

Trump Taps Federal Money for Roads and Street Lights

The Trump administration is shifting how federal infrastructure money is being spent. Instead of spreading funds across a mix of projects such as public transit, bike lanes, and climate-friendly upgrades, most of the dollars are now being directed to more traditional work like fixing roads and adding new streetlights. According to recent reports, about 77% of federal BUILD grant money is going to roadway projects this year, and much less is being set aside for buses, rail, or safer bike and pedestrian improvements. For cities and towns, this means more opportunities to get help paying for street repairs, resurfacing, and lighting upgrades. This new focus on spending could save municipalities money on the basic projects that local taxes often struggle to cover. But there are trade-offs. Communities that were hoping to fund public transit expansions or "green" infrastructure, like energy-efficient transit systems or safer walking routes, may find it harder to secure federal help.

Cities and towns that want federal help for projects like road repairs, streetlights, or safety upgrades can apply through programs such as BUILD or Safe Streets and Roads for All. The process starts by checking if your community is eligible, then keeping an eye on Grants.gov or the U.S. Department of Transportation's website for new funding announcements. Applicants are asked for a project description, budget, and details on how the proposed project will benefit the community, along with support letters. Municipalities need to register on Grants.gov before applying, and once submitted, projects are reviewed, and winners are announced a few months later. For local governments, if your project involves repaving streets, fixing intersections, or upgrading streetlights, now might be the time to apply. If your municipality is focused on buses, bikes, or climate resilience, federal support could be a tougher sell under the current rules.

RECENT CMA CLIENT SALE RESULTS

<u>Issuer (Rating)</u>	<u>Issue Type</u>	<u>Par Amount</u>	<u>Sale Date</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Purchaser</u>
Massapequa UFSD (Aa1)	Bonds	\$ 14,250,000	28 – Aug	16 yrs.	3.50%	FHN Financial Capital Markets
Garden City UFSD (Aaa)	Bonds	16,595,000	20 – Aug	16 yrs.	3.44%	Raymond James & Assoc., Inc.
Sachem CSD (AA)	Ref. Bonds	34,035,000	19 – Aug	4 yrs.	2.21%	Cabrera Capital Markets, Inc.
Manhasset UFSD (MIG 1/Aa1)	BAN	31,751,484	14 – Aug	1 yr.	2.57%	J.P. Morgan Securities LLC
Albany County CRC (A+)	Rev. Bonds	38,705,000	Negot.	32 yrs.	4.99%	KeyBanc Capital Markets
Haldane CSD (Aa3)	BAN	765,380	12 – Aug	1 yr.	3.48%	Roosevelt & Cross, Inc.
Middletown City (MIG 1/A1)	BAN	19,808,343	7 – Aug	1 yr.	2.66%	Jefferies LLC
Tonawanda Town (MIG 1/Aa2)	BAN	54,792,230	6 – Aug	1 yr.	2.56%	J.P. Morgan Securities LLC
Orchard Park Town (MIG 1/Aa1)	BAN	11,139,000	5 – Aug	1 yr.	2.74%	BNY Mellon Capital Markets

GENERAL OBLIGATION TAX-EXEMPT INTEREST RATES

September 2, 2025						1 Month Ago - August 1, 2025					1 Year Ago - September 3, 2024				
<u>Term</u>	<u>Aaa</u>	<u>Aa</u>	<u>Insured</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>Baa</u>	<u>Aaa</u>	<u>Aa</u>	<u>Insured</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>Baa</u>	<u>Aaa</u>	<u>Aa</u>	<u>Insured</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>Baa</u>
1 yr.	2.19%	2.30%	2.22%	2.28%	2.66%	2.32%	2.43%	2.35%	2.41%	2.79%	2.53%	2.57%	2.65%	2.63%	3.00%
5	2.38	2.54	2.42	2.58	2.97	2.46	2.62	2.50	2.66	3.05	2.42	2.47	2.59	2.60	3.01
10	3.23	3.48	3.34	3.58	4.06	3.25	3.50	3.36	3.60	4.08	2.71	2.81	2.99	3.05	3.54
20	4.40	4.76	4.61	4.84	5.28	4.38	4.74	4.59	4.82	5.26	3.32	3.52	3.71	3.75	4.20
30	4.62	4.99	4.84	5.07	5.52	4.60	4.97	4.82	5.05	5.50	3.60	3.81	4.00	4.04	4.50

September 30th Deadline for School Districts to File SA-139s for Building Aid

The Form SA-139 is a critical submission required by the New York State Education Department ("SED") that is due by Tuesday, September 30, 2025, to guarantee the project to be aided will be included in the November 2025 frozen data file. This form should be completed for each project when the general construction contract has been signed. This guarantees that the project will generate 2026-27 Building Aid for the district. SED uses these forms for the Governor's Budget for the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year. Once the SA-139 has been filed, key timing for building aid receipt will be determined by the later of 18 months from the date of Commissioner Approval ("CAD+18") or filing of a final cost report ("FCR") or early aid start request form ("EASRF"). If the later of CAD+18 or FCR/EASRF occurs by December 31, 2026, a district will receive a full year building aid payment in the 2026-27 fiscal year.

Please reach out to your financial advisor at CMA to begin developing comprehensive capital financing plans to enable your district to stay on track with the multitude of State aid forms required to ensure timely receipt of the maximum amount of building aid. The Form SA-139 can be found using this link: https://stateaid.nysed.gov/publications/pdf_docs/sa139_fi_2526.pdf. The completed form should be emailed to: buildingforms@nysed.gov

Interest Rate Chart

