

## Written Questions Received and Responses

### **DER Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance Grant: FY24**

**RFR ID: DER 2023-01**

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Question:

The RFR says that the grant application deadline is March 31, but the application website says a different date. Which is correct?

Answer:

Thank you for bringing this to our attention. The grant application deadline is March 31, 2023 at 3pm, and the website has been updated to reflect this.

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Question:

Given the grant requirements and deliverables, is there a requirement to hire consultants and/or have a planner on staff for this grant?

Answer:

No, there is not a requirement to hire consultants or have a planner on staff. Applicants may decide whether to subcontract work under this grant or conduct work themselves based on staff capacity, technical expertise needed, scope of work requested, and/or budgetary needs. We anticipate budgets will correlate with the scope of work requested and account for consultant or personnel time needed.

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Question:

Does the grant come with the same conditions and requirements as before or have they changed?

Answer:

Many conditions and requirements are similar to previous years, however applicants should review the Request for Response for changes and updates from previous grant cycles. Section 2: Performance and Contract Specifications describes conditions all grants will need to be compliant with. Individual grants will have unique deliverables and requirements based on the scope of work that is proposed to be funded, and work previously completed or underway related to the project. If the applicant feels that

some required work is not applicable, or has previously been completed, this should be described in the application.

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Question:

Would the Commonwealth provide resources where the applicant would not have to perform all the conditions?

Answer:

All grant conditions as described in the RFR are required. Applicants should review the Request for Response for all required conditions as part of this grant as described in the previous question (especially Section 2: Performance and Contract Specifications).

DER provides technical assistance and resources to all interested municipalities and grantees on projects to replace undersized or unsafe culverts. Resources on our website include a bid request template for field data collection work, instructions for identifying ecological restoration potential for road stream crossings (also Appendix C in the RFR), and a copy of the Massachusetts Stream Crossing Standards. We encourage all applicants to review the resources provided here: <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/culvert-replacement-municipal-assistance-grant-program#downloads>

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Question:

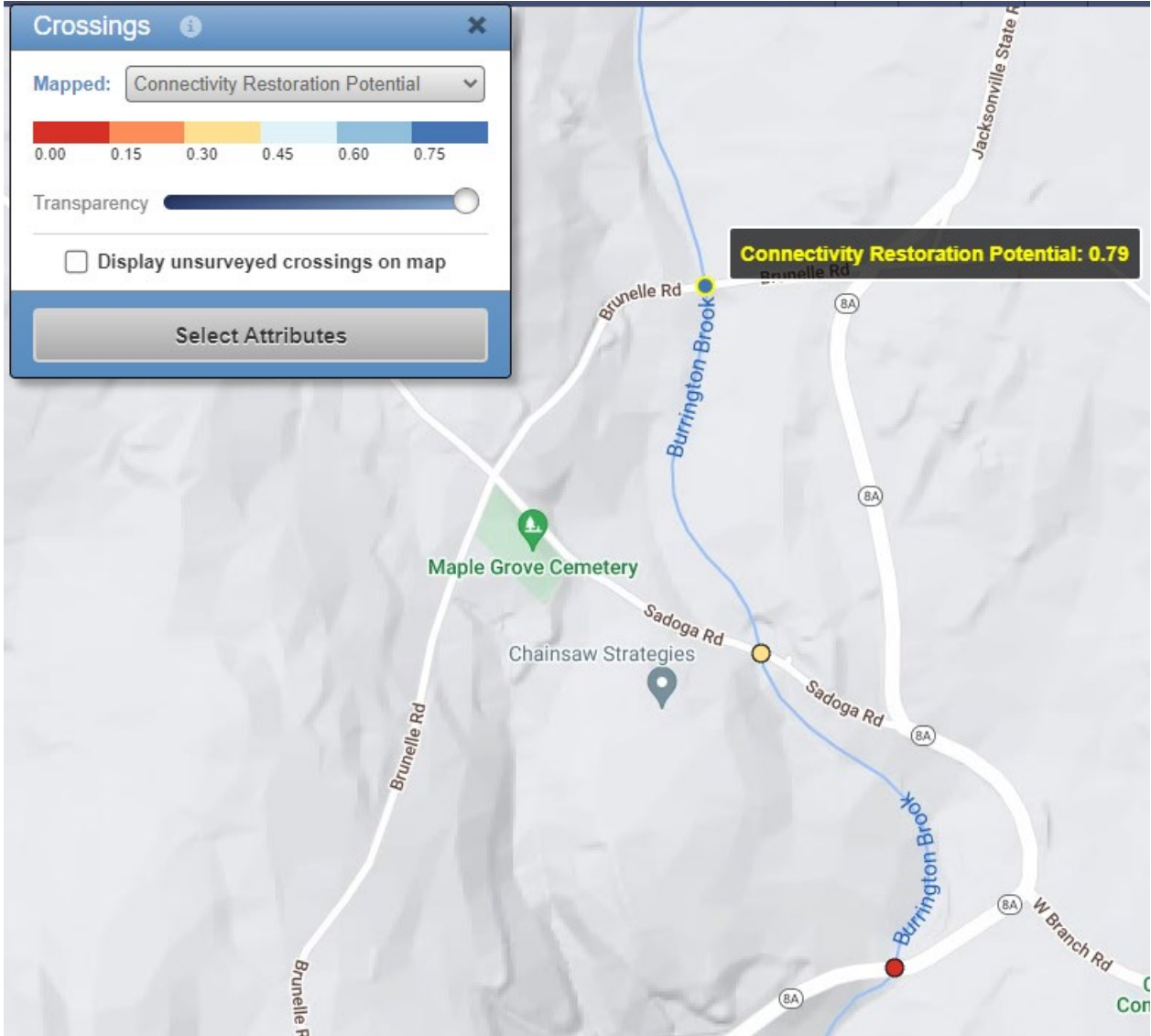
Using the Stream Crossing Explorer's Connectivity Restoration Potential attribute, are the culverts shown in DARK BLUE the ones that have the highest restoration potential?

Answer:

Appendix C of the RFR is a great resource for using the Stream Crossing Explorer and other resources to identify the restoration potential and other environmental value of upgrading road stream crossings when used with other information available about the crossings. For this question:

- When using the Stream Crossing Explorer and viewing the "Connectivity Restoration Potential," "Connectivity Loss", or "Impassibility Score" attributes, yes - a higher number (e.g. 0.99) indicates a greater restoration potential for replacing the road stream crossing, and/or that the crossing is currently acting as a higher barrier to aquatic/terrestrial organism passage. A lower number (e.g. 0.01) indicates a lower restoration potential for replacing the road stream crossing, and/or that the crossing is a currently acting as a lower barrier to aquatic/terrestrial organism passage.
- However, be aware when using the "AOP Classification" attribute, the scale is reversed. For instance a crossing classified as "Full" in this attribute would indicate a crossing that creates

little or no barrier to aquatic organism passage, while a crossing who's AOP classification is listed as "None" indicates the crossing currently provides little or no aquatic organism passage.



Here the Stream Crossing Explorer's "Connectivity Restoration Potential" attribute indicates that the crossing on Brunelle Rd. has a higher restoration potential and greater potential aquatic organism passage benefits if the crossing is replaced compared to the two other two crossings shown on Sadoga Rd. and Route 8A.

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Question:

If I have applied for this grant in a previous year or participated in the pre-RFR period this year, do I need to apply again?

Answer:

Yes, you will need to apply for consideration in the current funding round. This is an annual grant and applications must be submitted each year that an applicant wishes to be considered for funding. The pre-RFR period each year is an optional process that is helpful to discuss project ideas, but applicants must apply via the Request for Response to be considered for funding. Participation in the pre-RFR period is not required to submit an application for consideration.

It is helpful to also provide any updates to the project from previous years including new work completed, changes to the site, or changes to the proposed scope of work or budget in your application.

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Question:

Are consultants allowed to complete the online application on behalf of an applicant? Does an applicant need authorization for its consultant to complete the online application?

Answer:

The final submission should be completed by an individual designated and qualified to submit the application on behalf of the Lead Applicant Organization. This is the person who will complete the *“Electronic Signature Agreement”* at the end of the online application form. We encourage coordination between all organizations involved with the project proposal, and the provided *“Reference Copy”* of the online application can be used to view all application questions in a PDF form, and is intended to assist with this coordination.

Please keep in mind that only one application per eligible applicant organization will be considered, and if the proposal is a *“Joint Application”* between two or more eligible applicant organizations, an *“Owner or Joint Applicant Endorsement Letter”* from the other co-applicant(s) will be required.