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Getting Ready for the Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grant Program

General

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Website

- For more information, please visit https://www.transportation.gov/SMART
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Today's Presenters

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Benjamin Levine

Senior Advisor, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology

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Tara Lanigan

Program Analyst, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology

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Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation

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- New grant program to fund demonstration projects focused on **advanced smart city or community technologies and systems.**
- Provides **$100M annually** from FY22 – 26 to eligible projects in States, political subdivisions of a State, Tribal governments, transit agencies, toll authorities, MPOs, and groups of eligible recipients.

SMART

Program Details

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2

DOT anticipates SMART grants will be two stages. Stage I: Planning & Prototyping and Stage II: Implementation

DOT anticipates awarding 30 - 50 Stage I grants from the FY22 NOFO

The NOFO is expected to be released in September

Start with the Problem

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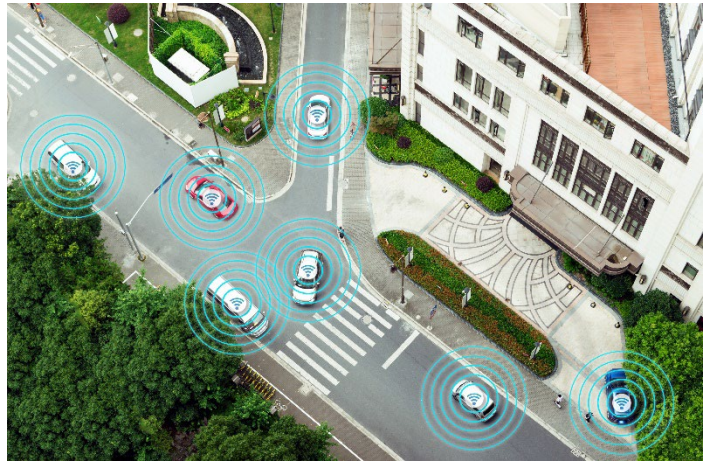

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SMART Grants Program Overview

SMART Grants Program Overview

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- Established by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to "conduct demonstration projects focused on **advanced smart city or community technologies and systems** in a variety of communities to improve transportation efficiency and safety."
- Will fund projects that are focused on using technology interventions to **solve real-world challenges** facing communities today.
- Funds **purpose-driven innovation** and discourages investment in technologies that do not provide a clear improvement over the status quo.
- Is a **demonstration program**. It is not designed to support fundamental research, and the technologies demonstrated should be sufficiently mature.
- Focuses on **building data and technology capacity and experience** for state, local and tribal governments.

Who is Here Today?

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What type of organization do you represent?

- State government
- Local government
- Tribal government
- Federal government
- Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Nonprofit organization or Academic institution
- Public Transit Agency or Authority
- Airport or Port authority
- Technology vendor or Manufacturer / Consultant
- Other

What type of technology area(s) are you interested in?

- Coordinated automation
- Connected vehicles
- Intelligent, sensor-based infrastructure
- Systems integration
- Commerce delivery and logistics
- Leveraging use of innovative aviation technology
- Smart grid
- Smart technology traffic signals
- I am not sure yet

Overview: Eligible Entities

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Eligible entities include:

A. a State;
B. a political subdivision of a State;
C. a Tribal government;
D. a public transit agency or authority;
E. a public toll authority;
F. a metropolitan planning organization; and
G. a group of 2 or more eligible entities described above

SMART Program Eligible Projects

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Eight technology areas:

- Coordinated automation
- Connected vehicles
- Sensors
- Systems integration
- Delivery / logistics
- Innovative aviation
- Smart grid
- Traffic signals

Considerations across technology areas:

- Applicants should focus on **one or two technology areas**. They should not attempt to cover all areas in their proposals.
- Applicants will be **required to comply with applicable laws and regulations**, including but not limited to Buy America, Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards.
- Applicants should
  - Address identified policy barriers
  - Clearly address data requirements
  - Consider workforce capacity building

Overview: Coordinated Automation

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"The use of automated transportation and autonomous vehicles, while working to minimize the impact on the accessibility of any other user group or mode of travel."

Overview: Connected Vehicles

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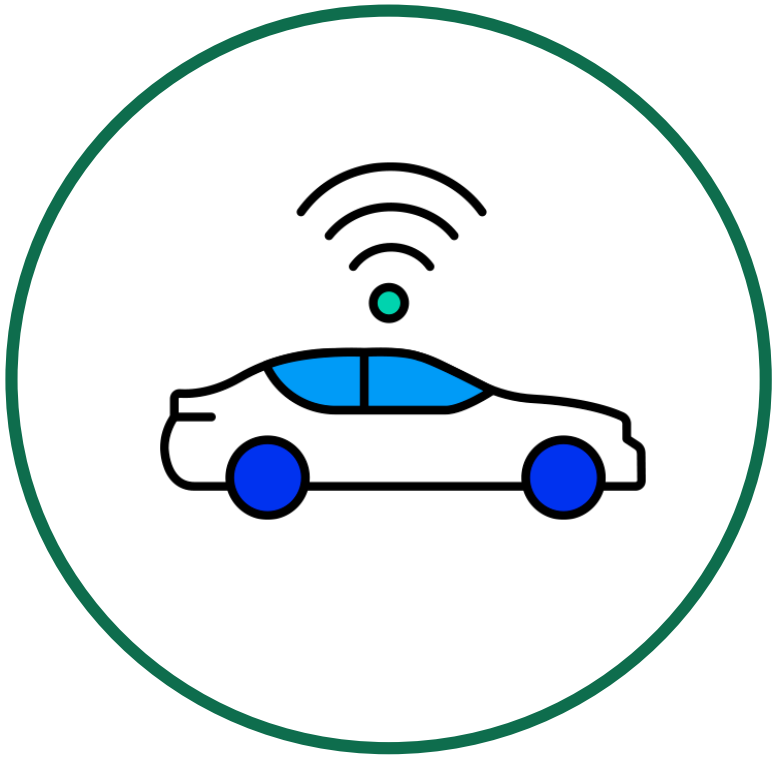
"Vehicles that send and receive information regarding vehicle movements in the network and use vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-everything communications to provide advanced and reliable connectivity."



Overview: Intelligent, Sensor-based Infrastructure

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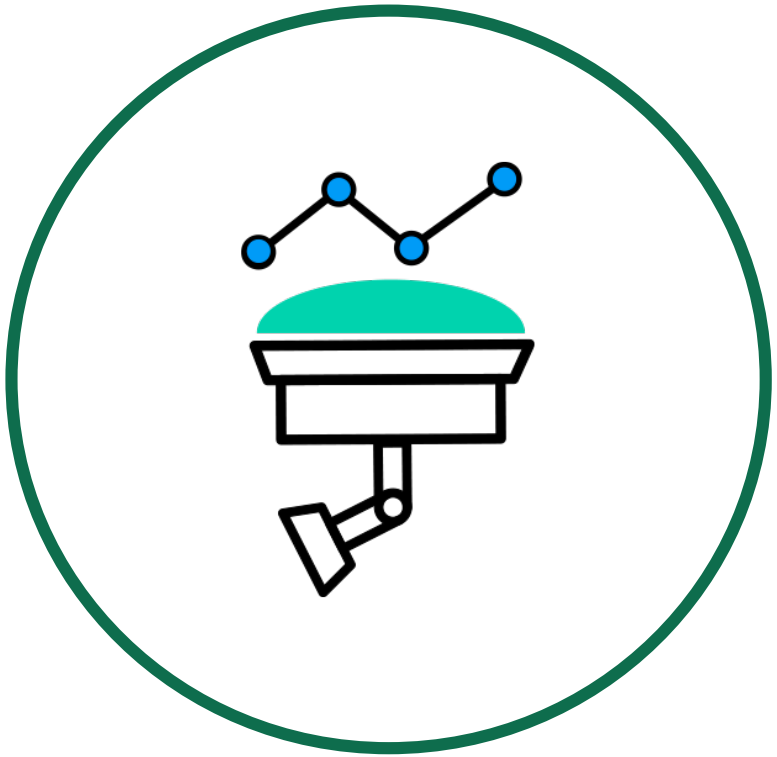
"The deployment and use of a collective intelligent infrastructure that allows sensors to collect and report real-time data to inform everyday transportation-related operations and performance."



Overview: Systems Integration

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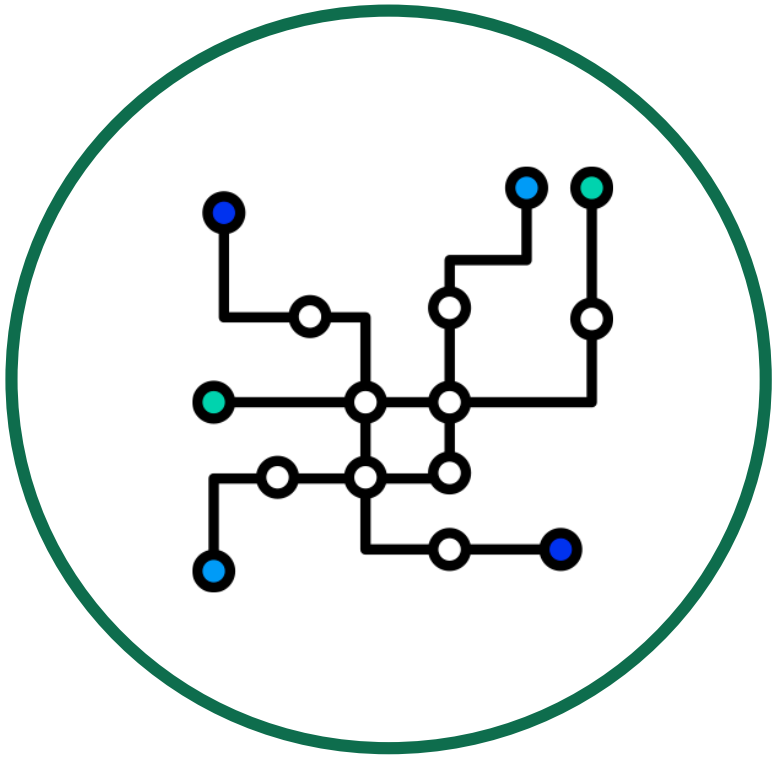
"The integration of intelligent transportation systems with other existing systems and other advanced transportation technologies."



Overview: Commerce Delivery and Logistics

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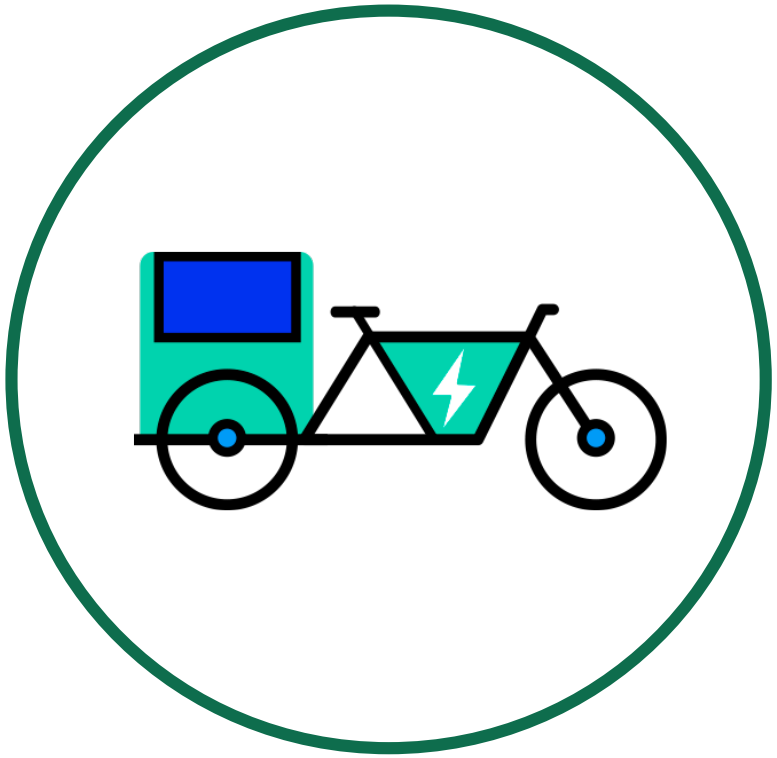
"Innovative data and technological solutions supporting efficient goods movement, such as connected vehicle probe data, road weather data, or global positioning data to improve on-time pickup and delivery, improved travel time reliability, reduced fuel consumption and emissions, and reduced labor and vehicle maintenance costs."



Overview: Innovative Aviation

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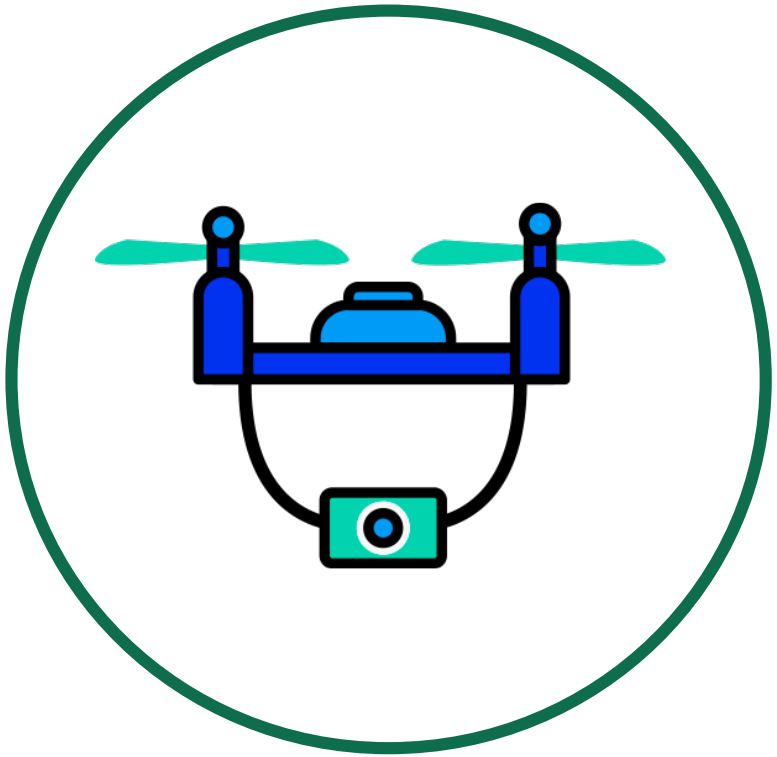
"Leveraging the use of innovative aviation technologies, such as unmanned aircraft systems, to support transportation safety and efficiencies, including traffic monitoring and infrastructure inspection."



Overview: Smart Grid

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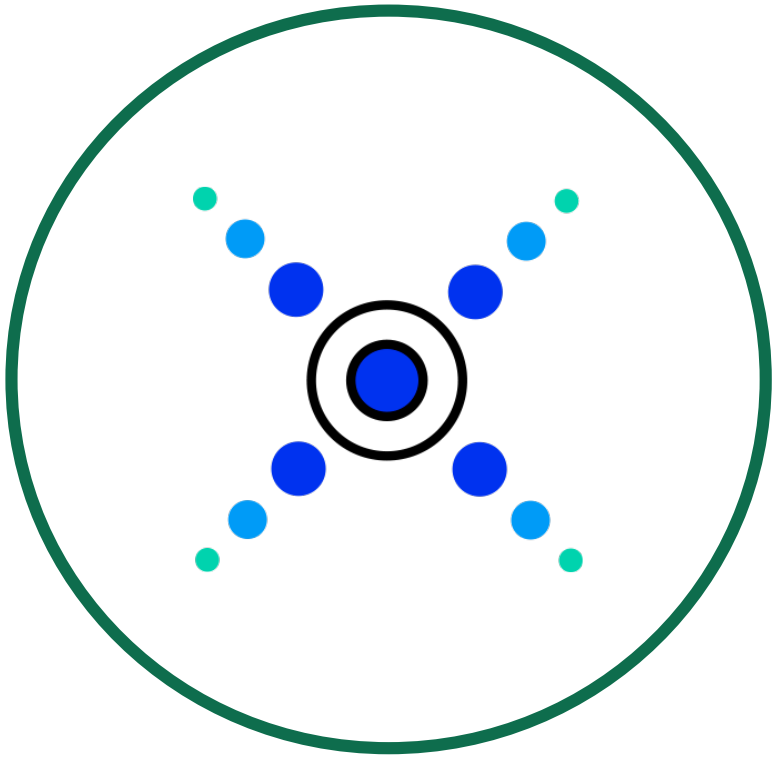
"Development of programmable and efficient energy transmission and distribution system to support the adoption or expansion of energy capture, electric vehicle deployment, or freight or commercial fleet fuel efficiency."



Overview: Traffic Signals

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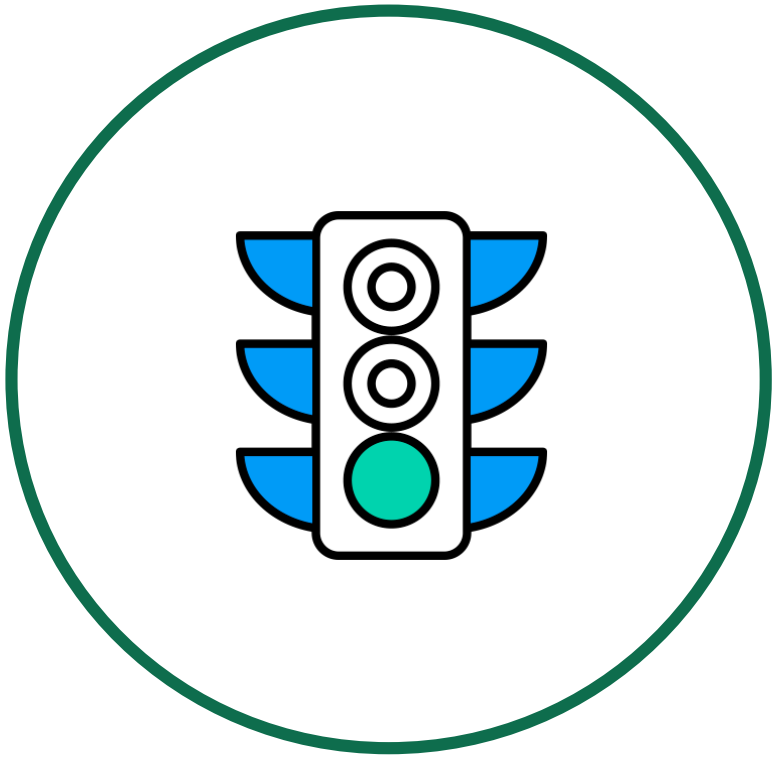
Improving the active management and functioning of traffic signals, including through:

I. the use of automated traffic signal performance measures;

II. implementing strategies, activities, and projects that support active management of traffic signal operations, including through optimization of corridor timing, improved vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycle detection at traffic signals, or the use of connected vehicle technologies;

III. replacing outdated traffic signals; or

IV. for an eligible entity serving a population of less than 500,000, paying the costs of temporary staffing hours dedicated to updating traffic signal technology.



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Getting Ready to Apply for a SMART Grant

Getting Ready to Apply: Eligible Activities

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- Planning
- Feasibility analyses
- Revenue forecasting
- Environmental review
- Permitting
- Preliminary engineering and design work
- Systems development or information
- Technology work
- Acquisition of real property
- Construction
- Reconstruction
- Rehabilitation
- Replacement
- Environmental Mitigation
- Construction Contingencies
- Acquisition of equipment, including vehicles

Overview: Prohibited Uses

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A SMART grant shall **not** be used for the following:

- To reimburse any pre-award costs or application preparation costs of the SMART grant application
- For any traffic or parking enforcement activity
- To purchase or lease a license plate reader

Overview: Anticipated Program Structure

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The anticipated structure is a **2-stage program.**

- Stage 1: Planning and Prototyping Grant: up to $2 million over 18 months
- Stage 2: Implementation Grant: up to $15 million over 36 months

STAGE ONE:

- Proof-of-concept
- Build & Strengthen partnerships
- Move quickly and demonstrate capacity

STAGE TWO:

- Scale prototypes to demonstrate benefits to community
- Capture lessons learned
- Evaluate benefits
- Work towards key performance indicators

BEYOND:

- Plan for widespread deployment of successful demonstrations

Getting Ready: Grant Resources

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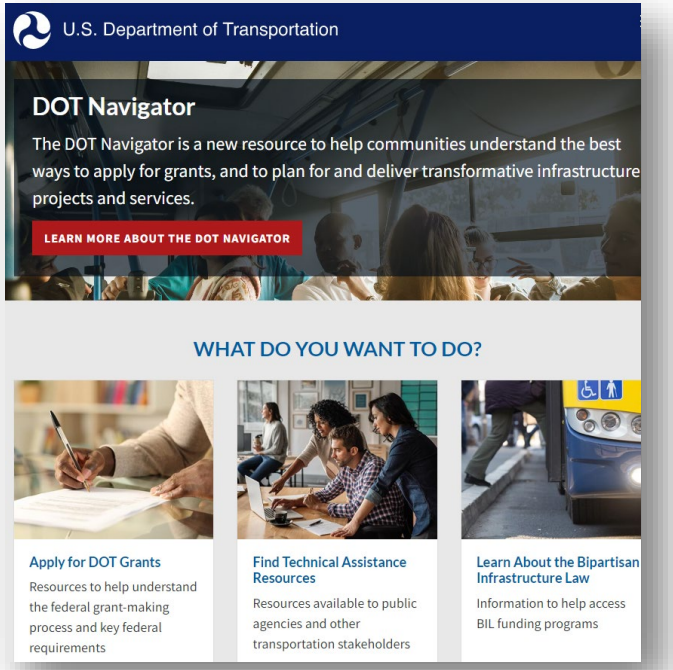
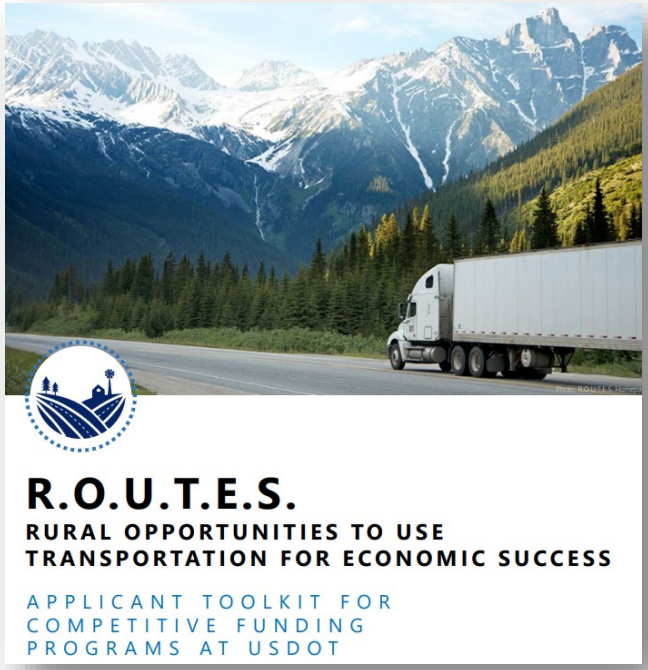


www.transportation.gov/dot-navigator

www.grants.gov/web/grants/learn-grants.html



www.transportation.gov/rural/grants/toolkit

Getting Ready: Unique Entity Identifiers

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- All applicants will need to obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) through GSA to apply for grant opportunities in grants.gov.
- On April 4, the federal government stopped using Dun & Bradstreet's proprietary Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) to identify contractors and grantees and began exclusively using the Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).
- The process of obtaining a UEI can take **up to a month**, so applicants are encouraged to apply for the UEI now. If you previously had a DUNS number that you used at SAM.gov, your UEI has already been created and is available to view in SAM.gov.
- For more information, see https://sam.gov/.

Getting Ready: Questions to Think About

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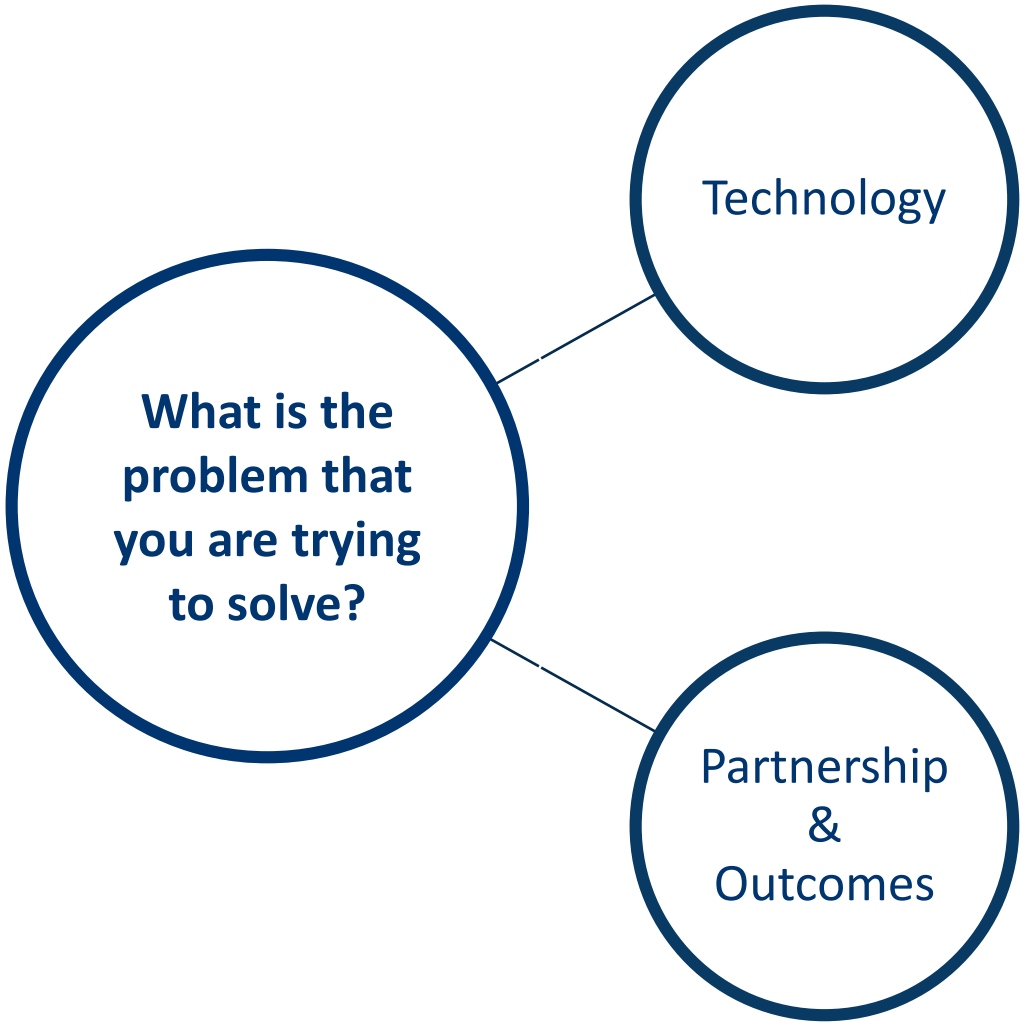

- Is this technology an effective solution for an issue that your community faces?
- Will the technology deployment address a known problem?
- Will the technology deployment lead to a significant improvement over existing conditions?
- What obstacles existed in the past to implement these technologies?

- What partnerships exist or could exist?
- Can you complete your project in a reasonable timeframe?
- Will this project generate significant public benefits, and who will benefit from this project?
- How does your project address climate, equity, and safety priorities?

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Questions and Answers

Q&A

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- Please type your questions into the Q&A box
- Technical Support: webconference@dot.gov
- Answers to frequently asked questions will be posted on www.transportation.gov/SMART

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