



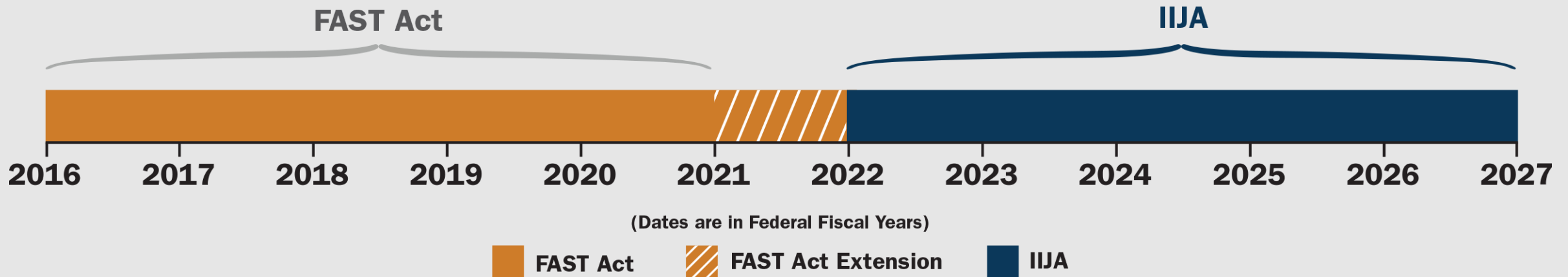
# Working with Local Partners on Federal Discretionary Grants

**Robin Ayers**  
**Senior Federal Affairs Liaison**



## Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

- IIJA, the most recent 5-year federal highway reauthorization act (Fiscal Years 2022 through 2026), was passed by Congress in November 2021.
- Formula funds in FY 2022-2026 increased approximately \$1 billion each year than the funding in last year of previous highway authorization, Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act.
  - While a 21% increase in federal formula funding from FY 2021 to FY 2022, IIJA represents approximately a 6% increase in TxDOT's annual budget.



# 5-Year IJA Estimated Program Allocations (\$ millions)



 <b>Highway Funding</b>		 <b>Transit</b>		 <b>Aviation</b>		 <b>Ferry Service</b>	
National Highway Performance Program	\$14,783.30	Public Transit	\$450.10	General Aviation Airports	\$173.00	Construction (boats, terminals)	\$35.48
Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program after Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside Program	\$6,472.70						
Highway Safety Improvement Program	\$1,572.30						
Rail-Highway Grade Crossings	\$104.10						
Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality	\$989.60						
Transportation Alternatives	\$719.20						
Metropolitan Planning	\$178.10						
National Highway Freight Program	\$704.00						
<b>Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)</b>	<b>\$641.30</b>						
<b>Pre-disaster Mitigation Resiliency (PROTECT)</b>	<b>\$729.20</b>						
<b>EV/Alt. Fuel Charging Corridors</b>	<b>\$407.80</b>						
<b>Bridge Rehab/Replace</b>	<b>\$537.20</b>						
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$27,838.80</b>						





# Federal Discretionary Grants and Eligible Entities



Grant Programs	State	MPO	Local	Tribe	PA*
Rebuilding American Infrastructure Sustainably & Equitably (RAISE) Grants	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Port Infrastructure Development Program Grants	✓		✓		✓
Bus & Bus Facilities Competitive Grants	✓		✓	✓	✓
National Infrastructure Project Assistance (also known as “Megaprojects” or MEGA)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grants	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program	✓		✓	✓	
Safe Streets & Roads for All Program		✓	✓	✓	
Bridge Investment Program (discretionary)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Railroad Crossing Elimination Grants	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Charging & Fueling Infrastructure Grants	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Advanced Transportation Technologies & Innovative Mobility Deployment	✓	✓	✓		✓
Consolidated Rail Infrastructure & Safety Improvements Grant Program	✓		✓	✓	✓
Strengthening Mobility & Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grants	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
National Culvert Removal, Replacement, & Restoration Grant	✓		✓	✓	
Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost Saving Transportation Grant	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Congestion Relief Program	✓	✓	✓		



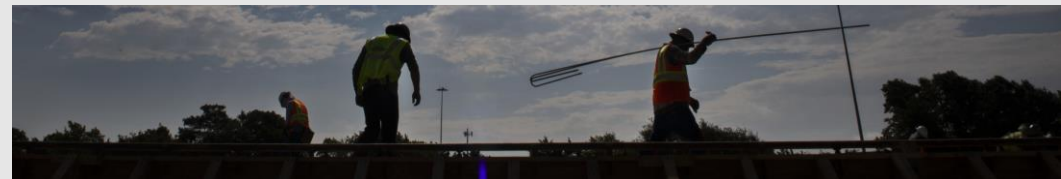
This table includes grant programs in the IJA and eligible entities. It is not an exhaustive list of programs or entities.

\*"PA" means a special purpose district or public authority with a transportation function.

# TxDOT APPLICATIONS, AWARDS- IJA 2022-2023



TxDOT GRANT AWARDS		\$
	RAISE	\$25M
	SMART	\$1.9M
	Bridge Investment Program	\$14M
	Rail Crossing Elimination	\$36.7M
	Low or No Emission Bus	\$7.4M
LOCAL GRANT AWARDS IN TEXAS		
	Airport Terminal Program	\$138M
	Contract Tower Program	\$4.21M
	Safe Streets and Roads for All	\$72.7M
	Bridge Planning Grant	\$800,000
	Buses/Bus Facility	\$29.7M
	Low or No Emission Bus	\$244.3M
	Port Infrastructure Development	\$39.9M
	Transit-Oriented Development	\$1.3M
	INFRA/MEGA/RURAL	\$25M
	RAISE	\$137M
	SMART	\$2M
	Rail Crossing Elimination	\$50.2M



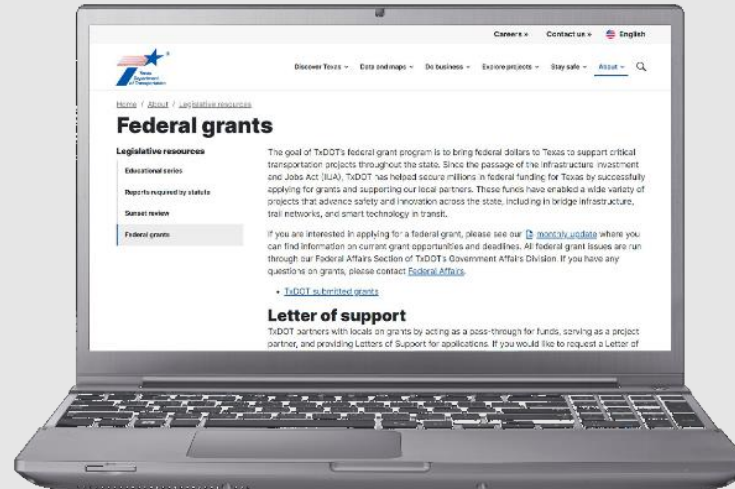


**84**  
Letters  
of support



**20**  
Grant  
Opportunities

- TxDOT has developed a Website dedicated to Federal Discretionary grants (<https://www.txdot.gov/about/legislative-resources/federal-grants.html>)



The page includes a monthly one-pager on current open grant opportunities. This document is widely distributed to local governments.

Also, the page includes a link to request a letter of support from TxDOT for each grant opportunity.

# Questions?



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*Department of Transportation*

# Overview of DOT Funding and Resources

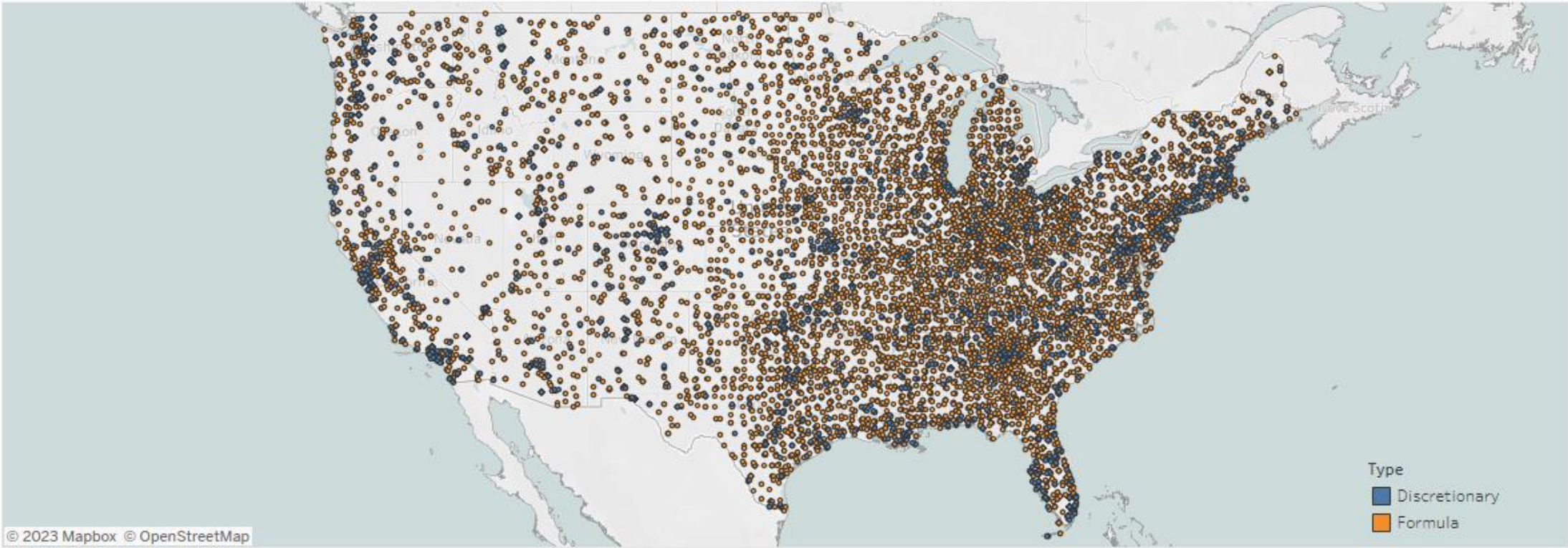
October 2023



U.S. Department  
of Transportation



# DOT BIL Investments (Discretionary and Formula)



ALASKA



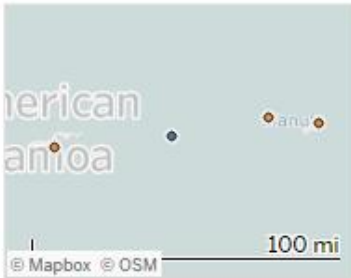
HAWAII



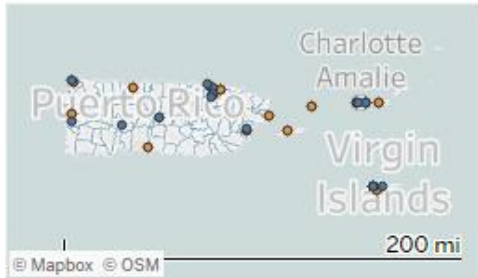
MARIANA ISLANDS & GUAM



AMERICAN SAMOA



PUERTO RICO & U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS



# DOT Strategic Goals and Administration Priorities



- Safety
- Equity & Reducing Barriers to Opportunity
- Climate and Resiliency
- Good Paying Jobs
- Lowering Housing and Transportation Costs and Expanding the Housing Supply and Affordable Transportation Options

# USDOT releases Equitable Transportation Community (ETC) Explorer with a transportation-specific lens for disadvantage

**OVERVIEW:** USDOT creates the first-of-its-kind transportation-specific tool, harnessing the latest census tract data across federally available data sources to provide users a centralized, easy-to-use platform that creates visibility into drivers of transportation disadvantage.

## KEY FEATURES & DATA



### Transportation-specific disadvantage index

Incorporates **40+ data elements** across **5 categories of disadvantage**: Transportation Insecurity, Health Vulnerability, Climate/Hazard Risk Component, Environmental Burden, Socioeconomic Vulnerability



### Transportation Insecurity & Access Tool (TIAT)\*

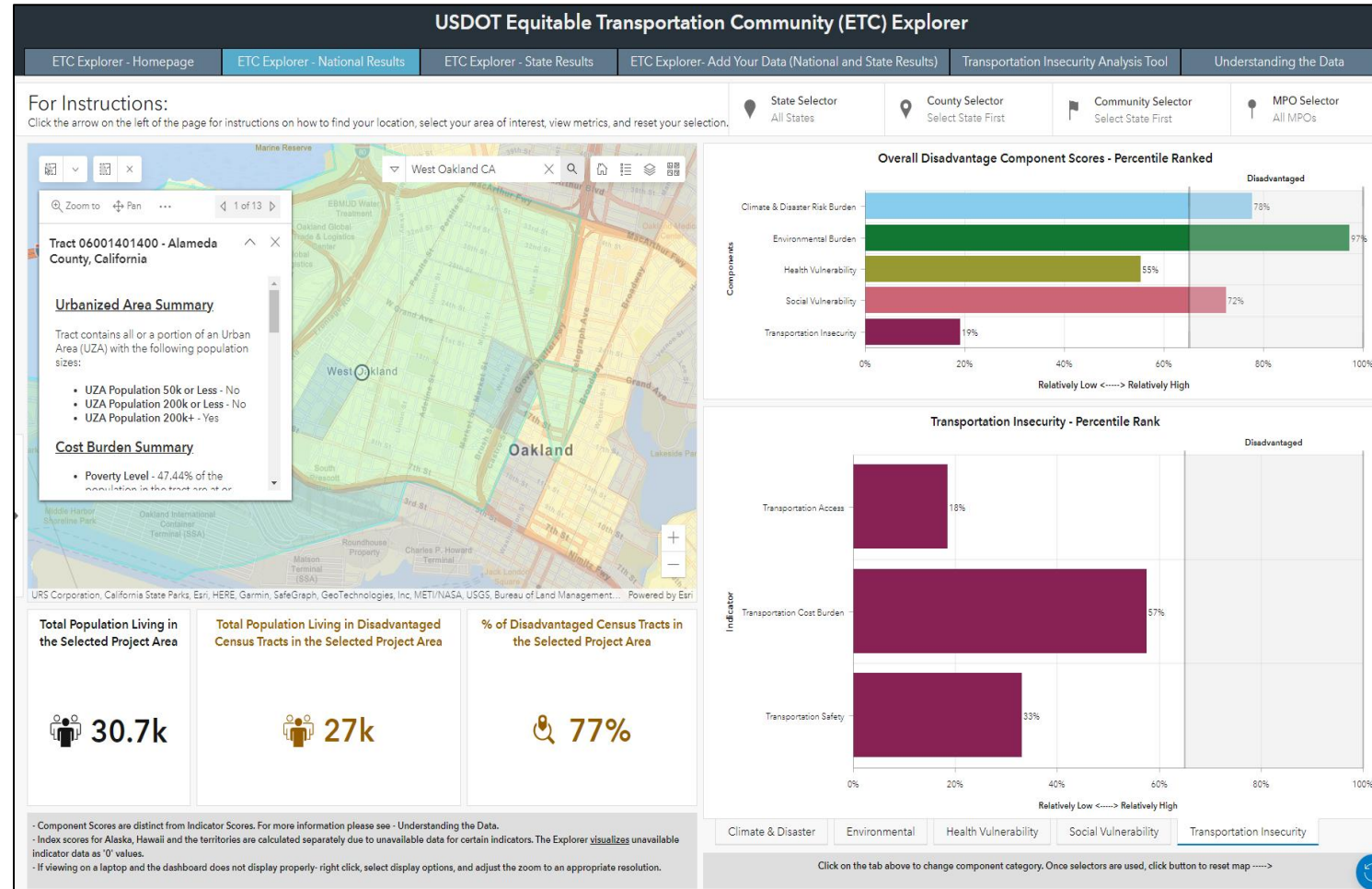
Visually displays the raw data for a select group of indicators related to **cost, access, and safety** at the state or national level, that reflect transportation insecurity.



### Latest Census Tracts

Incorporates 2020 U.S. Census Tracts and data from sources including NOAA, USDOT, FEMA, EPA, Census Bureau, BIA, MRLC, DHS, CDC, DOI, and Esri.

\*This is a tab within the ETC Explorer



## CORE USERS

### USDOT

Support agency-wide priorities and metrics for covered program impacts, distributional equity, and overall effectiveness

### Applicants

Support program scope and application development based on transportation disadvantage insights about communities

### State Planners/MPOs

Understand localized impacts within immediate region to support funding decisions and provide visibility into community impact.



# Types of DOT Funding Programs

## Discretionary Grant Funding Programs (\$196B)

USDOT administers competitive discretionary grant programs through its operating administrations (OAs) and OST. Each program office solicits applications and selects projects based on program eligibility, evaluation criteria, and Departmental or program priorities.

## Formula Grant Funding Programs (\$446B)

Congress sets formulas for USDOT to apportion formula grant program funding. USDOT distributes these funds to States, territories, Federally-recognized tribal recipients, and transit agencies. The funds may be further distributed to localities at the State, tribal or agency discretion.

## Loan Financing Programs (\$100B)

Credit assistance programs leverage Federal funds to attract private and other non-Federal co-investment for transportation projects. This can take the form of secured (direct) loans, loan guarantees, and lines of credit. The Build America Bureau manages USDOT's financing programs. The FHWA Center for Innovative Finance Support also houses helpful resources related to USDOT's financing options.

## Public-Private Partnerships (P3s)

P3s involve collaboration between one or more government agencies and private sector companies to leverage public and private resources to develop and execute a project. This model allows for greater private participation in project delivery and can bring creativity, efficiency, and innovative solutions to address complex transportation issues.



# Discretionary Grants Process

## Pre-Award

Funding opportunity  
announcement

Applicant solicitation

Application  
submission

## Award

Application evaluation

Award decisions

Grant recipient  
notifications

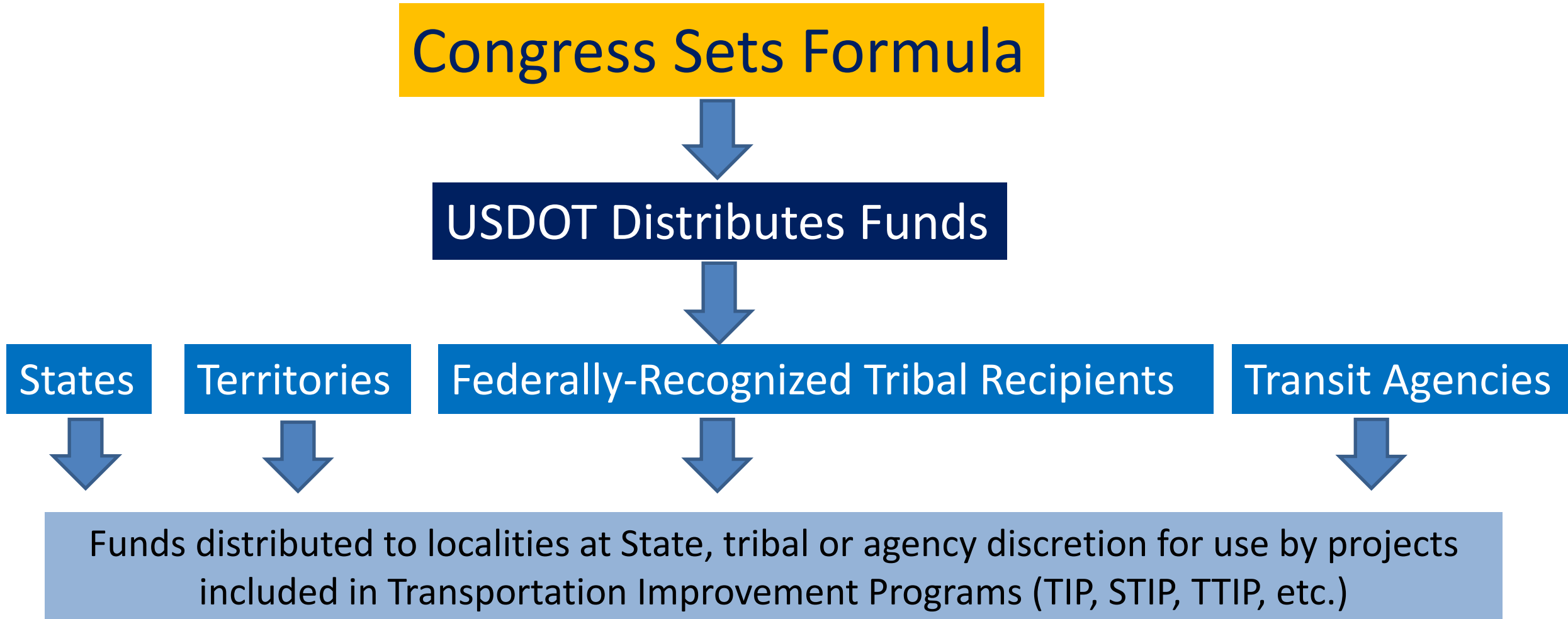
## Post-Award

Project execution

Monitoring

Closeout

# Formula Grants Process



## LENDING CAPACITY



~\$70 billion

TIFIA



~\$30 billion

RRIF

### TIFIA 49

DOT used its existing authority to implement changes to TIFIA that allows certain projects that advance climate goals, including joint development projects with housing components, to **borrow up to 49% of eligible project costs.**

### TIFIA

#### Transportation Infrastructure Finance & Innovation Act

- Surface transportation and public infrastructure
- Finance up to 33%\* of eligible project costs

#### Key Loan Features

- Long-term repayment period
  - **Up to 35 years\***
  - Can be deferred for five years following substantial completion
  - No pre-payment penalty
- Highly customizable to meet borrower needs
- Also offer loan guarantees and lines of credit

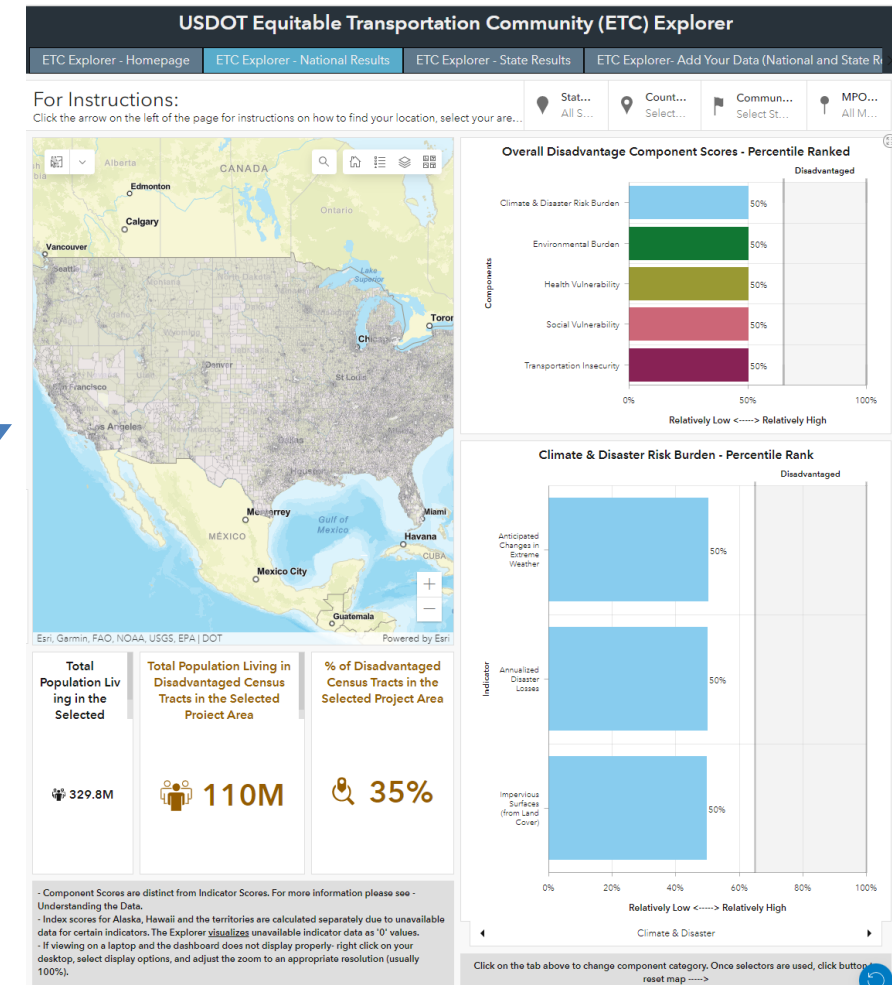
### RRIF

#### Railroad Rehabilitation & Improvement Financing

- Passenger rail, freight rail, commuter rail, and transit-oriented development (TOD)
- Finance up to 100%\* of eligible project costs

# What Makes a Good Application?

- READ THE NOFO
- Read other NOFOs
- Technical capacity and partnerships
- Clear financial plan to deliver the project
- Narrative and data (ETC can help with this!)
- Webinars/DOT resources
- Stakeholder support
- Congressional support
- **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO SUBMIT!!**





# Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Opportunity (MPDG)



- **Mega:** \$1.8 billion of FY 2023 and FY 2024 funding for the National Infrastructure Project Assistance grants program, known as the “Mega” grants program.
- **INFRA:** Approximately \$3.1 billion in FY 2023 and FY 2024 funding to be made available for the Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highways Projects grants program, known as “INFRA.”
- **Rural:** \$650 million in FY 2023 and FY 2024 funding for the Rural Surface Transportation Grant program, known as “Rural.”
- **Selection Criteria:**
  - **Project Outcomes:** Safety; State of Good Repair; Economic Impacts, Freight Movement, and Job Creation; Climate Change, Resiliency, and the Environment; Equity, Multimodal Options, and Quality of Life; Innovation.
  - **Economic Analysis (Benefit Cost Analysis)**
  - **Project Readiness Analysis:** Technical Assessment; Financial Completeness Assessment; Environmental Risk Assessment.
- **Annual NOFO**
- <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/mpdg-announcement>

# Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN)

The Office of the Secretary of Transportation (OST) has released a joint Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) and Neighborhood Access and Equity (NAE) programs, which will combine two major discretionary grants into one NOFO. Together, this combined program will be known as the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Program. While they remain separate programs for the purposes of award, the programs share many common characteristics, including:



- Prioritizing disadvantaged communities;
- Aiming to improve access to daily needs such as jobs, education, healthcare, food, and recreation;
- Fostering equitable development and restoration;
- Reconnecting communities by removing, retrofitting, or mitigating highways or other transportation facilities that create barriers to community connectivity, including to mobility, access, or economic development.

Under the combined RCN Program, USDOT will offer three grant types:

- Capital Construction (\$1.15B)
- Community Planning (\$185M)
- Regional Partnerships Challenge (\$450M)

**Learn more and stay connected:**

[www.transportation.gov/reconnecting](http://www.transportation.gov/reconnecting)  
[ReconnectingCommunities@dot.gov](mailto:ReconnectingCommunities@dot.gov)

# Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program

The new Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program, created under President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, with **\$5 billion in advanced appropriations** over the next 5 years. The **\$1.17 billion Fiscal Year 2023** application period closed July 10, 2023. It is a key program that supports the National Roadway Safety Strategy and funding supports local initiatives to prevent death and serious injury on roads and streets, commonly referred to as “Vision Zero” or “Toward Zero Deaths” Initiatives.



## Learn more and stay connected:

<https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4A>  
[ss4a@dot.gov](mailto:ss4a@dot.gov)

**Eligible Applicants:** Political Subdivisions of a State, Federally Recognized Tribal Governments, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, or Multijurisdictional Groups comprised of those entities.

## Action Plan Grants

- **Eligible Planning Activities:** Develop or Complete a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan. Conduct supplemental action planning activities (in support of an existing Comprehensive Safety Action Plan).
- Developed to be **accessible** to all communities with a **low barrier to entry**; including three major criteria, safety impact, equity, and safety considerations.
- At least 40% of awards funds for action plan activities

## Implementation Grants

- **Eligible Planning Activities:** Implement projects and strategies. Conduct planning and design. Conduct supplemental action planning activities (in support of an existing Comprehensive Safety Action Plan).
- Applicant must **already have established Action Plan** in place. Activities must be tied directly to projects and strategies identified in Action Plan.

# Thriving Communities Initiative

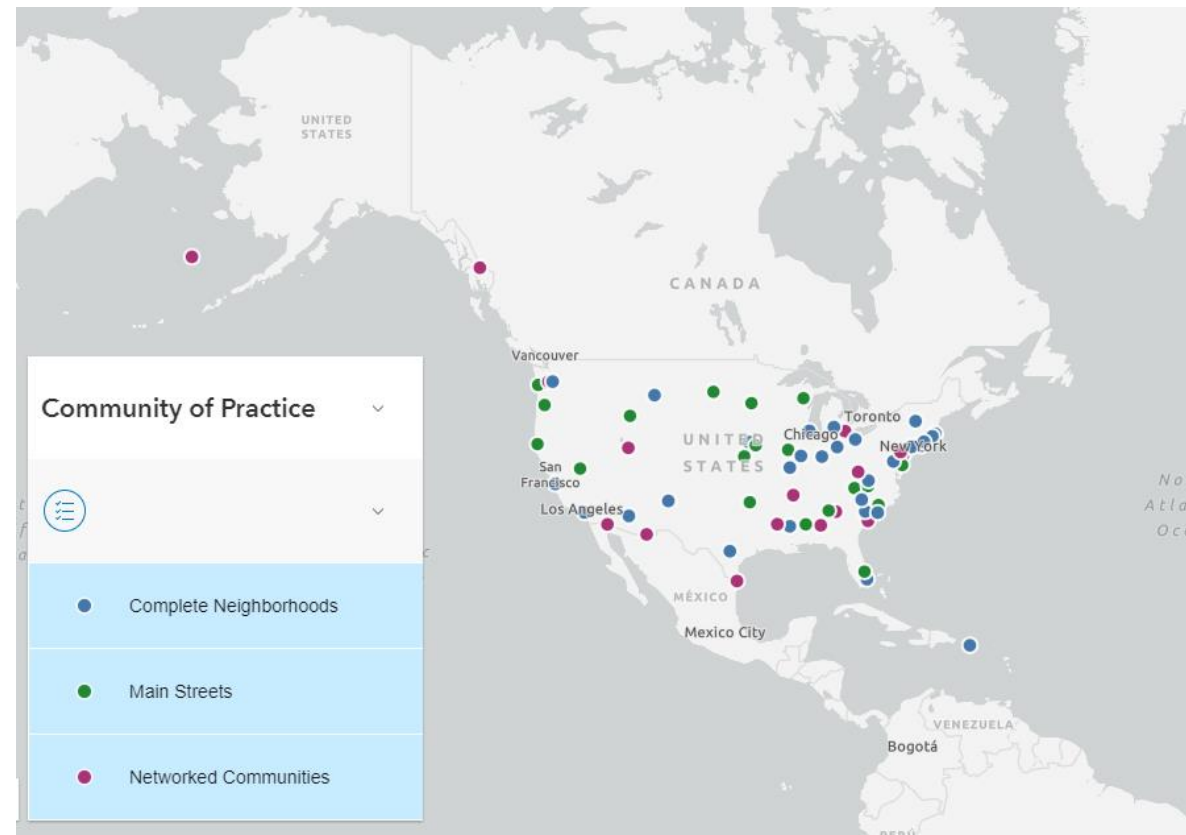
## More than just a single program...

Improved coordination of and access to DOT's Technical Assistance resources: **DOT Navigator**

Transforming how we engage with communities: **Thriving Communities Program**

Prioritizing needs of those facing greatest resource constraints: **National Equity Accelerator**

Coordinating across federal agencies: **Thriving Communities Network**



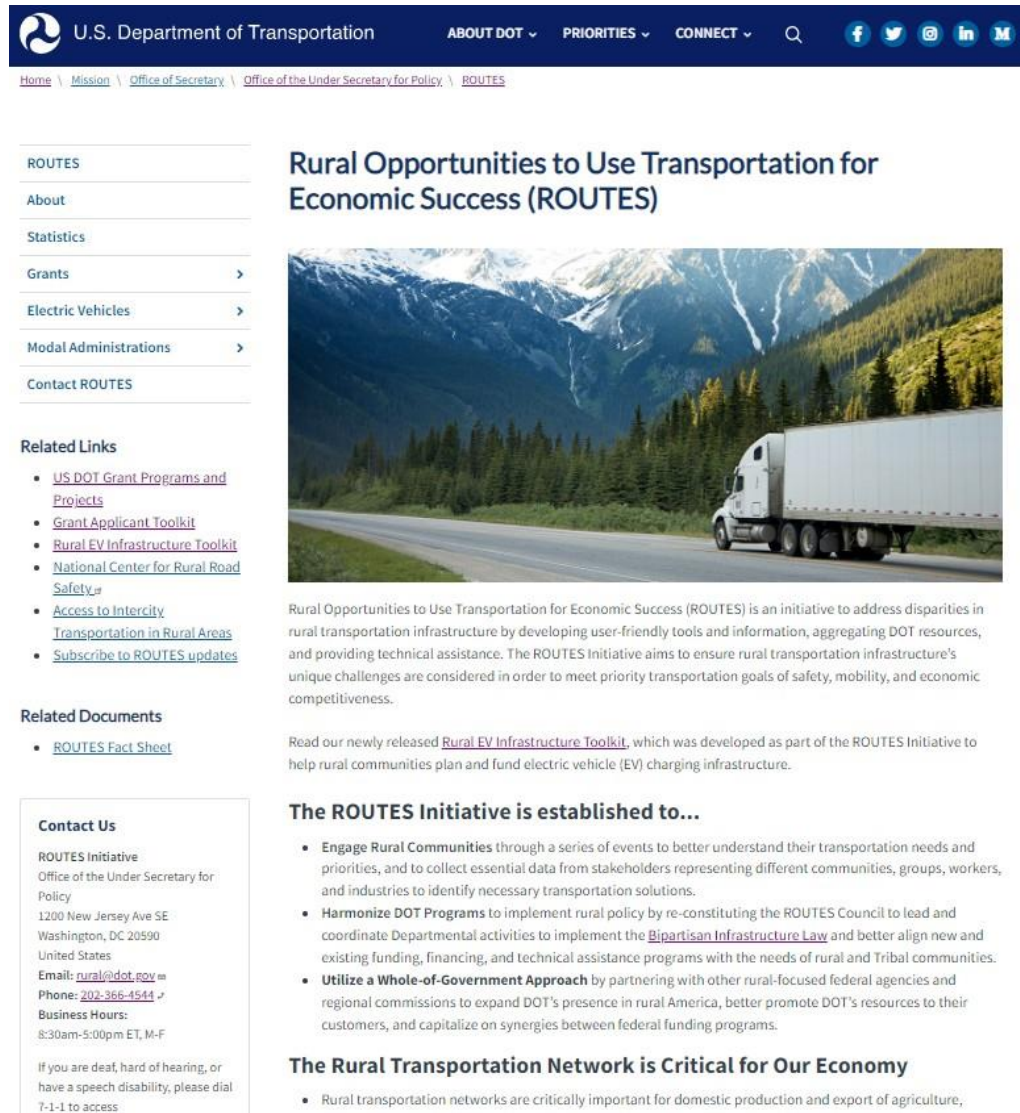


# How do I apply to the Thriving Communities Program?

- If your **organization** is interested in **applying to be a TCP-N or TCP-R funded Capacity Builder**, apply via grants.gov by **November 28, 2023**
  - Find the NOFO on the [TCP website](#), or search Opportunity Number DOT-TCP-FY23-01 in grants.gov
- If your **community** is interested in **applying to receive in-kind technical assistance, planning, and capacity building support** from selected Capacity Builders, [submit a Letter of Interest](#) through the TCP online webform by **November 15, 2023**

Learn more and stay connected:  
<https://www.transportation.gov/thriving-communities>

# One-Stop Shop for Rural Resources



The screenshot shows the U.S. Department of Transportation website. The top navigation bar includes the DOT logo, the text "U.S. Department of Transportation", and menu items for "ABOUT DOT", "PRIORITIES", and "CONNECT". Below the navigation bar is a breadcrumb trail: "Home > Mission > Office of Secretary > Office of the Under Secretary for Policy > ROUTES".

The main content area features a sidebar on the left with a "ROUTES" menu containing "About", "Statistics", "Grants", "Electric Vehicles", "Modal Administrations", and "Contact ROUTES". Below the sidebar is a "Related Links" section with links to "US DOT Grant Programs and Projects", "Grant Applicant Toolkit", "Rural EV Infrastructure Toolkit", "National Center for Rural Road Safety", "Access to Intercity Transportation in Rural Areas", and "Subscribe to ROUTES updates". A "Related Documents" section includes a link to the "ROUTES Fact Sheet".

The main content area has a heading "Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success (ROUTES)" above a photograph of a white semi-truck on a road in a mountainous, forested area. Below the photo is a paragraph describing the ROUTES initiative: "Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success (ROUTES) is an initiative to address disparities in rural transportation infrastructure by developing user-friendly tools and information, aggregating DOT resources, and providing technical assistance. The ROUTES Initiative aims to ensure rural transportation infrastructure's unique challenges are considered in order to meet priority transportation goals of safety, mobility, and economic competitiveness." Below this is another paragraph: "Read our newly released [Rural EV Infrastructure Toolkit](#), which was developed as part of the ROUTES Initiative to help rural communities plan and fund electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure."

Below the main text are three sections:

- The ROUTES Initiative is established to...**
  - Engage Rural Communities through a series of events to better understand their transportation needs and priorities, and to collect essential data from stakeholders representing different communities, groups, workers, and industries to identify necessary transportation solutions.
  - Harmonize DOT Programs to implement rural policy by re-constituting the ROUTES Council to lead and coordinate Departmental activities to implement the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#) and better align new and existing funding, financing, and technical assistance programs with the needs of rural and Tribal communities.
  - Utilize a Whole-of-Government Approach by partnering with other rural-focused federal agencies and regional commissions to expand DOT's presence in rural America, better promote DOT's resources to their customers, and capitalize on synergies between federal funding programs.
- The Rural Transportation Network is Critical for Our Economy**
  - Rural transportation networks are critically important for domestic production and export of agriculture,

At the bottom left of the screenshot is a "Contact Us" box with the following information: "ROUTES Initiative, Office of the Under Secretary for Policy, 1200 New Jersey Ave SE, Washington, DC 20590, United States. Email: [rural@dot.gov](mailto:rural@dot.gov), Phone: 202-366-4544, Business Hours: 8:30am-5:00pm ET, M-F. If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access."

## Webinars

- Benefit Cost Analyses for Rural Projects
- TIFIA Rural Projects Initiative
- Transit Resources
- National Roadway Safety Strategy

## Tools and Toolkits

- Rural Eligibility Map
- Point of Contact Map
- Grant Applicant Toolkit [Update Coming Soon]
- Rural EV Infrastructure Toolkit [New]

## Funding Opportunities

- DOT Discretionary Grants Dashboard [New]
- Links to Past Awards

## Modal Specific Landing Pages

## Monthly Newsletters

# Current/Upcoming Funding Opportunities

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- Railroad Crossing Elimination Program – ***Closes November 27, 2023***
- Thriving Communities Program (\$25M) – ***November 15 (LOI); November 28 (Capacity Builders)***
- Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE)- ***Fall/Winter 2023***
- Safe Streets and Roads for All– ***Spring 2024***
- Railroad Crossing Elimination (\$3B) - ***Fall/Winter 2023***

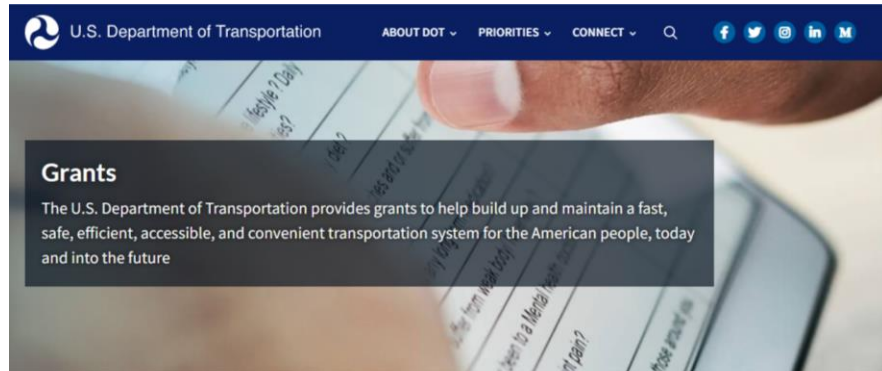
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**For additional funding opportunities:**

<https://www.transportation.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/key-notices-funding-opportunity>

# Grant Opportunities and Technical Assistance

<https://www.transportation.gov/grants>



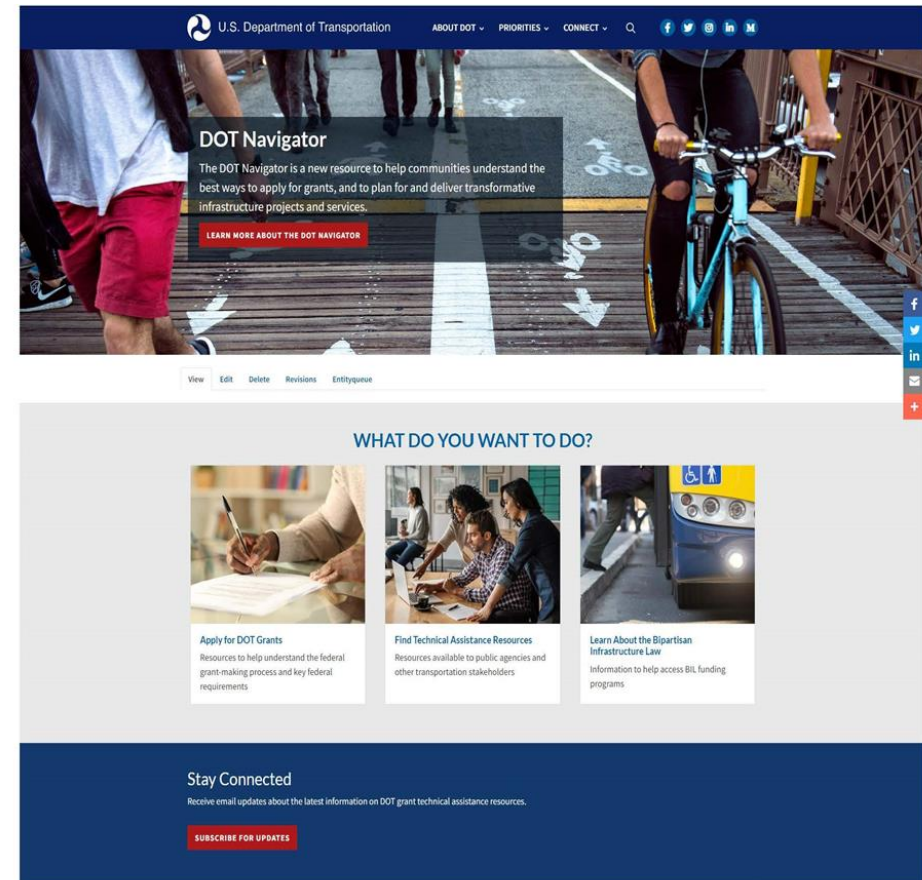
## DOT NAVIGATOR

The DOT Navigator is a new resource to help communities understand the best ways to apply for grants, and to plan for and deliver transformative infrastructure projects and services.

## PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS



<https://www.transportation.gov/dot-navigator>



Staff can sign up for notifications for all grants via Grants.gov



# Key Grant Contacts for Constituents

Charging and Fueling Infrastructure

[CFIgrants@dot.gov](mailto:CFIgrants@dot.gov)

Low and No Emissions/Bus and Bus Facilities

[ftalownobusnofo@dot.gov](mailto:ftalownobusnofo@dot.gov)

Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Opportunity (Mega, INFRA, and Rural)

[MPDGrants@dot.gov](mailto:MPDGrants@dot.gov)

Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program and Neighborhood Equity and Access Program

[ReconnectingCommunities@dot.gov](mailto:ReconnectingCommunities@dot.gov)

Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program

[SS4A@dot.gov](mailto:SS4A@dot.gov)

Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grants Program

[smart@dot.gov](mailto:smart@dot.gov)

Thriving Communities Program

[ThrivingCommunities@dot.gov](mailto:ThrivingCommunities@dot.gov)

All Federal Grants

<https://www.grants.gov/>

**For other programs or questions, Congressional staff should contact Government Affairs in the Office of the Secretary to be connected to the best contact:**

**[ostgovaffairs@dot.gov](mailto:ostgovaffairs@dot.gov)**

**For additional information:**

<https://www.transportation.gov/dot-navigator>

# Links to DOT Resources

Civil Rights Complaints Resources:

[DOT Discrimination Policy - Complaint Process | US Department of Transportation](#)

Disability Policy Priorities:

<https://www.transportation.gov/accessibility>

DOT Bipartisan Infrastructure Law:

<https://www.transportation.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law>

DOT Strategic Plan:

<https://www.transportation.gov/dot-strategic-plan>

Equity Action Plan:

<https://www.transportation.gov/priorities/equity/equity-action-plan>

Justice40 (includes links to DAC mapping tools): :

<https://www.transportation.gov/equity-Justice40>

Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization:

<https://www.transportation.gov/osdbu>

Public Information Session on Equity (May 2022):

<https://www.transportation.gov/priorities/equity/events>

Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success (ROUTES): <https://www.transportation.gov/rural>

**More Info at:**

<https://www.transportation.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law>

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/build/>



**U.S. Department  
of Transportation**