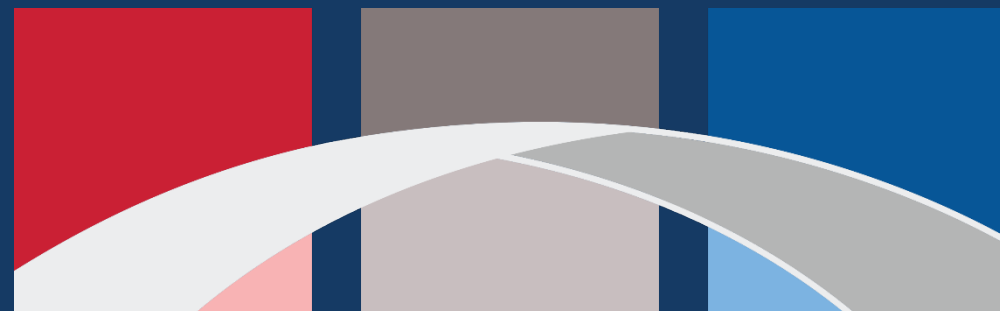




**U.S. Department
of Transportation**



BUILD AMERICA BUREAU

**Regional Infrastructure
Accelerator (RIA) Program
Notice of Funding Opportunity
November 13, 2024**

Housekeeping

Session Details

Today's session is being recorded

All participants automatically join on mute, with cameras off

Questions for Presenters

Type questions in the Q&A box

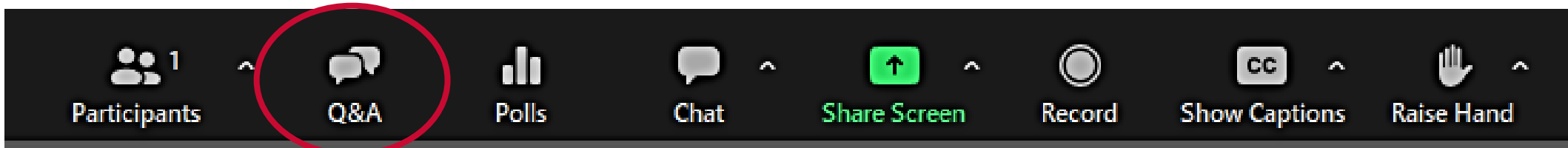
Technical Support

Email: Webconferencing@dot.gov

More Information

The presentation and recording will be posted to the Bureau webpage

<https://www.transportation.gov/buildamerica/accelerators>



Submit questions for panelists using the Q&A tool.
Questions will be answered in Q&A tool or during Q&A time after the presentation

Agenda

Objective: Share information about the Regional Infrastructure Accelerator Program and the notice of funding opportunity criteria and application process.

- Welcome and logistics
- Remarks by Acting Head of Innovative Finance and Technical Assistance
- Presentation by RIA Program Manager
- Question and Answer session

Build America Bureau

Advancing Investment in America's Transportation Infrastructure

Point of contact and coordination for federal credit programs, transportation expertise, and strategies to access private capital

Financial Assistance

Credit assistance for a wide range of eligible projects, \$100 billion available

Tax-exempt bonds for public-private partnerships, \$5 billion available

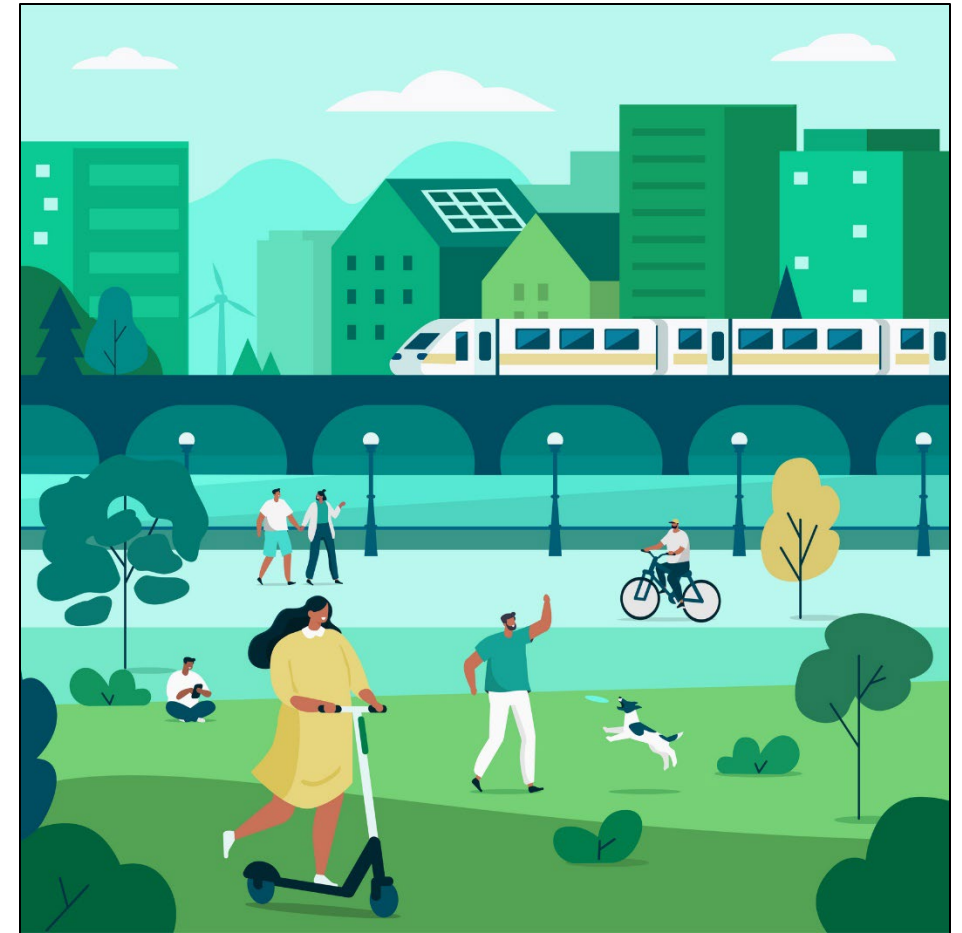
Technical Assistance

Grants for project planning and development, and community solutions

Education on innovative project planning, financing tools, and delivery models

Regional Infrastructure Accelerators

- Established under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act
- Part of the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation (TIFIA) Program
- Regional Infrastructure Accelerators (RIAs):
 - Serve a defined geographic region
 - Act as a resource to the region



Courtesy Getty Images

Regional Infrastructure Accelerators

- 24 Current RIAs
- Issued NOFO on Oct 28, 2024
- \$10 M available; no match required
- Applications due Jan 9, 2025
- Awards expected in late spring 2025
- Funding period 2-3 years



Federal Involvement

Cooperative Agreement:

- Technical assistance and guidance
- Close monitoring of performance
- Involvement in technical decisions
- Participation in status meetings



The Next Accelerator Could Be You!

Primary Applicant Public Entities' Potential Partners

- Academia
- Councils
- Councils of Governments
- Counties
- Metropolitan and Rural Planning Organizations
- Multi-State Organizations
- Municipalities
- Political Subdivisions of States or Local Governments
- Port Authorities
- Private Industry
- Regional Transportation Authorities
- Regional Transportation Planning Organizations
- State DOTs
- Special Purpose Districts
- Tribal Governments

Eligibility

- U.S. public entity
 - Partnerships accepted if between at least one eligible applicant and another U.S. party
- Domestic requirement
- Eligibility for TIFIA and/or RRIF credit assistance
 - Requirements available at www.transportation.gov/BuildAmerica/accelerators

Evaluation criteria

- i. Experience and Qualifications
- ii. Partnerships
- iii. Business Model
- iv. Pipeline
- v. Readiness
- vi. Underserved Communities
- vii. Self Sustainability
- viii. Risk
- ix. Alignment with Department Priorities



Experience and Qualifications (i)

- Promoting innovative financing methods
- Providing technical assistance on best practices
- Increasing transparency of project analysis
- Deploying predevelopment capital programs to create a pipeline of projects
- Bundling small-scale and rural projects
- Reducing transaction costs
- Accelerating eligible TIFIA projects

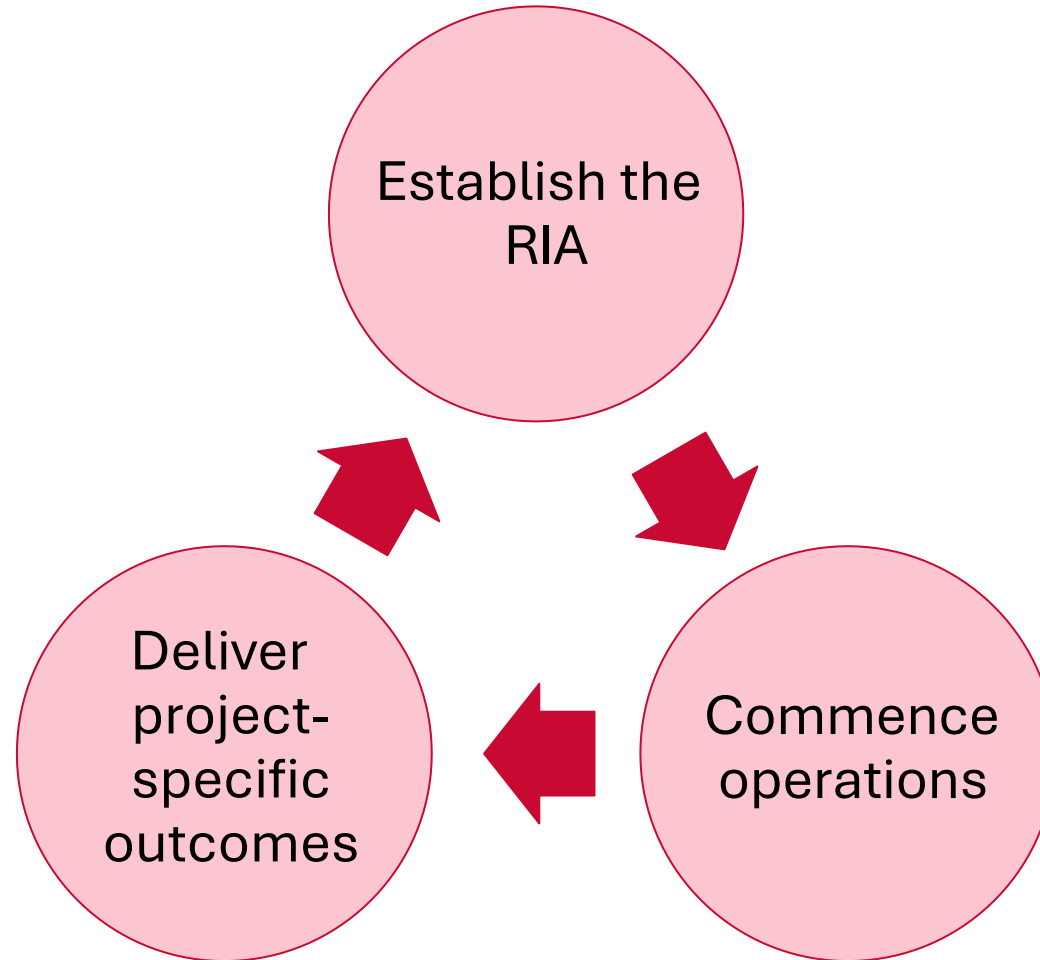


Partnerships (ii)

- Demonstrate strong collaboration
- Involve multiple partners
 - Public Sector
 - Private Sector
 - Academic Entities
- Quickly and effectively develop projects

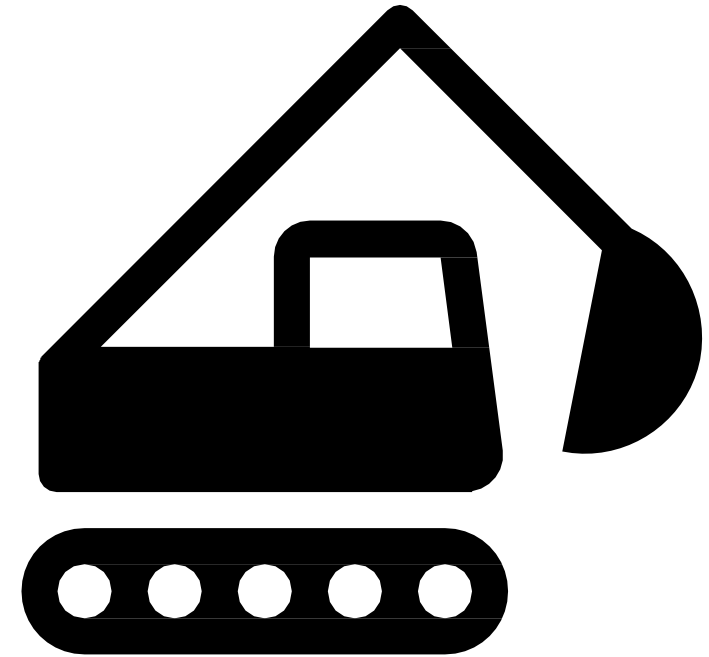


Business Model (iii)



Pipeline (iv)

- Propose a pipeline of projects
 - At least one project must be eligible for TIFIA credit assistance
- Number of eligible projects in pipeline
- Local and regional support of the projects



Readiness (v)



- Demonstrate preparedness to commence operations
 - Availability of facilities and equipment
 - Existing governance structure
 - Existing relationships
- Provide proposed budget
- Provide proposed milestones

Underserved Communities (vi)

- Addressing challenges of underserved communities
 - Rural areas
 - Areas of persistent poverty
- Overcome common barriers to using TIFIA and RRIF credit assistance
- Identify and address challenges

Self Sustainability (vii)



- Achieve self-sustainability to continue program beyond initial grant
- Describe how the termination of the RIA might deliver long-term benefits

Risk (viii)

- Address the risk to successful implementation and operation
- How mitigation activities might offset those risks



Alignment with Department Priorities (ix)

- Foster a safe transportation system
- Consider climate change and environmental justice
- Increase equity and accessibility
- Deploy innovative technologies and practices
- Maintain and upgrade existing transportation systems



Assessment of Criteria

- Qualitative rating of criteria
- All equal weight
- Three Ratings:
 - strong
 - moderate
 - marginal



Overall Assessment

Application Ratings

“High”

Receives a **strong** rating in at least six criteria

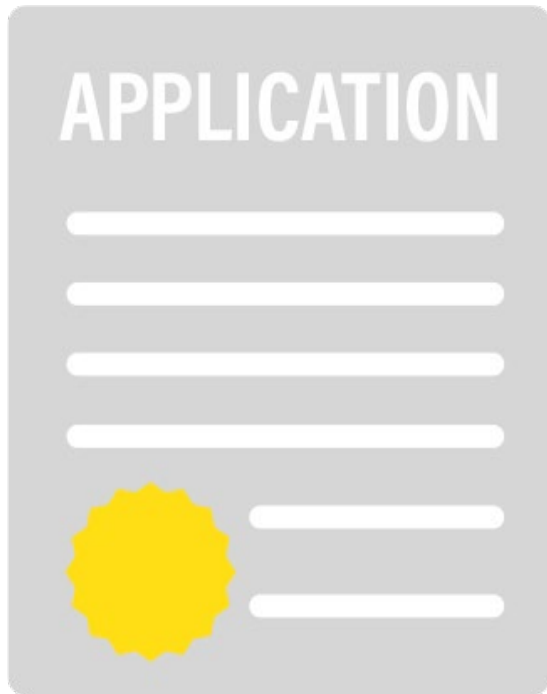
“Medium”

Receives a rating of **moderate** or a combination of **strong** and **moderate** in at least six criteria

“Low”

Receives five or more **marginal** ratings

Application Requirements



- Standard Form 424 on Grants.gov
- Cover page
 - Name of applicant and sponsor
 - Location
 - Region of designation
 - Budget amount
- Application narrative

Application Format

Section I – Applicant:

- Organizational structure
 - Formal/informal relationships
 - Eligibility requirements
- History, qualifications, and experience of key individuals
- Broader context of transportation infrastructure investments

Application Format

Section II - Description of Proposed Geographic/Jurisdictional Region:

- Geographic region, jurisdictions, and agencies
 - Rural/urban categorization
- Rationale for constructing the region
 - Regional affiliations
- Unique challenges facing rural transportation networks addressed by the proposal



Application Format

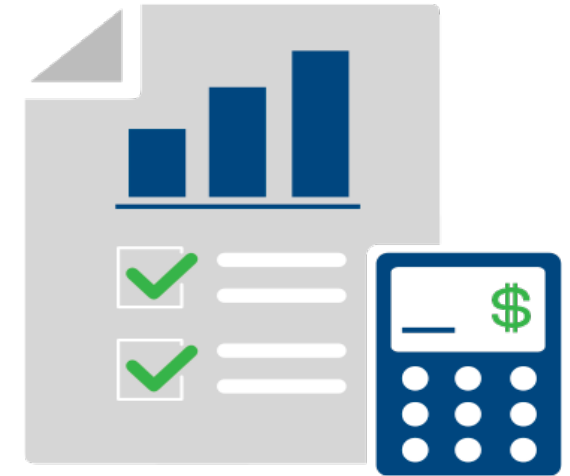
Section III - Accelerator Proposal:

- RIA establishment
 - How it would operate
 - Project-specific services
 - Proposed timeline
 - Key milestones
 - Performance targets
- Approach to identifying and building a pipeline of projects
 - Experience and expertise
 - Projects eligible for credit assistance
- List of projects
 - Name and location
 - Sponsor
 - Description
 - Bureau program most likely to apply (TIFIA, RRIF, PABs)
 - Support activities
 - Costs
 - Timeline

Application Format

Section IV - Budget, Sources, and Uses for Accelerator Funds:

- Proposed financial plan and budget
 - Federal grant amount requested
 - Non-Federal matching funds
 - In-kind contributions
 - Other sources
- List of activities, projects, and costs
- Supporting documentation for non-Federal matching funds
- Self-sustainability
 - Description
 - Long-term funds



Application Format

Section V - Selection Criteria:

- Alignment with criteria
 - Promote investment in eligible projects
 - Develop a pipeline of regional transportation projects
 - Implement projects with innovative financing methods
- Explicit statements addressing each criterion
- No required format



Participant Agreement

- Conflict of interest
- Disclosure of non-public information
- Use of non-public information for private gain



Questions and Answers



Conclusion

Questions? Call or email – we are available to help!

Carl Ringgold, Program Manager

RIA@dot.gov 202-366-0751

