

Grant Funding Available to Support Safe Travel on Roadways

On [February 2, 2026](#) By [KYDEP](#)

Application deadline is April 1, 2026

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Feb. 2, 2026) – Today, Team Kentucky announced that funding is now available to support Kentucky communities hoping to improve local roadways while also supporting the environment. Grant applications are being sought for projects that use rubber-modified asphalt – which incorporates rubber from finely ground waste tires – in order to pave roads and improve roadway performance. Applications must be received by April 1, 2026.

The program encourages the use of recycled tire rubber into traditional asphalt mixtures, a process that has been proven to enhance durability, reduce roadway noise and extend pavement life, while diverting waste tires from landfills.

Counties and metro-governments are encouraged to apply. Eligible projects may include chip seal or thin asphalt overlay projects. Chip seal is a pavement surface treatment that combines one or more layers of liquid asphalt with one or more layers of fine aggregate. Asphalt overlay consists of a new layer of asphalt applied over an existing road surface.

“Rubber-modified asphalt (RMA) is an effective way to recycle resources we already have while increasing the durability and performance of roadways,” said Brian Osterman, director of the Kentucky Division of Waste Management, which has administered the program since 2016.

Money for the projects comes from the Kentucky Waste Tire Trust Fund, which receives \$2 from every new tire sold in the commonwealth. In addition to promoting the development of markets for recycled waste tires, the fund also pays for waste tire collection events, tire dumpsite clean-ups and grants for counties to manage waste tires. Nearly four million waste tires are generated each year in Kentucky.

The Energy and Environment Cabinet performs testing and long-term monitoring to assess the effectiveness of rubber-modified asphalt. As a condition of the grant funding, counties agree to pay for the application on a road in their county with similar characteristics to allow for comparison between conventional and rubber-modified asphalt.

For more information, contact Jon Durbin at 502-782-6863 or Jon.Durbin@ky.gov. Additional information and the grant application are online at <https://eec.ky.gov/rla>. Applications must be received by April 1, 2026, via email to Jon.Durbin@ky.gov