Infrastructure functions as originally intended but requires minor repairs and/or upgrades to meet current design standards.	3 points
Good	No repair is required, or no supporting documentation was submitted.	0 points

**5. What is the age of the existing infrastructure?**

New/expansion projects will receive 0 points.

If no age is given, projects will receive 0 points.

ORC - 164.06(B)(2)

For road projects - Must be when the last major resurfacing was completed.

15+ years	2 points
10-14 years	1 point
Less than 10 years	0 points

For bridge and culvert projects - Must be when bridge or culvert were built.

50+ years	2 points
31-49 years	1 point
Less than 31 years	0 points

For water, sewer, and stormwater projects - Must be when infrastructure was built.

50+ years	2 points
31-49 years	1 point
Less than 31 years	0 points

**The District 6 committee may adjust points for a project that does not fit these categories.**

**6. What is the project's local share (all funds other than OPWC)?**

ORC - 164.06(B)(6) ORC - 164.14(E)(4) ORC - 164.14(E)(6)

61% and over	15 points
46% to 60%	11 points
31% to 45%	7 points
16% to 30%	3 points
0 to 15%	0 points

**7. Is the OPWC request a loan, loan/grant combination, or credit enhancement?**

Percentages are based on the loan amount divided by the total project cost.

The minimum loan amount is \$50,000.

ORC - 164.06(B)(5)

100% OPWC Loan/Credit Enhancement	10 points
76% to 99% OPWC Loan	6 points
51% to 75% OPWC Loan	4 points
26% to 50% OPWC Loan	2 points
0 to 25% OPWC Loan	0 points

**8. The sponsor community's Median Household Income (MHI) is what percent of the State of Ohio MHI (\$66,990)?** ORC - 164.06(B)(6) ORC - 164.06(B)(8) ORC - 164.14(E)(6)

Below 70%	5 points
70% to 79.9%	4 points
80% to 89.9%	3 points
90% to 99.9%	2 points

**9. What is the community priority of this project?**

#1	20 points
#2	18 points
#3	16 points
#4	14 points
#5	12 points
#6	10 points
#7	7 points
#8	4 points
#9	2 points

**10. What is the OPWC funding (grant and loan) request for the number 1 priority project? (Only the Priority 1 project for each applicant will receive points in this category)** ORC - 164.06(B)(5)

\$1 to \$75,000	15 points
\$75,001 to \$150,000	8 points
\$150,001 to \$225,000	4 points



**11.** Is the project a joint project between two or more communities that are within the legal boundaries of the District 6 Public Works Integrating Committee? Both communities must have a financial commitment in the local share and this commitment must be documented through a legally binding agreement between both communities that shall be submitted with the lead agency's pre-application.  
 ORC - 164.14(E)(7)

Local cost share between communities

50% / 50%	5 points
60% / 40%	4 points
70% / 30%	3 points
80% / 20%	2 points
90% / 10%	1 point

**12.** What is the status for the planning and readiness of the project?  
 ORC - 164.06(B)(9) ORC - 164.14(E)(5)

Part I – Status of Plans – This uses the Small Government Commission’s Engineer’s Plan Status Certification. (Maximum 2 points)

Plans not yet begun	0 points
Surveying through preliminary design completed (Items A-C)	1 point
Surveying through final construction plans, secured permits, and right-of-way as appropriate (Items A-I)	2 points

Part II – Status of Funding Sources – This uses source documentation including CFO certifications and loan letters. (Maximum 2 points)

All funds not yet committed	0 points
Applications submitted to funding entities	1 point
All funding committed	2 points

**The District 6 Public Works Integrating Committee will review projects that are not in contract within a year or not completed within two years of the project agreement to determine if the committee will recommend termination by OPWC.**

**13. Will the project generate revenue in the form of user fees or assessments?**  
ORC - 164.06(B)(3)

No new user fees or assessments	1 point
New user fees or assessments	0 points

**14. Does the project have other funding besides local or OPWC dollars?**  
Federal, state, private funding.  
ORC - 164.06(B)(7)

66% or more	1 point
Less than 66%	0 points

**15. Other factors of regional importance**  
ORC - 164.06(B)(10) ORC - 164.14(E)(2) ORC - 164.14(E)(3) ORC - 164.14(E)(10)

The District 6 Public Works Integrating Committee members, exercising their independent judgment, will utilize this category to determine:

- compliance/consistency with OPWC guidelines
- compliance/consistency with regional plans, policies and/or objectives
- development and maintenance of District's infrastructure
- creation of significant and specific economic development
- other factors deemed necessary by committee members

Factors of Regional Importance 0 to 25 points

### **Tie Breaker**

If there is a tie score on more than one project, the following factors determine the funding order.

1. Smallest OPWC funding request
2. Highest percentage of local funding
3. Lowest median household income
4. Regional significance points (highest to lowest)

## Contingency Projects

The Ohio Public Works Commission requires districts to submit a priority listing of projects recommended for funding that is a minimum of 105% of the district's allocation. The District 6 slate of projects for Round 29 (FY26) will be submitted in January 2025. At this time, projects approved for funding by the District 6 committee but not funded with the District allocation and funding balances are placed on the contingency list. If those projects are not funded by July 1<sup>st</sup> of that year, they are terminated for that round. The projects can be resubmitted for the next round of funding. Also giving the applicant, a chance to adjust the project for additional points.