



R.O.U.T.E.S. RURAL OPPORTUNITIES TO USE TRANSPORTATION FOR ECONOMIC SUCCESS

WHAT IS R.O.U.T.E.S.?

The Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success (R.O.U.T.E.S) Initiative will improve the ways that rural areas can use DOT discretionary grants and credit programs for transportation infrastructure projects. By expanding opportunities for rural projects to receive applicable discretionary funds, DOT can tangibly improve safety and economic competitiveness in all parts of the country.

WHY IS R.O.U.T.E.S. NEEDED?

Rural transportation networks are critically important for domestic uses and export of agriculture, mining, and energy commodities, as well as the quality of life for all Americans. Yet rural networks face unique challenges in safety, infrastructure condition, and usage:

- While only 19% of the nation's population lives in rural areas, 45% of the nation's highway fatalities occur on rural roads
- 34% of all highway-rail crossing fatalities occur in rural areas, and the highway fatality rate is more than twice that in urban areas
- Nearly half of all truck vehicle-miles-traveled (VMT) occur on rural roads and two-thirds of rail freight originates in rural areas
- 90% of posted (limited weight) bridges are in rural areas

WHAT IS R.O.U.T.E.S. DOING?

R.O.U.T.E.S accomplishes its goals through three areas of activity:

- Collecting input from stakeholders on the assistance rural projects require;
- Aligning the Department's discretionary funding and financing opportunities with the needs of rural communities, based on data and tangible evidence of need; and
- Providing education and outreach to rural communities to assist them in understanding and using DOT discretionary grants.

The effort is led by an internal DOT multimodal Council that ensures DOT's rural efforts are coordinated across its modal administrations.



47% of truck VMT
occurs in rural areas.

Contact Us

For more information, please visit
www.dot.gov/rural
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U . S . D E P A R T M E N T O F
T R A N S P O R T A T I O N

R.O.U.T.E.S.

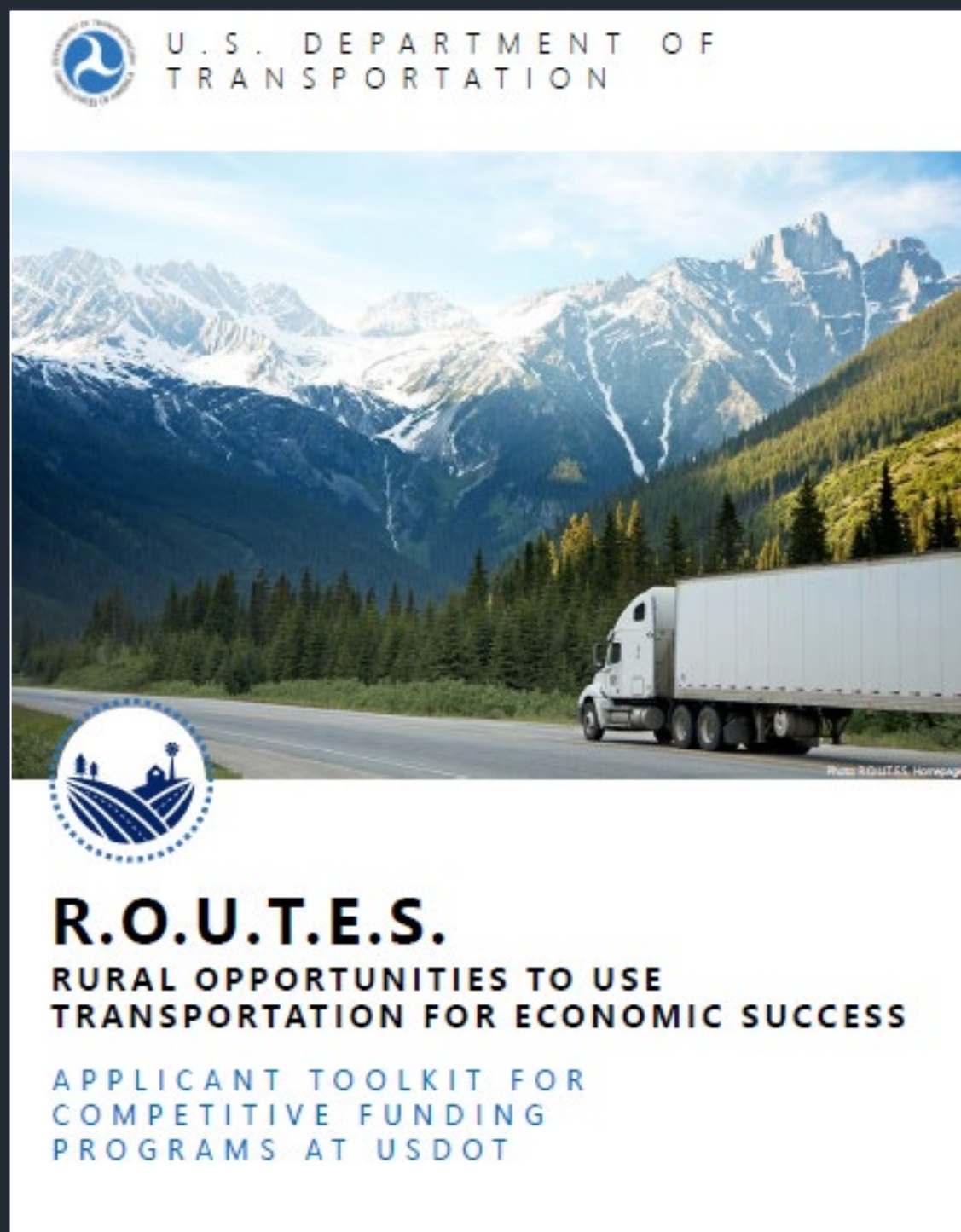
Applicant Toolkit for Competitive Funding Programs at USDOT

APPLYING FOR A GRANT?

This toolkit provides user-friendly information and resources to support rural applicants' understanding of USDOT discretionary grant programs and the funding process. Specifically, the toolkit:

- 1** Illustrates key applicant activities when participating in the USDOT discretionary grants process,
- 2** Catalogues USDOT discretionary grant programs by applicant type and eligible project activities in a USDOT Discretionary Grant Funding Matrix, and
- 3** Provides resources for applicants to maximize the potential for award success.

The Applicant Toolkit is designed for all levels of grant applicant experience, aiming to enhance access to USDOT resources for rural transportation projects.



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