

STATE SUMMARY OF COUNTY TRANSPORTATION FUNDING AND FINANCE

NEW JERSEY COUNTIES

FUNDING SOURCES FOR COUNTY TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

From State Funding:

- County Aid funds from the Transportation Trust Fund are appropriated by the state legislature annually for public road and bridge improvements as well as public transportation. The minimum allotment for each county is \$300,000. Each county must submit an Annual Transportation Program that lists all of the eligible projects for funding with a brief description and an estimate of the construction costs.

From Federal Funding:

- There are no fixed federal allotments for county use. Federal funding to counties varies considerably across New Jersey with most money going to the urban areas.

From County Funding:

- Each county has its own 6 year capital plan.
- Counties have no authority to levy property taxes, sales and use taxes, franchise taxes, excise taxes, license taxes, or other miscellaneous taxes by themselves. Each year, the governing body of a county must produce a budget including the projected amount of revenues needed to fulfill the county's obligations. The county board of taxation then collects the budgets of all local governments within the county, certifies all the local taxes to be levied, and apportions the proper amount of revenues to each local government. In general circumstances, a county may only increase its cap on revenues with approval from the state Local Finance Board or from a 60 percent majority of qualified voters in an election.

COUNTIES FACE THE FOLLOWING CHALLENGES IN FUNDING AND FINANCING TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

- Counties face a significant budget shortfall for transportation funding. County governments have an annual need of \$86 million for resurfacing, \$277 million for bridges, \$84 million for construction and reconstruction, and \$67 million for design and contract administration for a total need of \$514 million per year. The current Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) allocates \$175 million per year as Local Aid with \$78.75 million each for counties and municipalities, now \$7.5 million in discretionary funding, and an additional \$25 million for county bridges leaving county governments responsible for financing at least \$403 million of its total need through the collection of local property taxes.

Share of County Owned Road Miles Out of Public Roads Statewide	17%
Share of County Owned Bridges Out of Public Bridges Statewide	40%
Share of Structurally Deficient Bridges Out of County Owned Bridges	11%

COUNTY FINANCIAL AUTHORITY

	County Authority	Limitations
Levy Property Taxes		
Levy Personal Property Taxes		
Levy Local Option Sales Taxes		
Levy a Local Gas Tax		
Charge a Motor Vehicle License or Registration Fee		
Form Special Districts for Transportation		

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BREAKDOWN OF COUNTY TRANSPORTATION FUNDING¹

County Share	80%
State Share	15%
Federal Share	5%

¹ This is an estimate based on information provided by Ocean County Engineer, N.J. Shares may vary by county.