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## Overview



- Discretionary Grant Basics
- Overview of Grant Programs for Bike and Pedestrian Infrastructure
- Application Considerations
- Resources





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# U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Discretionary Grants (1/2)



- The *Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)*<sup>1</sup> more than doubled the number of available USDOT grant opportunities (40+ in 2021).
- BIL provides opportunities for competitive grants in education/research, planning, and capital construction.
- Eligible entities encompass a wide-range: State departments of transportation (DOT), metropolitan transportation organizations, local entities, tribes, transit agencies, universities, and others.



<sup>1</sup>U.S. Congress. 2021. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act: Public Law 117-58. https://www.congress.gov/117/bills/hr3684/BILLS-117hr3684enr.pdf.

#### **Learn more:**



# U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Discretionary Grants (2/2)



- Most USDOT discretionary grants are competitively offered.
- Programs are announced through Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs); selection criteria and other critical information are found in each program's NOFO.
- Individual programs offer webinars and technical assistance to help agencies increase their awareness and competitiveness in those programs.



#### **Learn more:**



- Applicant registers on SAM.gov and Grants.gov in advance\* of application. \*registration is not immediate
- Applicant applies for funding for a project that meets program requirements before the end of the application window.
- Applicant searches for USDOT grants on Grants.gov where all USDOT grants are posted with a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) outlining program eligibility criteria and requirements.
- **USDOT** reviews submitted applications and selects programs to award funding based on the stated criteria in the NOFO.

#### AWARD



USDOT notifies all applicants of the final award decisions, including application not selected for award.

Those not select may receive a letter

of encouragement to apply in future

application opportunities or seek alternative grant opportunities.



USDOT and Applicant negotiate and sign a grant project agreement and **USDOT** disburses funds.



Grantee implements the awarded project and adheres to all necessary

#### **POST-AWARD**

- USDOT monitors the project's progress and provides technical assistance and customer support to grantees as needed.
- Grantee reports progress to USDOT throughout the project lifecycle through applicable Project Progress Reports (PPRs) and Federal Financial Reports (SF-425s) as required by USDOT.
- Grantee completes all closeout requirements and submits final financial and technical reports.

## **Grant Applicant Roadmap**

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**Source: USDOT** 



## Understanding the NOFO (1/2)



NOFO structure is standardized. Contact the program point of contact about specific requirements. The sections of a NOFO are:

- Section A: Program description.
- Section B: Federal award information—includes total funding amount, anticipated number and size of awards, and period of performance.
- Section C: Eligibility information—includes eligible applicants, eligible activities, and any cost-sharing requirements



## Understanding the NOFO (2/2)



- Section D: Application and submission information—includes application format requirements, submission deadlines, and any funding restrictions
- Section E: Application review information—includes evaluation criteria, selection process, and anticipated award announcement date
- Section F: Federal Award Administration information—includes award notice and reporting requirements
- Section G: Federal awarding agency contacts
- Section H: Other information





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## Grant Program Information



**Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP)** 

**Rebuilding American Infrastructure** with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE)

**Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Program (RCN)** 

**Safe Streets for All (SS4A)** 

**Tribal Transportation Safety Fund** (TTPSF)

**Bicycle and Pedestrian Program - Environment - FHWA (dot.gov)** 

### **Bicycle and Pedestrian Program**







Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program

Guidance

**Publications** 

Legislation

Funding

Resources

Division and Federal Land Contacts

State Contacts

For more information, please contact:

- Darren Buck (405-465-9878)
- Bernadette Dupont (502-223-6729)

FHWA Supports:



FHWA → Environment

#### Bicycle and Pedestrian Program

The Federal Highway Administration's Bicycle and Pedestrian Program promotes safe, comfortable, and convenient walking and bicycling for people of all ages and abilities. We support pedestrian and bicycle transportation through funding, policy guidance, program management, and resource development.

#### **Recent Publications**

• Updated: Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP) (March 19, 2024)

#### **Key Links**

- Community Connections
- Economic Development
- Environmental Justice
- Health in Transportation
- Livability

- Micromobility
- Recreational Trails
- Sustainable Transportation
- Transportation Alternatives
- US DOT Active Transportation Website

#### **Key Resources**

- FHWA Guidance: Bicvcle and Pedestrian Planning, Program, and Project Development m (May 19, 2023)
- <u>Technical Assistance Resources for Active</u>
- Pedestrian and Bicycle Funding Opportunities m
- Standards FAST Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Provisions (November 16, 2023)
- Policy Statement on Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodation Regulations and Recommendations | Memorandum
- . US Access Board Publication of the Final Public Right of Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG)
- · See more Resources...



# Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP)

**About:** Constructs projects to provide safe and connected active transportation facilities in active transportation networks or active transportation spines.

**Funding amount:** \$44,500,000 (FY 2023)

#### **Eligible activities:**

- Planning, design, and construction of safe and connected active transportation networks.
- Connect destinations such as schools, workplaces, residences, businesses, recreation areas, and medical facilities.
- Trails, pedestrian facilities, bikeways, and other routes connecting two or more communities, metropolitan regions, or states.
- Projects that integrate active transportation facilities with transit services.



**Learn more about ATIIP:** 

https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle\_pedestrian/atiip/





**About:** The RAISE program helps urban and rural communities move forward on projects that modernize roads, bridges, transit, rail, ports, and intermodal transportation and make our transportation systems safer, more accessible, more affordable, and more sustainable.

**Funding amount:** \$12,500,000,000 (FY 2022–2026)

### **Eligible activities:**

- Highway or bridge projects eligible under USC title 23.
- Port infrastructure investments (including inland port infrastructure and land ports of entry).
- Intermodal projects whose components are otherwise an eligible project type.
- Projects investing in surface transportation facilities that are located on Tribal land.
- Any other surface transportation infrastructure project that the Secretary considers to be necessary to advance the goals of the program.



#### Learn more about RAISE:

https://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants

## Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Program (RCN)

**About:** Grants to restore community connectivity by removing, retrofitting, or mitigating highways or other transportation facilities that create barriers to community connectivity, including barriers to mobility, access, or economic development.

**Funding amount:** \$1,000,000,000 (FY 2022–2026)



#### **Learn more about RCN:**

https://www.transportation.gov/grants/rcnprogram



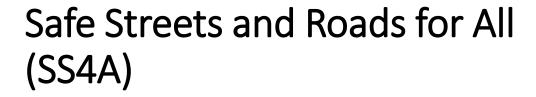
#### **Planning Grants**

- Studies to evaluate the feasibility of removing, retrofitting, or mitigating an existing eligible facility to restore connectivity.
- Public engagement activities to provide opportunities for input into a plan to remove and convert an eligible facility.
- Other transportation planning activities required in advance.

#### **Capital Construction Grants**

- Removal, retrofit, or mitigation of an eligible facility.
- Replacement of an eligible facility with a new facility that:
  - (i) restores community connectivity, and
  - (ii) is sensitive to the context of the surrounding community.





**About:** Grants to local, regional, and Tribal communities for implementation, planning, and demonstration activities as part of a systematic approach to prevent deaths and serious injuries on the nation's roadways.

**Funding amount:** \$5,000,000,000 (FY 2022–2026)



#### **Learn more about SS4A:**

https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4A



#### **Eligible activities:**

Action plan grants:

• Funds development of a holistic, well-defined strategy to prevent roadway fatalities and serious injuries in a locality, Tribal area, or region.

Planning and demonstration grants:

 Federal funds to develop, complete, or supplement an Action Plan.

*Implementation grants:* 

 Funds to implement projects and strategies identified in an Action Plan to address a roadway safety problem. Eligible projects and strategies can be infrastructural, behavioral, and/or operational activities.





**About:** Four percent (4%) of the available Tribal Transportation funds are set aside to address transportation safety issues identified by federally recognized Indian tribes through a competitive, discretionary program. Projects are chosen whose outcomes will reduce fatal and serious injuries in transportation related incidents, such as motor vehicle crashes. The program is only available to federally recognized Indian tribes.

**Funding amount:** Approximately \$75,275,000 (FY 2022–2026)

#### **Eligible activities:**

- Systemic roadway departure countermeasure
- Transportation safety plans
- Safety data assessment, improvement, and analysis
- Infrastructure improvements and other eligible activities as listed in 23 U.S.C. 148(a)(4)



#### **Learn more about TTPSF:**

https://highways.dot.gov/federal-lands/tribal/safety/funds





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## **Grant Funding Considerations**



- Project must meet additional eligibility and accountability requirements for Federal funding.
- Most discretionary grant program funds have specific fund obligation and expenditure periods that are defined by law and cannot be extended by USDOT.
- Most discretionary grant programs have specific local match to Federal funding requirements and/or restrictions on the type of funding eligible for match.
- Awarded funds are not provided up front, but through future reimbursement.
- Fund reimbursement processes are described in Section B of the NOFO for the grant program.
- Grant projects require financial and performance progress reporting.



## **Grant Application Considerations**



### Competitive applications should:

- **Tell a compelling story.** Show alignment to the goals, merit criteria and selection considerations of the program.
- Clearly articulate compliance with regulations. Clearly describe local, State, and Federal regulations, including environmental review status and notes about special permits.
- **Communicate impact.** Include quantifying statements; provide data specific to the community.
- **Demonstrate commitment and accountability.** Clearly outline processes and procedures for tracking and monitoring project activities. This may include use of performance measures, financial plans, or staffing models.



## **Grant Application Resources**



## Grants.gov <a href="https://www.grants.gov/">https://www.grants.gov/</a>

- Searchable for Federal grant opportunities
- Email notifications for new grant opportunities based on saved search criteria
- Standard Forms repository
- Grants Learning Center with many articles and resources

### **DOT Navigator**

https://www.transportation.gov/dotnavigator

- Searchable for USDOT grant opportunities
- Grant application resources such as webinars, grant application toolkits and checklists, etc.
- Technical assistance resources repository

## **Local Technical Assistance Program**

https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/clas/ltap/

 Source for training, technical assistance, and resources provided through a network of local/regional centers across the U.S. and Puerto Rico



## **Grant Award Reporting Requirements**



Report	Description	Report Submittal Frequency
Performance Progress Report (PPR)	Required by 2 CFR 200.328 and 200.329 to monitor grant project implementation.	The reporting frequency depends on the requirements in Section F the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). Reports are submitted quarterly, semiannually, or annually.
Federal Financial Report (FFR)	Required by 2 CFR 200.328 and 200.329 to monitor grant fund expenditures.	The reporting frequency depends on the requirements in Section F of the NOFO. Reports are submitted quarterly, semiannually, or annually with the PPR.
Performance Measure Reports	Required by 2 CFR 200.301 to determine if the grant project goals and/or objectives were achieved.	Reporting metrics, data collection and submittal requirements are discussed in Section F of the NOFO.

### Additional Resources

USDOT Navigator, Grant Application Resources:

https://www.transportation.gov/grants/dotnavigator/grant-application-resources

Grants.gov Learning Center:

https://www.grants.gov/learn-grants

State DOT, regional MPO, local transit agency, and USDOT contacts:

https://www.transportation.gov/grants/dotnavigator/transportation-contacts-near-you

Introduction to Project Construction and Contract Administration: <a href="https://highways.dot.gov/fed-aid-essentials/videos/project-construction-and-contract-administration">https://highways.dot.gov/fed-aid-essentials/videos/project-construction-and-contract-administration</a>

