



**U.S. Department  
of Transportation**



# Identifying USDOT Discretionary Grant Opportunities

May 22, 2023



# Today's Agenda

*Helping communities access the tools needed to thrive!*

- DOT Resources to Support Rural and Tribal Communities
- Walk through DOT's Discretionary Grant Tool
- Spotlight on FHWA's PROTECT, Wildlife Crossing Program, and Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Program Notices of Funding Opportunity
- Updates to the DOT Navigator

The recording and slides from today's webinar will be posted to the USDOT Navigator this week!

Please use the Q&A box to submit your questions. We will get to as many as possible at the end of the webinar.

# Today's Speakers



U.S. Department  
of Transportation



Shailen Bhatt,  
FHWA  
Administrator



Michael Close,  
Transportation  
Policy Analyst,  
USDOT



Christopher Coes,  
Assistant Secretary  
for Transportation  
Policy, USDOT



Mariia  
Zimmerman,  
Strategic Advisor  
for Technical  
Assistance and  
Community  
Solutions, USDOT

# The ROUTES Initiative

The Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success (ROUTES) Initiative aims to address disparities in rural transportation infrastructure and improve safety and economic competitiveness nationwide.



## The ROUTES Initiative is established to...

**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 DOT Programs** to implement rural policy by establishing the ROUTES Council to lead and coordinate Departmental activities to implement BIL 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 such as DOE, DOI, and USDA to expand DOT's presence in rural America, better promote DOT's resources to their customers, and capitalize on synergies between Federal funding programs.



# USDOT's Rural EV Infrastructure Toolkit

*Charging Forward: A Toolkit for Planning and Funding Rural Electric Mobility Infrastructure*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

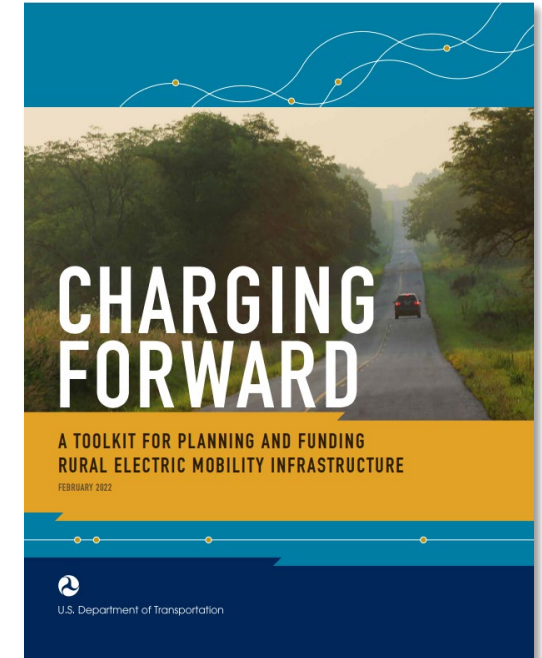
- Electric Vehicle Basics
- Benefits and Challenges of Rural Vehicle Electrification
- Partnership Opportunities
- EV Infrastructure Planning for Rural Areas
- EV Infrastructure Funding and Financing for Rural Areas

## INCLUDES...

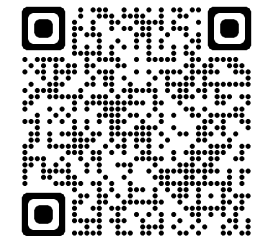
- Grant and loan opportunities
- Planning tools and resources
- Rural success stories

## UPDATED MAY 2023 [NEW]

- Stakeholder feedback
- Expanded content
  - Tribal communities
  - Transit vehicles
  - School buses
  - Micromobility
  - Accessible design
- New funding programs, including the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)
  - National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Formula Program (\$5 billion)
  - Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program (\$2.5 billion)
  - Clean School Bus Program (\$5 billion)



Scan the QR code! →



# Navigating DOT Discretionary Grant Opportunities



U.S. Department  
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# DOT Discretionary Grants Dashboard

- DOT Navigator Home
- Grant Application Resources >
- Technical Assistance Resources
- Learn About the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
- Find Transportation Contacts Near You
- ROUTES Home

## DOT Discretionary Grants Dashboard

The DOT Discretionary Grants Dashboard provides communities with an overview of discretionary grant opportunities that can help meet their transportation infrastructure needs. Designed with all communities in mind, the Dashboard identifies grant programs with rural and Tribal set-asides or match waivers available. The Dashboard also includes Federal grant programs outside of DOT that may be of particular interest to rural communities. An updated Rural Grant Applicant Toolkit will soon be published to help rural communities harness the Dashboard. The Dashboard is updated weekly.

The DOT Navigator is a resource to help communities understand the best ways to apply for grants, and to plan for and deliver transformative infrastructure projects and services.

Download CSV

Keywords

Eligible Activities

Eligible Applicants

Agency/Office

Transportation Type

Match Waiver

Rural Set-Aside

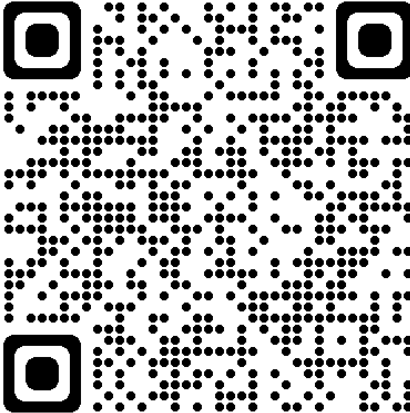
Tribal Set-Aside

Status

Apply

- Related Links
- FHWA Tribal Funding Opportunities
  - EV Funding Opportunities
  - National Roadway Safety Strategy
  - J40 Initiative

Visit the Dashboard!



<https://www.transportation.gov/grants/dashboard>





# What is the DOT Discretionary Grants Dashboard?


- The Dashboard provides an overview of discretionary grant opportunities for transportation infrastructure.
- The Dashboard was developed to help communities utilize the upcoming *Rural Grant Applicant Toolkit* but is a resource for any type of community.
- The Toolkit helps potential applicants in identifying and navigating discretionary opportunities for rural transportation projects.

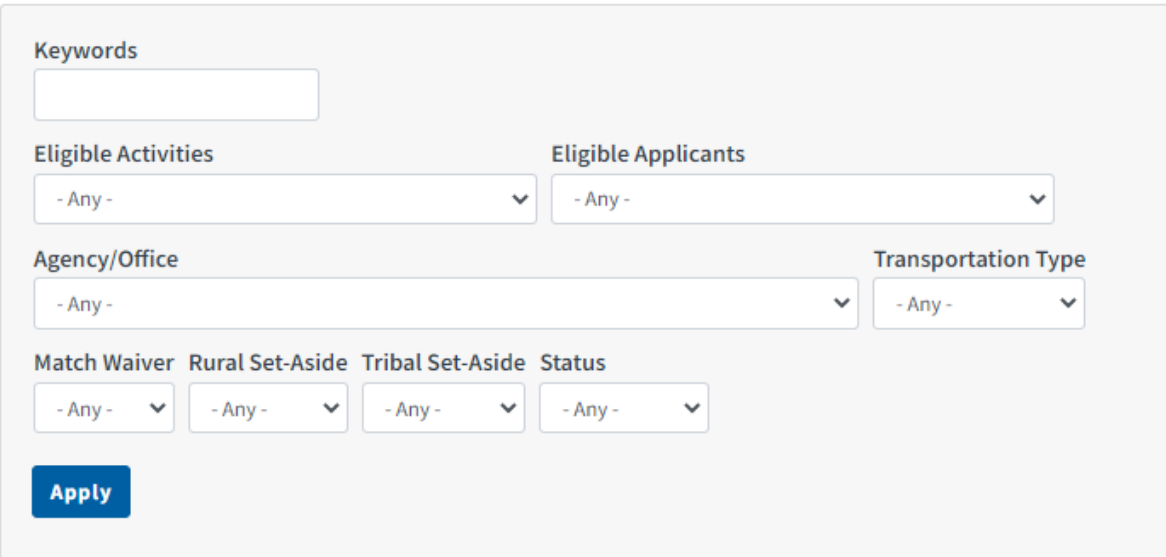




# DOT Discretionary Grants Dashboard: *Contents*

Searchable database of USDOT and non-USDOT transportation related discretionary grants.

 [Download CSV](#)



The screenshot shows a search filter interface with the following elements:

- Keywords:** A text input field.
- Eligible Activities:** A dropdown menu with "- Any -" selected.
- Eligible Applicants:** A dropdown menu with "- Any -" selected.
- Agency/Office:** A dropdown menu with "- Any -" selected.
- Transportation Type:** A dropdown menu with "- Any -" selected.
- Match Waiver:** A dropdown menu with "- Any -" selected.
- Rural Set-Aside:** A dropdown menu with "- Any -" selected.
- Tribal Set-Aside:** A dropdown menu with "- Any -" selected.
- Status:** A dropdown menu with "- Any -" selected.
- Apply:** A blue button.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- 90+ grant programs
- Covers DOT and Non-DOT Agencies
  - 8 DOT Agencies
  - 10+ Non-DOT Agencies
- Multiple search filters
- Customized features for Rural and Tribal communities
- Save results as Excel csv file



# DOT Discretionary Grants Dashboard

## Details of some of the searchable fields

### Eligible Applicants

- State Governments
- Local Governments
- U.S. Territories
- Federally Recognized Tribes and Affiliated Organizations
- Planning and Project Organizations
- Transportation Providers and Operators
- Academic and Research Institutions
- Job Training Applicants
- Private-Sector Applicants
- Nonprofits

### Eligible Activities

- Planning
- Construction
- Equipment & Materials
- Operations & Maintenance
- Technology Demonstrations and Deployment
- Technical Assistance, Workforce Development, & Training/Education
- Research & Development
- Climate & Sustainability
- Accessibility
- Security



# DOT Discretionary Grants Dashboard: *Grant Pages*

Search results will display links to individual grant summary pages.

- Brief summary
- Current status
- Eligible applicants, activities, and transportation types
- Most recent annual program amount and individual award amount
- Match waiver and applicant match requirement
- Links to Grants.gov page and additional information
- Eligibility, Funding, and Contact Information

### Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program

#### General Grant Program Information

Under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), the [Safe Streets and Roads for All \(SS4A\)](#) program provides financial support for planning, infrastructure, behavioral, and operational initiatives to prevent death and serious injury on roads and streets involving all roadway users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, public transportation users and operators, personal conveyance, micromobility users, motorists, and commercial vehicle operators. The SS4A program provides funding for the development of comprehensive safety action plans, supplemental planning for activities identified in an eligible action plan, and for implementation of eligible action plans.

Opportunity Status:	Open
Posted Date:	03/30/2023
Close Date:	07/10/2023
Eligible Applicants:	State Governments; Local Governments; Federally Recognized Tribes and Affiliated Groups; Planning and Project Organizations; Transportation Providers and Operators; Academic and Research Institutions
Eligible Activities:	Planning; Construction; Equipment and Materials; Operations and Maintenance; Technology Demonstrations and Deployment; Technical Assistance, Workforce Development, and Training/Education; Accessibility
Transportation Type:	Bike/Ped; Roadway
Most Recent Annual Program Funding Amount:	\$1,000,000,000
Annual Award Amount:	\$100,000 - \$25 Million
Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement:	Yes
Match Waiver:	No
Rural Set-Aside:	No
Grant Opportunity ID:	DOT-SS4A-FY23-01
Grant Opportunity Link:	<a href="#">Grants.gov Opportunity Synopsis</a>
Links to Additional Information:	<a href="#">Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program</a>
Agency:	USDOT / Office of the Secretary of Transportation (OST)

#### Eligibility Information



# USDOT Discretionary Grants Dashboard: *Example*

## City government looking for roadway funding opportunities for planning

- Eligible applicant: “Local Government”
- Transportation Type: “Roadway”
- Eligible Activities: “Planning”

The screenshot shows a search filter interface with the following elements:

- Keywords:** An empty text input field.
- Eligible Activities:** A dropdown menu with "Planning" selected.
- Eligible Applicants:** A dropdown menu with "Local Governments" selected.
- Agency/Office:** A dropdown menu with "- Any -" selected.
- Transportation Type:** A dropdown menu with "Roadway" selected.
- Match Waiver:** A dropdown menu with "- Any -" selected.
- Rural Set-Aside:** A dropdown menu with "- Any -" selected.
- Tribal Set-Aside:** A dropdown menu with "- Any -" selected.
- Status:** A dropdown menu with "- Any -" selected.
- Buttons:** "Apply" and "Reset" buttons.



# DOT Discretionary Grants Dashboard: *Example*

Non-profit interested in funding for equipment and materials on a roadway project

Keywords

Eligible Activities: Equipment and Materials  
Eligible Applicants: Non-profit

Agency/Office: - Any -  
Transportation Type: Roadway

Match Waiver: - Any -  
Rural Set-Aside: - Any -  
Tribal Set-Aside: - Any -  
Status: - Any -

**Apply** **Reset**

- Eligible Applicants: “Non-profit”
- Eligible Activities: “Equipment and Materials”
- Transportation Type: “Roadway”





# DOT Discretionary Grants Dashboard: *Example*

Tribal government interested in funding for a railway project with match waiver available

Keywords

Eligible Activities: - Any -  
Eligible Applicants: Federally Recognized Tribes and Affiliated Groups

Agency/Office: - Any -  
Transportation Type: Railway

Match Waiver: Yes  
Rural Set-Aside: - Any -  
Tribal Set-Aside: - Any -  
Status: - Any -

**Apply** **Reset**

- Eligible Applicants: “Federally Recognized Tribes and Affiliated Groups”
- Transportation Type: “Railway”
- Match Waiver: “Yes”



# DOT Discretionary Grants Dashboard: *Planned Improvements*

## Grants.gov Integration

- Synchronize listings with Grants.gov.

## More Grant Programs

- Build on the initial set of grant programs.

## More Features

- Improve the user experience.



# Rural Grant Applicant Toolkit: *Coming Soon!*

The updated Rural Grant Applicant Toolkit will cover:

- The Critical Role of Rural Communities in the U.S. Transportation System
- Federal Funding and Financing
- Who Is Eligible to Apply for Discretionary Grants?
- The Grant Application Process
- Maximizing Award Success
- USDOT Discretionary Grant Programs
- Non-USDOT Discretionary Grants: Agency Descriptions and Programs

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# Contact Us!



[www.transportation.gov/rural](http://www.transportation.gov/rural)

**rural@dot.gov**



# USDOT Navigator Resource

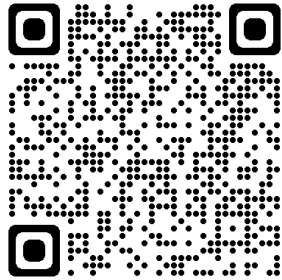


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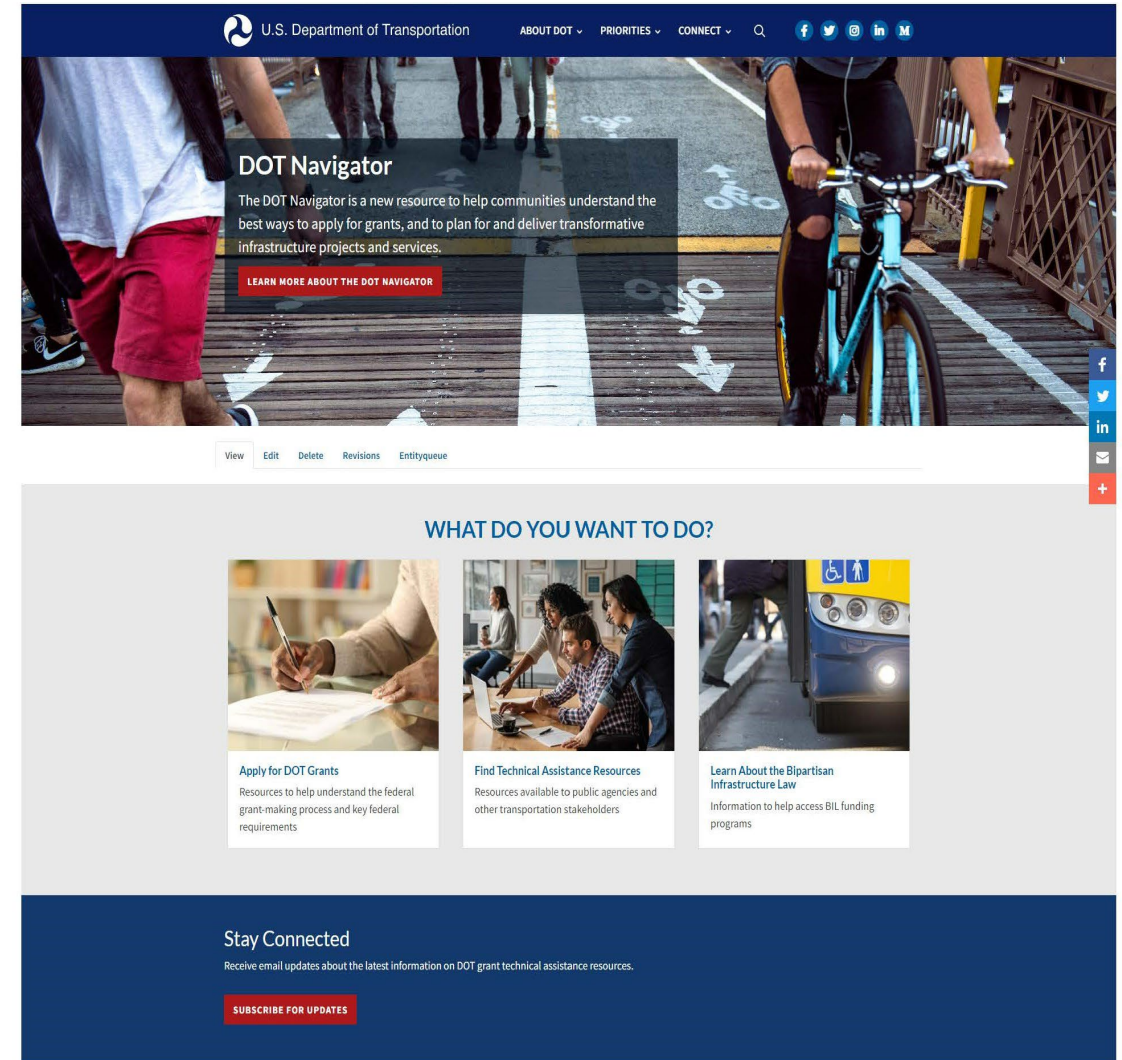
# DOT Navigator

## Coordinating and Improving Access to the range of DOT Technical Assistance Resources



<https://transportation.gov/dot-navigator>

- **Sample Grant Application Resources**
  - Overview of DOT Funding and Financing
  - USDOT Discretionary Grant Process
  - Understanding Federal Match Requirements
  - Checklist for a Strong Workforce and Labor Plan
  - What is a Benefit-Cost Analysis?
  - Is Federal Funding the Right Fit for My Organization?



The screenshot shows the DOT Navigator website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the U.S. Department of Transportation logo, the text "U.S. Department of Transportation", and menu items for "ABOUT DOT", "PRIORITIES", and "CONNECT". Below the navigation bar is a large hero image of a person walking and a person riding a bicycle on a wooden boardwalk. Overlaid on this image is the "DOT Navigator" title and a brief description: "The DOT Navigator is a new resource to help communities understand the best ways to apply for grants, and to plan for and deliver transformative infrastructure projects and services." A red button labeled "LEARN MORE ABOUT THE DOT NAVIGATOR" is positioned below the text. Below the hero image is a horizontal menu with options: "View", "Edit", "Delete", "Revisions", and "Entityqueue". The main content area is titled "WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?" and features three columns of content cards. The first card is "Apply for DOT Grants" with a sub-heading "Resources to help understand the federal grant-making process and key federal requirements" and an image of hands writing on a document. The second card is "Find Technical Assistance Resources" with a sub-heading "Resources available to public agencies and other transportation stakeholders" and an image of people working at a computer. The third card is "Learn About the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law" with a sub-heading "Information to help access BIL funding programs" and an image of a blue bus with a wheelchair icon. At the bottom of the page, there is a "Stay Connected" section with the text "Receive email updates about the latest information on DOT grant technical assistance resources." and a red button labeled "SUBSCRIBE FOR UPDATES".

# Checklist for a Strong Climate Change Mitigation, Adaptation, and Resilience Grant Application

- Provides an overview of considerations for applicants to develop a strong grant application that incorporates strategies related to climate change
- Includes considerations for:
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- Addressing climate resilience and adaptation
- Provides a list of resources for additional information from USDOT and its Operating Administrations

<https://www.transportation.gov/grants/dot-navigator/checklist-strong-climate-change-mitigation-adaptation-and-resilience-grant>

## Checklist for a Strong Climate Change Mitigation, Adaptation and Resilience Grant Application

### Two Core Components of a Strong Project

Most U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) discretionary grants include selection criteria associated with climate change. Although criteria may differ among grant programs, a strong application in this area generally consists of two core components:

1. Reducing transportation greenhouse gas emissions (also called greenhouse gas mitigation, climate change mitigation, or decarbonization)
2. Incorporating climate adaptation and resilience features

This checklist is furnished to spark thoughts and ideas for applicants to consider in developing a strong application. Not everything listed here needs to be addressed to be competitive. Review the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the specific program you are considering to be responsive to its priorities or requirements.



Summary of transportation decarbonization strategies. Source: [U.S. National Blueprint for Transportation Decarbonization](#)

# Snapshot of FY 2022 BIL Discretionary Grant Applications

See a list of all who have applied for FY2022 grant programs managed by the Office of the Secretary

- **Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant Program**
- **INFRA, MEGA, Rural Surface Transportation Grant Programs**
- **Reconnecting Communities Program (RCP)**
- **Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)**
- **Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grants Program**

DOT Navigator Home

Grant Application Resources >

- Overview
- Overview of DOT Funding and Financing
- USDOT Discretionary Grant Process
- Snapshot of BIL Discretionary Grant Applications
- Understanding Match Requirements
- How to Navigate Grants.gov to Submit Applications
- Tools to Determine Disadvantaged Community Status
- Maximizing Award Success:

## Snapshot of BIL Discretionary Grant Applications

Interested in seeing who has applied to grants funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and managed by the USDOT Office of the Secretary? [View the list of eligible applicants for the 2022 rounds of RAISE, INFRA, Mega, Rural, RCP, SS4A, and SMART.](#) More information about each of these grant programs is provided below.

- **Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant Program:** This program provides a unique opportunity for USDOT to invest in road, rail, transit, and port projects that promise to achieve national objectives. Previously known as the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) and Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grants, Congress has dedicated nearly \$12.1 billion for fourteen rounds of National Infrastructure Investments to fund projects that have a significant local or regional impact.
- For FY 2022, INFRA, Mega, and the Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program were part of the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Opportunity (MPDG) combined Notice of Funding Opportunity.
  - **INFRA** (known statutorily as Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight & Highway Projects): This program awards competitive grants for multimodal freight and highway projects of national or regional significance to improve the safety, efficiency, and reliability of the movement of freight and people in and across rural and urban areas.



*Of the 2,832 project applications included in this spreadsheet, USDOT funded 828 projects, representing 30% of the eligible applications and more than \$6 billion in Federal funding*

<https://www.transportation.gov/grants/dot-navigator/snapshot-bil-discretionary-grant-applications> -

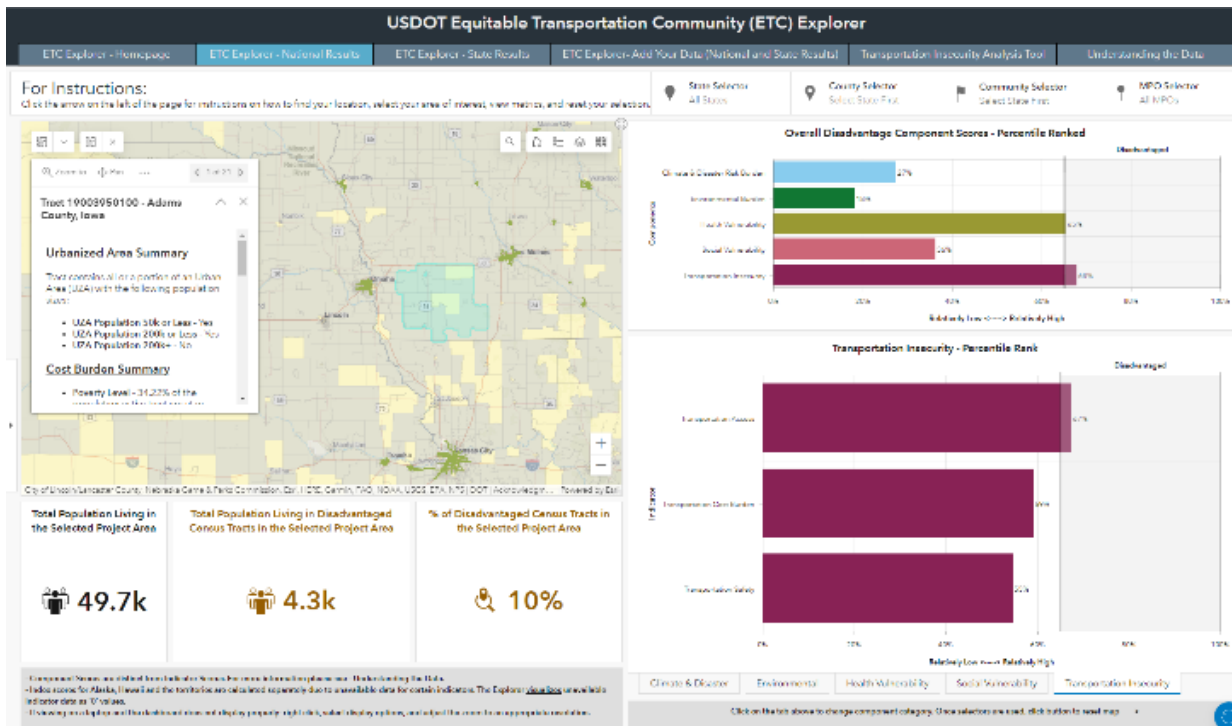


# Tools to Identify Justice 40 Areas in your Community

## ✓ Know Your Justice40 Designated Census Tracts

Know your [Justice40 designated Census Tracts](#), as many discretionary grant programs give additional consideration to projects that benefit J40 census tracts.

Find out [which areas in your community qualify as J40 census tracts](#) according to Federal disadvantaged community tools, and which of the [39 DOT J40-covered programs](#) may be especially beneficial to your community.



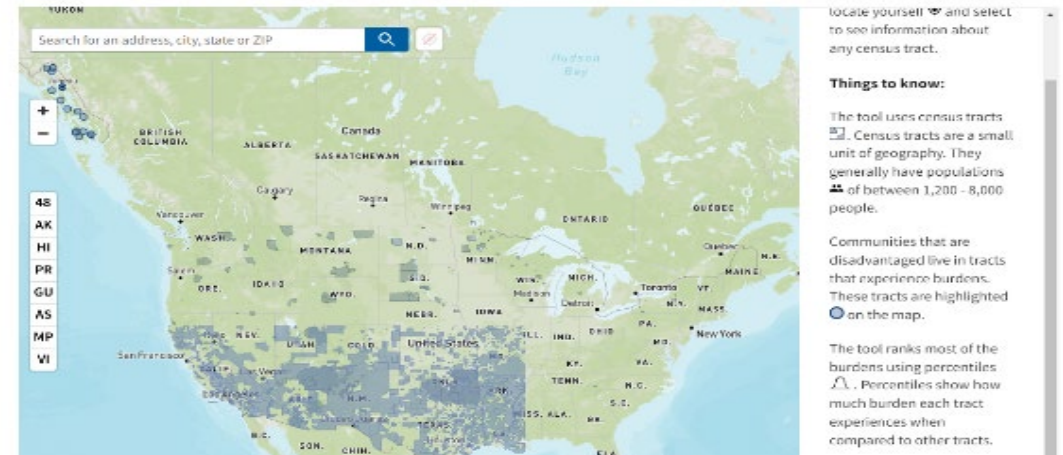
## Explore the map

Share data sources with CEJF

Census tracts that are overburdened and underserved are highlighted as being disadvantaged on the map. Federally Recognized Tribes, including Alaska Native Villages, are also considered disadvantaged communities.

Zooming in and selecting shows information about each census tract.

**Get the data**   
Download the data with documentation and shapefile from the downloads page.



# USDOT Funding Opportunities

Scan the QR  
code! →



Funding Opportunity	Application Deadline
<a href="#">Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant Program</a>	June 13, 2023 – extended!
<a href="#">Tribal Transit</a>	June 26, 2023
<a href="#">Safe Streets &amp; Roads for All</a>	July 10, 2023
<a href="#">Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program</a>	August 1, 2023
<a href="#">PROTECT Program</a>	August 18, 2023
<a href="#">Transit-Oriented Development Pilot Program</a>	<i>Anticipated to open in late spring 2023</i>
Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Opportunity ( <a href="#">Mega</a> , <a href="#">INFRA</a> , and <a href="#">Rural</a> )	<i>Anticipated to open in late spring 2023</i>
<a href="#">Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program (BIL) and Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant Program (IRA)</a>	<i>Anticipated to open in summer 2023</i>
<a href="#">Thriving Communities Program</a>	<i>Anticipated to open in summer 2023</i>
<a href="#">Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grants Program</a>	<i>Anticipated to open in fall 2023</i>



# Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Funding Opportunities



U.S. Department  
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# Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program (WCPP) Discretionary Grant Program

- \$112 Million for FY 2022-2023 via discretionary grants to achieve a reduction in the number of wildlife-vehicle collisions and improve wildlife habitat connectivity
- At least 60% of funds will be awarded to rural areas
- **Eligible project types:** Non-Construction and Construction Projects
- **Eligible applicants:** States, metropolitan planning organizations, local governments, regional transportation authorities, special purpose districts or public authorities with a transportation function, Tribes, Federal land management agencies, or a group of eligible entities.
- FHWA released a Notice of Funding Opportunity on April 4, 2023. Applications are due **August 1, 2023.**



[highways.dot.gov/federal-lands/programs/wildlife-crossings](https://highways.dot.gov/federal-lands/programs/wildlife-crossings)

# Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Discretionary Grant Program

\$848 Million from FY 2022-2023 via discretionary grants to help make surface transportation more resilient to natural hazards, including climate change, sea level rise, flooding, extreme weather events, and other natural disasters.

- Four funding categories:
  - Planning
  - Resilience Improvement
  - Community Resilience and Evacuation Routes
  - At-Risk Coastal Infrastructure
- Eligible applicants include States, metropolitan planning organizations, local governments, Tribes, and other public agencies. Also includes territories for at-risk coastal infrastructure grants only
- FHWA released a Notice of Funding Opportunity on April 21. **Applications are due August 18.**



[www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/protect/discretionary/](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/protect/discretionary/)

# Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant Program

- First round of funding makes \$700 million from Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023 funding available to strategically deploy electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure and other fueling infrastructure projects in urban and rural communities in publicly accessible locations, including downtown areas and local neighborhoods, particularly in underserved and disadvantaged communities.
- Two funding categories:
  - Community Program
  - Corridor Program
- Eligible applicants include States, metropolitan planning organizations, local governments, special purpose districts, Tribes, Territories and other public agencies.
- FHWA released a Notice of Funding Opportunity on March 14. **Deadline for applications was extended to June 13.**



<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/cfi/>



# Technical Assistance Resources

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FHWA BIL Website - [www.fhwa.dot.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/)

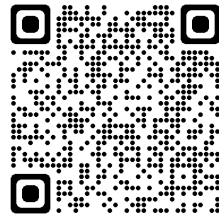
- Where to get support
  - Federal-aid Division offices
  - Office of Tribal Transportation
  - Resource Center
  - Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) Centers
  - Tribal Technical Assistance Program (TTAP) Centers
  - National Highway Institute
  - Federal-Aid Highway 101 (#310110)
  - Understanding the Uniform Guidance Requirements (2 CFR 200) for Federal Awards (#231034)
  - Federal-aid Essentials for Local Public Agencies



*Questions Beyond Today ....*

Email us at [USDOTassist@dot.gov](mailto:USDOTassist@dot.gov)

*[Sign up](#) to receive email updates with the latest information on the Thriving Communities Program and other DOT grant technical assistance resources at the DOT Navigator.*



# Questions?

## Stay Connected

Receive email updates about the latest information on DOT grant technical assistance resources.

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