



U.S. Department of Transportation

#DOTConnects

# LADDERS OF OPPORTUNITY EVERY PLACE COUNTS DESIGN CHALLENGE

The Ladders of Opportunity **EVERY PLACE COUNTS DESIGN CHALLENGE** seeks to raise awareness about bifurcated neighborhoods, identify innovative practices to reconnect communities, and inform the transportation life cycle.

## CHALLENGE GOALS

- Encourage communities to reimagine existing transportation projects via innovative and restorative infrastructure design that addresses past mistakes; reconnects people and neighborhoods to opportunity; and reinvigorates opportunity within communities.
- Empower communities and decision-makers to work together to develop context-sensitive design solutions that reflect and incorporate the input of the people and communities they touch.

## CHALLENGE INFORMATION

Community Teams led by local and tribal government officials across the country are invited to compete for and receive one of four two-day on-site Design Sessions, that will offer in-depth technical assistance, design strategies, subject-matter experts, and targeted program funding and resource guidance to address an existing transportation infrastructure project challenge. Private engineering and design practitioners are also invited to participate as technical experts in any of the four design sessions nationwide.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

In order to be eligible, a proposed project must:

1. be in the planning or development stage;
2. improve or replace existing infrastructure that is nearing the end of its useful life; and
3. reconnect people and communities to social and economic centers, jobs, healthcare, schools, grocery stores, and other services and activities.

Projects that have received or are eligible for Federal funds are encouraged to apply, but selection will not be limited to such projects.

Projects that have initiated a Notice of Intent for the National Environmental Policy Act process will not be eligible.

One community from each region – North, South, Mid-America, and West – will be selected to receive a Design Session to ensure a diverse representation of projects and communities.

The two-day Design Sessions will be held July 6 - July 20, 2016.

## USDOT COMMITMENT

The anticipated Federal involvement will include, but not be limited to: on-site technical assistance, facilitation of design strategies, subject matter experts, guidance related to USDOT program funds, identification of resources and eligibility for implementation.

## CONTENT OF APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Applicants must provide a descriptive narrative of the transportation infrastructure challenge that illustrates how it limits or cuts off access to social or economic centers and other essential services, a detailed description of the proposed project and how the proposed project will reconnect people and neighborhoods to opportunity and/or reinvigorates opportunity within the community.

## SUBMISSION

Applicants must register by May 20, 2016 before submitting an application. Applications are due by June 3, 2016 at 5:00pm Eastern Time.

## REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

A multimodal review panel, chaired by the Chief Opportunities Officer, will assess the submitted application and make recommendations to the Secretary of Transportation for final selection.

For more information please visit [www.transportation.gov/opportunity/challenge](http://www.transportation.gov/opportunity/challenge) or email [ReconnectCommunities@dot.gov](mailto:ReconnectCommunities@dot.gov)



U.S. Department of Transportation