

Dear SMART Grantees,

Due to the holiday this week, this email is coming out a day early. If you are celebrating, the SMART office wishes you well (and especially safe travels over the holiday season)!

This is the November update email. You can find all past update emails on the [SMART website](#), and I will archive each of these there as well.

KEY DEADLINES FOR GRANTEES

- **All Grantees:** Thank you to everyone who submitted their quarterly milestone and federal financial reports. The SMEs are reviewing now. If you have not, submit milestone reports **through the [online form](#)**. Submit the FFR to smartreports@dot.gov.
- **FY22 Grantees:** Thank you to everyone who submitted their [Draft Implementation Reports](#). Feedback for those reports are being returned as it becomes available. If you are starting to work on your [Final Implementation Reports](#), these are due at the end of your period of performance. Final Implementation Reports should be submitted **as .PDFs** to smartreports@dot.gov. Guidance for the Implementation Report is the same as that used for the Draft, and can be found on the [SMART website](#).
- **FY23 Grantees:** the [Data Management Plan](#), and the [Evaluation Plan](#) will all be **due [Dec 15th, 2024](#)**, regardless of when your grant agreement is executed. The recording for the informational webinar reviewing these plans is available on the SMART website.

CONFERENCES

- **Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting 2025:** If you will be attending TRB next year, especially if you are presenting on your SMART grant, please let us know! We would love to support your panel or presentation. Stan and I will be at the OST-R booth each day (hours TBA).
- Additionally, we will have an informal **SMART Recipient Drop Ins on Tuesday Jan 7th, from 12:30-1:30 in Conference Room 305 at the Convention Center**. Stop by to meet and chat with fellow recipients, ask questions, and generally catch up with the program. We look forward to seeing you there!

RESOURCES

- The Department has recently released our [Learning Agenda: FY 2024-2026](#), our strategic plan for building evidence to inform decision making. It includes 22 topic areas from nine modal administrations that will help us advance five of DOT's Strategic Goals. This plan outlines the areas of research and evaluation that the Department is focused on, and many of the topic areas may be of interest to you as you progress in your projects and conduct your own evaluations. Areas include: Preventing Unsafe Conditions and Near-Misses from Escalating to Serious Events, Railroad Grade Crossings, Transportation Insecurity, and Establishing a National Multimodal Freight Corridor.

- The [National Cooperative Highway Research Program](#) (NCHRP) of the Transportation Research Board has recently released two new documents that may be of interest, especially as FY23 grantees work on their Data Management Plans.
 - [NCHRP Web-Only Document 419: Implementing Data Governance at Transportation Agencies, Volume 1: Implementation Guide](#). As of 2023, two-thirds of the 51 state departments of transportation (DOTs) had established some form of agency-level data governance or were actively exploring setting up data governance in their agencies. *NCHRP Web-Only Document 419: Implementing Data Governance at Transportation Agencies, Volume 1: Implementation Guide*, from TRB's National Cooperative Highway Research Program, draws upon lessons learned and successful practices of these early adopters.
 - [NCHRP Web-Only Document 419: Implementing Data Governance at Transportation Agencies, Volume 2: Communications Guide](#). Data governance involves changing the mindset and behaviors of data managers, producers, and users across the organization. Therefore, communication is key to success of any data governance initiative. *NCHRP Web-Only Document 419: Implementing Data Governance at Transportation Agencies, Volume 2: Communications Guide*, from TRB's National Cooperative Highway Research Program, is a companion document to [NCHRP Web-Only Document 419: Implementing Data Governance at Transportation Agencies, Volume 1: Implementation Guide](#).

Looking forward to seeing many of you in January, and have a great holiday week.

Best,

Madeline

Madeline Zhu (she/her)

Policy Advisor

SMART Grants Program

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology

U.S. Department of Transportation

(202) 961-9598

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