



Thriving Communities Network (TCN)

May 29, 2024

TCN Learning Series:

Technical Assistance Over a Full Project Lifecycle

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Today's Agenda

Today's Learning Series Session will focus on the full project lifecycle, from project ideation through to construction, from the perspective of two DOT TA programs.

Agenda:

- DOT Thriving Communities Program
- DOT Reconnecting Communities Institute
- Discussion



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FY 2023 Thriving Communities Program

May 29, 2024



**THRIVING
COMMUNITIES**
PROGRAM

What is the Thriving Communities Program (TCP)?



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- TCP acknowledges that not all communities have the resources to access federal funding opportunities to advance transportation infrastructure, and often these are the communities who need it the most
- The Thriving Communities Program:
 - funds Capacity Builders to provide technical assistance, planning, and capacity building to individual communities based on their unique needs, goals, and challenges; and
 - directs Capacity Builder support to communities to build the tools, skills, and resources they need to identify and apply for federal funding opportunities and successfully implement transformative projects
- TCP was established via the FY22 and FY23 Congressional appropriations (not via BIL)



**THRIVING
COMMUNITIES**
PROGRAM

Thriving Communities Program FY23 Design



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- Two parallel opportunities to provide or receive support through the program
- DOT issued a **Call for Letters of Interest** for disadvantaged and under-resourced communities interested in receiving technical assistance, planning, and capacity building support over a 3-year period from National-level Capacity Builders
 - No direct funding provided to selected communities
- DOT issued a **Notice of Funding Opportunity** for National or Regional organizations interested in providing technical assistance, planning, and capacity building support (DOT funds Capacity Builders to provide this support)
 - **TCP-National (TCP-N) Capacity Builders** will support selected communities (15-20 each, selected by DOT) over a 3-year period, including 2 years of deep-dive technical assistance and a final year focused on program evaluation, reporting, and transition activities.
 - Eligible applicants are non-profit organizations, philanthropy, and other technical assistance providers
 - **TCP-Regional (TCP-R) Capacity Builders** will provide technical assistance over 3 years to communities located within their own jurisdictions, selected by the applicant.
 - Eligible applicants are State governments and their agencies, Indian Tribes, Local governments and their agencies, Governmental planning or transportation organizations working at the regional or metropolitan level, and Regional planning non-profit organizations



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TCP Communities of Practice

An organizational framework for TCP-N Capacity Builders and communities



Overview of Selected Communities and Regions



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Overview of FY23 Thriving Communities Program



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3
National Capacity Builders

6
Regional Capacity Builders

39
States Represented

112
Communities Supported

\$23.6 M
In funding for Capacity Builders

TCP SNAPSHOT

- FY23 Program received...
 - 195 eligible community applicants for the National program
 - 28 eligible TCP-N proposals
 - 27 eligible TCP-R proposals

Map of FY 2023 Selected Communities



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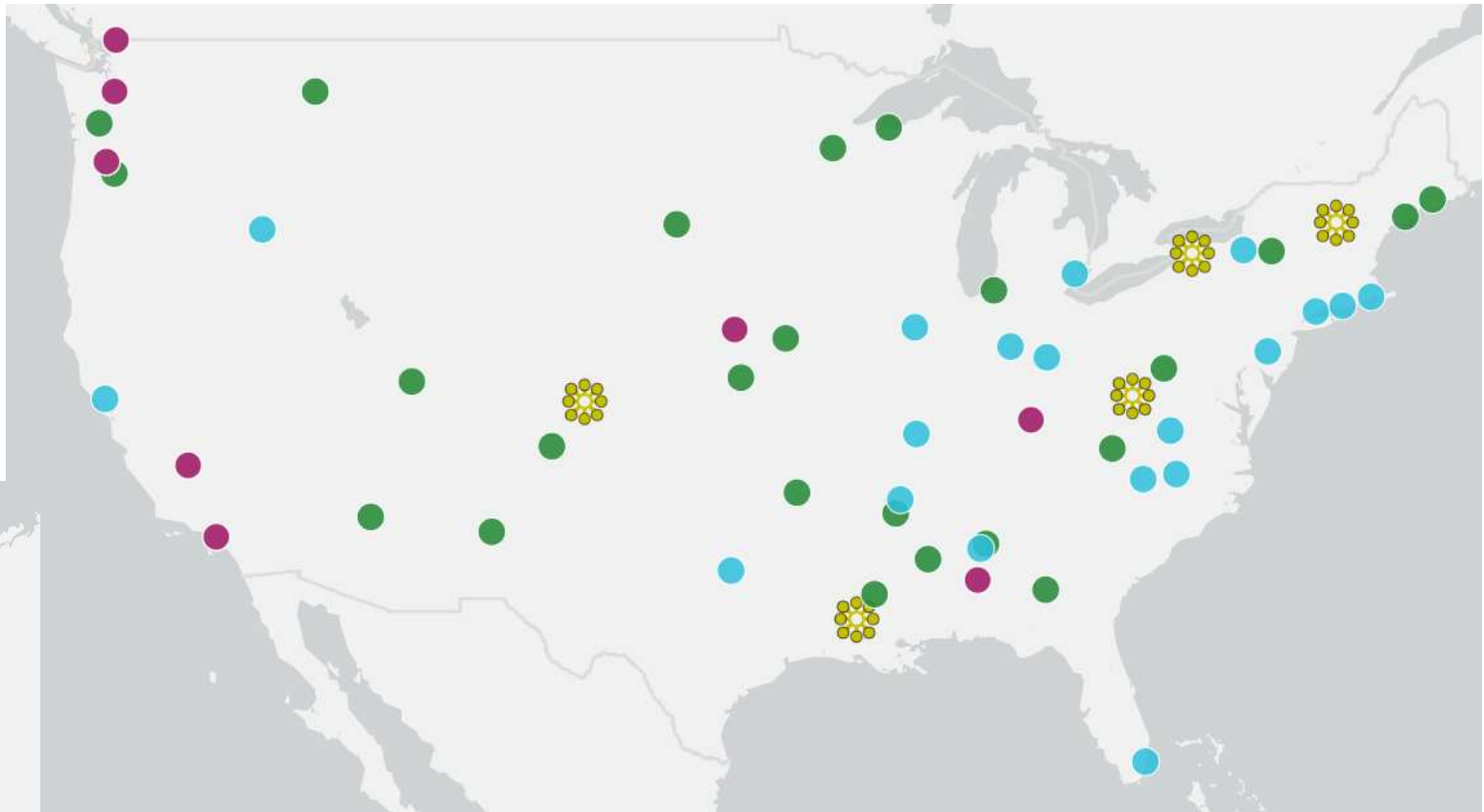
Communities of Practice

Complete Neighborhoods

Main Streets

Networked Communities

TCP Regional Capacity Builder

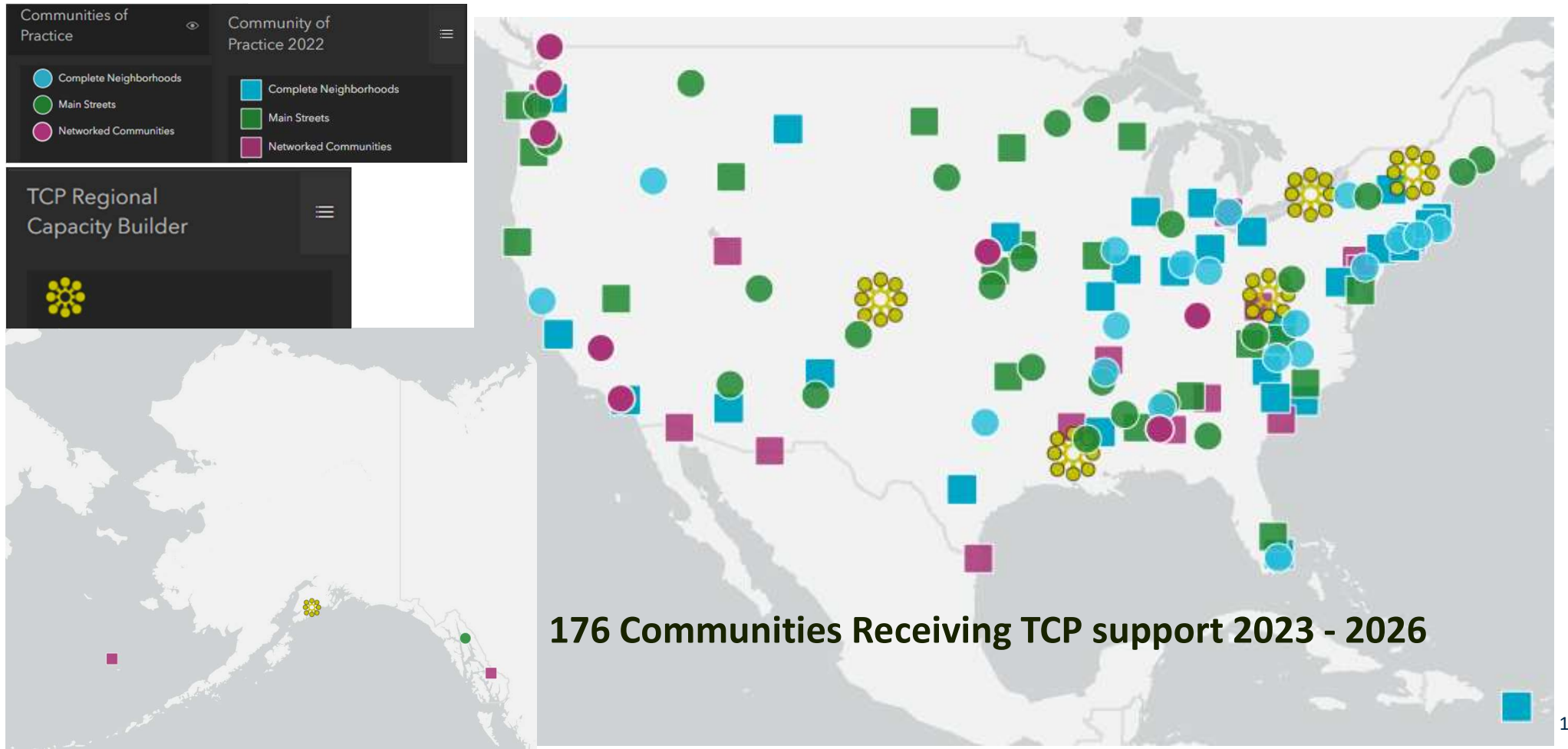


52 communities supported through TCP-N + 60 communities supported through TCP-R

Map of FY 2022 & 2023 Selected Communities



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Selected National Capacity Building Communities

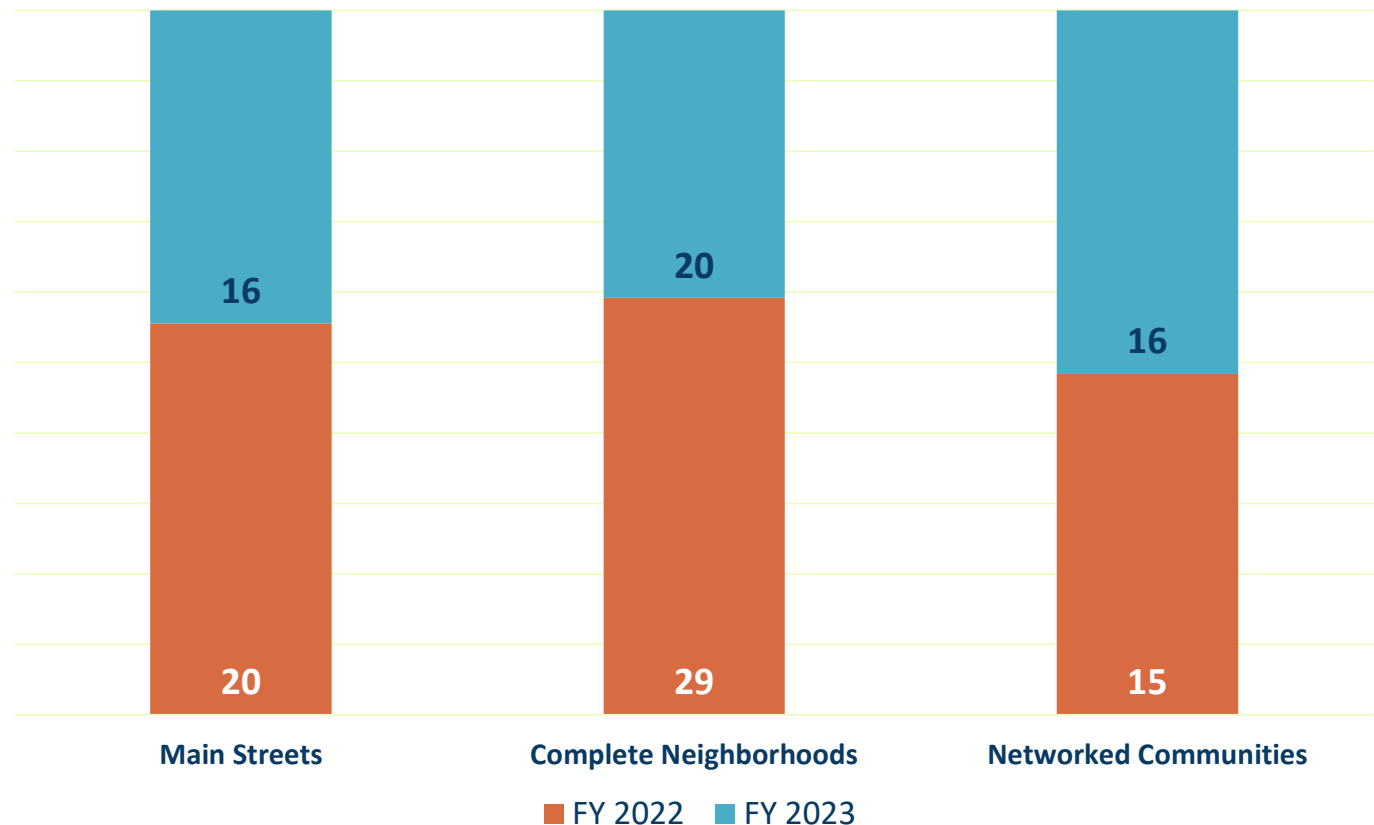


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Who they are...

- **52 total** communities selected for FY23 National support
- Total of **116 communities supported across FY22/23** National cohorts

FY 2022 & 2023 Thriving Communities Participants



Selected Communities Experience with Federal Grants



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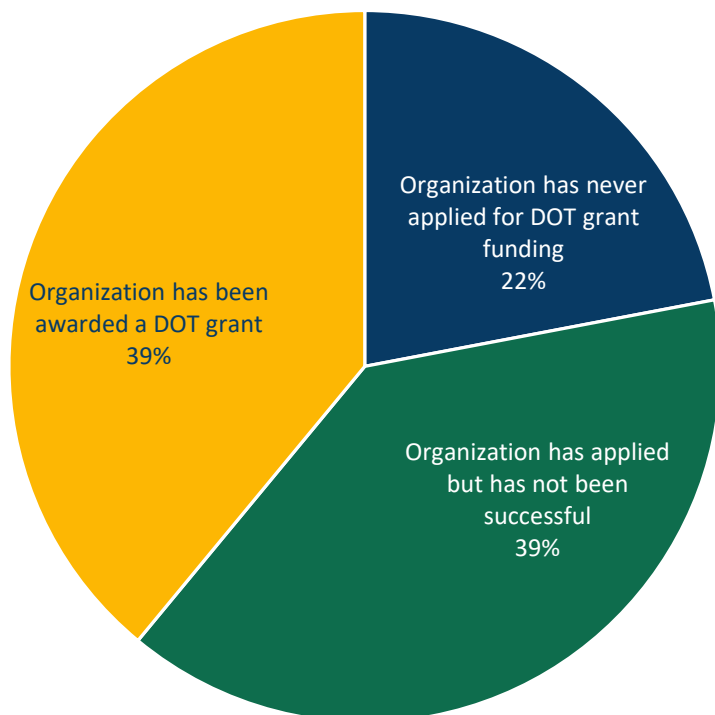


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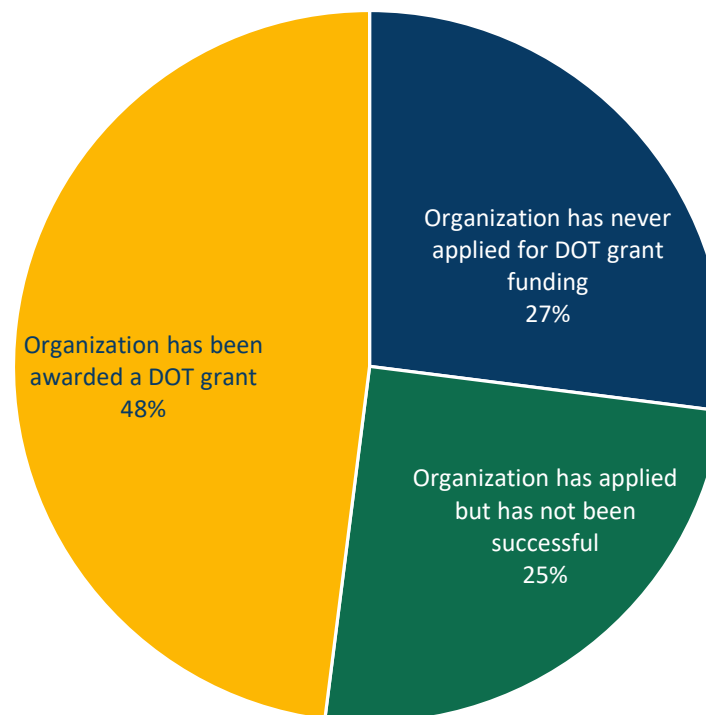
Selected Community Experience* with DOT Grants

More than 57% of the 64 FY22 TCP communities have received a DOT grant since the program's launch

Percent of FY22 Selected Communities



Percent of FY23 Selected Communities



**Experience is self-reported by applicants*



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Selected Community Experience with DOT Grants

The following are examples of the grants that FY '23 TCP communities have received. Applicants may have received other non-DOT grants as well.

- Transportation Alternatives
- RAISE (Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity)
- Safe Streets for All (SS4A)
- FAA Airport Improvement Program
- Port Infrastructure Development Program
- PROTECT (Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation)
- TIGER Grant (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery)
- Carbon Reduction Program
- Reconnecting Communities Pilot Grant
- Airport Terminal Program
- FTA Tribal Transit Program Planning Grant



TCP Cohort Highlights

- In **Decatur (IL)**, the creation of a community-based learn and earn a bike program curriculum covering general bike maintenance, street safety, and more.
- Exploring a series of community demonstration projects and active transportation ideas in **Santa Cruz County (CA)** to reduce collisions, reduce collisions and speeds, and improve pedestrian safety in high crash areas.
- The **City of Rexburg (ID)** received a \$2M Reconnecting Communities Program (RCN) Planning grant, direct nexus to TCP TA priority – active transportation network and reconnecting communities across US-20.
- Support **Pottstown (PA)** in community-wide strategic planning of design concepts, policies, and principles for context-sensitive, mixed-use, equitable transit-oriented development (ETOD) that is anchored by a multi-modal transportation station in downtown Pottstown to support a growing need for workforce housing that is accessible, equitable, and affordable.
- Support **Brownsville (TX)** to identify and advance infrastructure projects to improve pedestrian walkability, transportation systems, mobility, sustainability, and safety in the community.
- Support public engagement activities and planning efforts in **Anaheim (CA)** for a bus rapid transit line and mobility hub, including discussion on affordable workforce housing opportunities and TIFIA financing.
- Development of an equitable engagement strategy in partnership with VIA Metropolitan Transit in **San Antonio (TX)** to ensure that the ART East/West Corridor Project meets the unique needs of the community, while effectively connecting them to affordable housing, workforce programs, healthcare, education, community facilities, food pantries and other essential services.

Questions



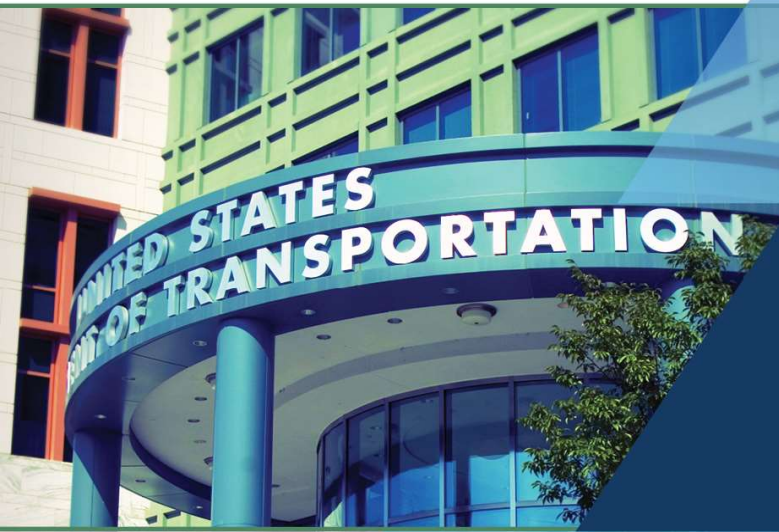
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Thank you!



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Reconnecting Communities Institute

May 29, 2024



Technical Assistance for Transportation Reconnection

- Offer technical assistance to **increase community and organizational capacity** in the planning, engineering, and delivery of quality, safe, and innovative Reconnecting Connecting Pilot projects that fills gaps in existing DOT technical assistance resources and that is adaptive and flexible, depending on the needs of participants and DOT
- **Provide technical assistance** to a diverse set of communities, including those located in rural, urban, suburban areas, as well as on Tribal land, and to a variety of organization types particularly those with less capacity in transportation such as non-profit organizations and local governments, including occasional **in-person support**
- Provide occasional **in-person support**
- Help **technical assistance recipients advance** through project development phases of infrastructure projects that reconnect communities



Team Structure





Technical Assistance Available

- Live (virtual and in-person) and on-demand resources through **group TA**, including workshops, trainings, summits, guidebooks, checklists and more
- One-on-one **individual technical assistance** tailored to communities' specific needs
- Peer-to-peer learning opportunities through a program-wide **community of practice**
- Dedicated **relationship managers** that understand each community and curate TA resources and offerings through an **individualized TA plan**

Three Cohorts

Entry Level

Participants will work through foundational knowledge that set technical assistance recipients up for success to apply for planning grants.

Planning Level

Participants will build organizational capacity and improve planning products that support future community reconnection activities.

Capital Level

Participants will build capacity to deliver quality projects that reconnect communities and maximize the return on investment for the public.



Expected Early TA Topics*

Topics

- Negotiating grant agreements
- Mechanics of grant matching
- Working with state DOTs
- Best practices for development of RFPs
- Working through procurements
 - Timing
 - Scope
- Community member engagement
- Reporting for federal grants



Website and Outreach

Cadmus will support communications and outreach for RCI

Key components include:

- RCI website featuring:
 - Low barrier to entry TA intake process
 - Access to tools and resources
 - Community of practice
- Outreach and engagement with potential participants



Data Analysis, Research, and Tools



Cadmus will provide access to software and tools as needed to enable participants to improve organizational capacity to deliver community reconnection projects, including:

- Software
- Customized Tools
- Templates



RCI Roll-Out Schedule & Timeline



Summer 2024

- Launch RCI, begin accepting TA participants
- Provide early support, aligned with FY24 NOFO
- Outreach to FY22 and FY23 RCP grantees

Fall 2024

- Continued onboarding of FY22 and FY23 grantees to RCI
- Deliver individual and group technical assistance
- Provide early peer-to-peer learning opportunities through community of practice
- Conduct outreach and gather grantee stories

2025

- Onboard FY24 grantees
- Deliver individual and group technical assistance
- Provide early peer-to-peer learning opportunities through community of practice
- Conduct outreach and gather grantee stories

Discussion

- Join Mentimeter using the QR code
- *Or go to menti.com and use code:*
 - 99 94 77 5

