



ROUTES Initiative

RURAL OPPORTUNITIES TO USE TRANSPORTATION FOR ECONOMIC SUCCESS

WHAT IS ROUTES?

The ROUTES Initiative seeks to address disparities in rural transportation infrastructure by developing user-friendly tools and information, aggregating USDOT resources, and providing technical assistance to rural and Tribal stakeholders. 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.

WHY IS ROUTES 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 rural 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 ROUTES DOING?

ROUTES accomplishes its goals through three areas of activity:

- **Engage Rural Communities** through a series of events to better understand the needs and priorities of rural communities and collect essential data from stakeholders representing different communities, groups, workers, and industries to identify solutions.
- **Harmonize USDOT Programs** to implement rural policy by establishing 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 to expand USDOT's presence in rural America, better promote Departmental resources, and capitalize on synergies between Federal funding programs.



Contact Us

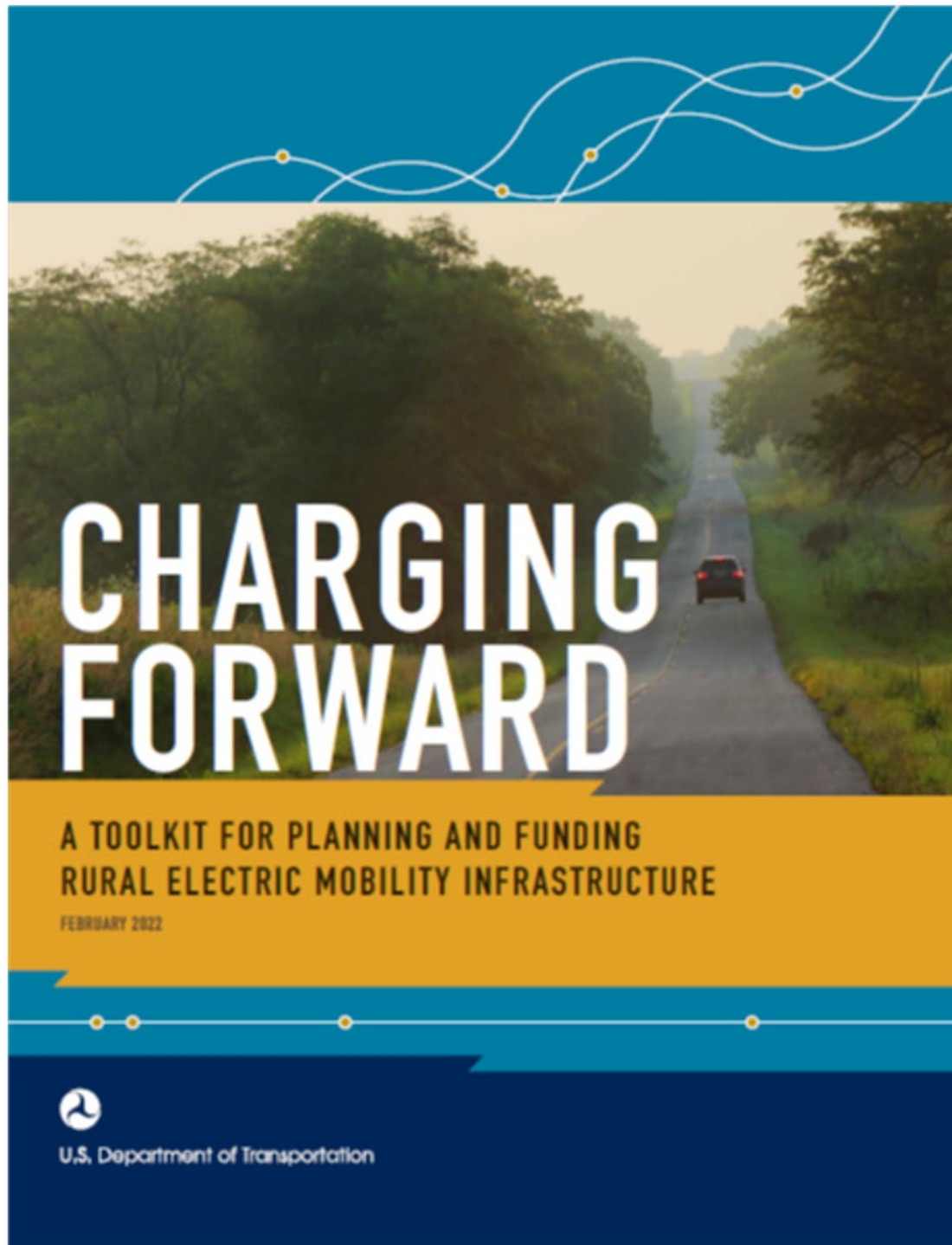
For more information, please visit www.transportation.gov/rural

or send us an email at rural@dot.gov



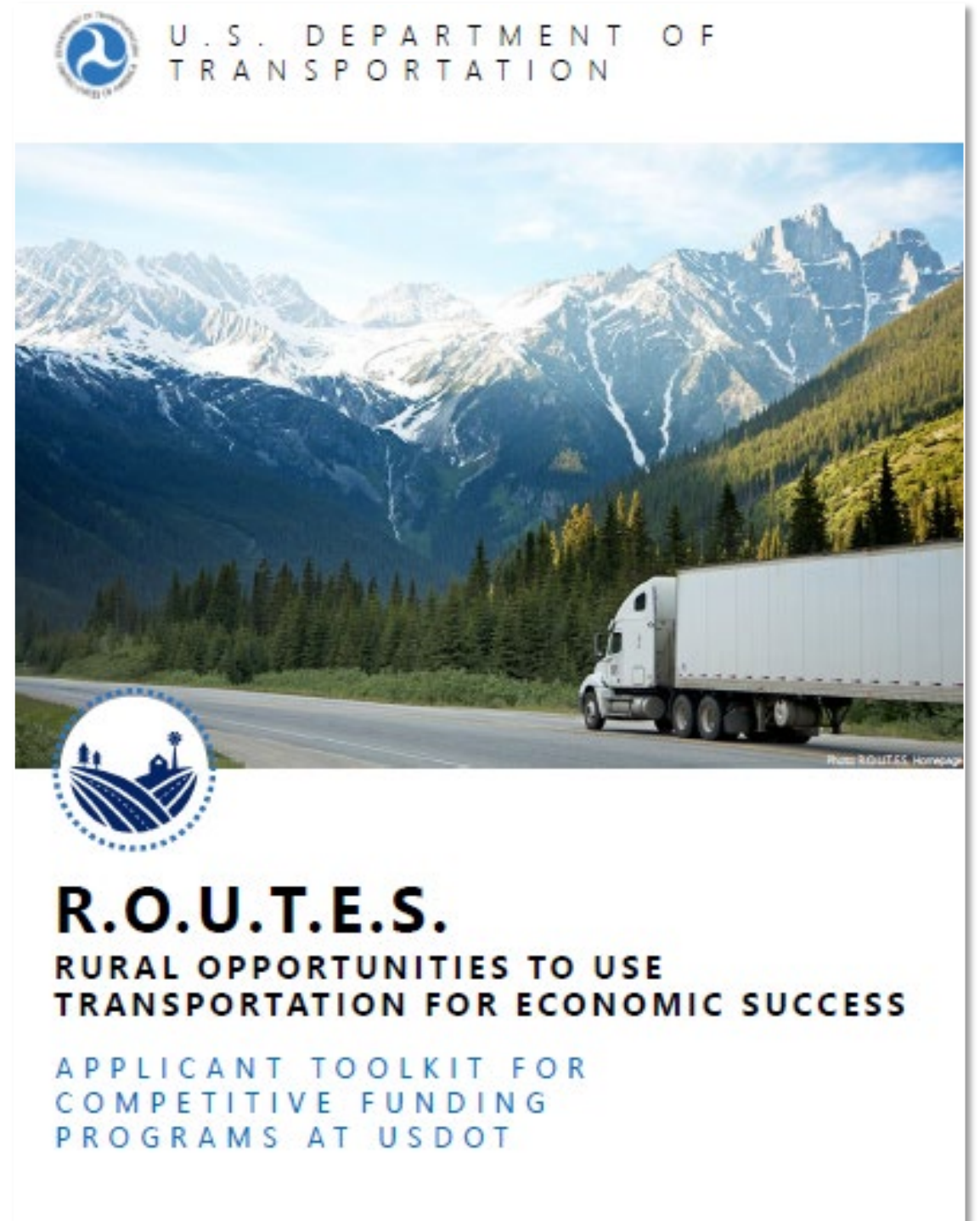
Check out these resources and more at:

www.transportation.gov/rural



INTERESTED IN EV INFRASTRUCTURE?

This toolkit helps rural stakeholders scope, plan, and fund electric vehicle charging infrastructure. Rural entities can use the toolkit to identify key project partners and available funding or financing to help make their project a reality.



APPLYING FOR A GRANT FROM USDOT?

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