



US DOT News and Grant Opportunities

Various grant application
deadlines, awards, reports,
toolkits, and case study
information.



Grant Application Deadlines

Grant Application

Applicants should complete this form as a requirement of the grant application process. The form should be completed for all grant applications, regardless of the type of grant or the amount of funding requested. The form should be completed for all grant applications, regardless of the type of grant or the amount of funding requested. The form should be completed for all grant applications, regardless of the type of grant or the amount of funding requested.

Other (explain)		Agency Case No.
Type		

PROPERTY INFORMATION AND PURPOSE

Application Deadlines Approaching for USDOT Discretionary Grant Opportunities

Please be aware of the approaching application deadlines for the following discretionary grant opportunities from the USDOT:

1

September

[Rural and Tribal Assistance Program](#) – 9/28/23

[Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods \(RCN\) Grant Program](#) – 9/28/23

2

October

[Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development Planning](#) – 10/10/23

[SMART Grants Program](#) – 10/10/23

3

November

[Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Transportation Projects Program](#) – 11/6/23

[Electric Vehicle Charger Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator](#) – 11/13/23

FTA Announces \$13.4 Million in Available Funding for Transit-Oriented Development Planning



On August 7, 2023, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) recently [announced](#) the availability of \$13.4 million through the [Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development Planning](#). The Pilot Program helps support FTA's mission of improving America's communities through public transportation by providing funding to local communities to integrate land use and transportation planning with a new fixed guideway or core capacity transit capital investment. **The application deadline is October 10, 2023.** More information is available [here](#) and [here](#).

USDOT Announces \$100 Million in Available Funding for the SMART Grants Program



On August 8, 2023, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) [announced](#) the availability of \$100 million in funding through the [Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation \(SMART\) Grants Program](#). The SMART program was established to provide grants to eligible public sector agencies to conduct demonstration projects focused on advanced smart community technologies and systems in order to improve transportation efficiency and safety. **The application deadline is October 10, 2023.** More information is available [here](#) and [here](#).

\$100 Million Available to Improve EV Charger Reliability

On September 13, 2023, the FHWA [announced](#) the availability of \$100 million through the [Electric Vehicle Charger Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator](#). The Accelerator program is funding to repair and replace existing, but non-operational, EV charging infrastructures. It is a 10% set-aside of NEVI for grants to States and localities that require additional assistance to strategically deploy EV charging infrastructure. **The application deadline is November 13, 2023.** More information is available [here](#).



US DOT Grant Resources



DOT NAVIGATOR

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.



CALENDAR OF KEY NOFO

In order to provide stakeholders with more visibility into [upcoming funding opportunities](#), DOT publishes a list of anticipated dates for upcoming NOFOs for key programs within the BIL and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).



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.

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.

Grant Awards

An illustration of a large, dark blue money bag with the word 'GRANTS' written on it in white, serif capital letters. The bag is tied at the top with a dark blue cord. It is being held by a stylized, orange-colored hand. The background is a light blue gradient, and there is a dark teal diagonal shape on the left side of the image.

GRANTS

FRA Announces \$570 Million in Awards for the Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant Program

On June 5, 2023, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) [announced](#) more than \$570 million in awards for the Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Grant Program. This inaugural round of funding will address more than 400 at-grade crossings in 32 States.

Iowa – South Concord Street Grade Separation (Up To \$7,756,862)

- City of Davenport
 - The proposed project will support final design and construction to eliminate two highway-rail grade crossings (eliminating one crossing and creating a grade separation at another) to provide better access to critical infrastructure, including the regional wastewater treatment plant. The City of Davenport and Canadian Pacific Railway are contributing funds totaling a 20 percent non-Federal match.

FTA Announces \$1.7 Billion in Awards for Better Buses, Vans, and Transit Facilities

On June 26, 2023, FTA [announced](#) nearly \$1.7 billion in awards for the [Low or No Emission Vehicle Program](#) and the [Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program](#). In total, FTA made 130 awards for transit projects in 46 States and territories. More information is available [here](#).

1

CITY OF DUBUQUE **\$2,359,072 (Low-No)**

The City of Dubuque's The Jule transit system will receive funding to buy battery-electric buses and charging equipment. The project will help Dubuque improve service reliability and achieve its goal of decreasing greenhouse gas emissions 50 percent by 2030.

2

CITY OF IOWA CITY **\$23,280,072 (Low-No)**

Iowa City will receive funding to buy electric buses to replace older diesel vehicles that have exceeded their useful life and replace its operations and maintenance facility, originally constructed in the 1980s. The project will improve transit system conditions, service reliability and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

3

IOWA DOT **\$17,853,710 (Bus)**

The Iowa DOT will receive funding on behalf of five rural transit agencies to buy battery-electric buses to replace older diesel buses along with charging equipment. The project will also support the construction of transit facilities and workforce development activities. The project will reduce operating costs and emissions while improving transit service in communities across Iowa.

USDOT Announces \$2.2 Billion in Grant Awards for the RAISE Program

On June 28, 2023, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) [announced](#) more than \$2.2 billion in awards for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grants program. Seventy percent (70%) of the grants are going to projects in regions defined as an area of persistent poverty or a historically disadvantaged community. More information is available [here](#) and [here](#).

1

NINE IOWA COUNTIES **\$24,760,000**

This project will replace approximately nine bridges in poor condition across nine rural Iowa counties (Clay, Lucas, Crawford, Lee, Pottawattamie, Wright, Page, Henry, and Mitchell).

2

CITY OF CEDAR FALLS **\$10,000,000**

The project will reconstruct Main Street between University Avenue and 6th Street to include complete streets enhancements, dedicated on-street bike lanes, ADA accessible sidewalks and trails, mid-block crossings, transit stops, lighting, and underground utility improvements.

3

CITY OF CLEAR LAKE **\$300,000**

The planning project includes community engagement, a corridor study, alternatives analysis, final design, and environmental review for a project to evaluate the 4th Ave S. corridor. The project will evaluate approaches to modernize infrastructure connecting downtown Cedar Lake and I-35, including the deployment of electric vehicle charging infrastructure and further development of the regional trail network.

FTA Announces \$20 Million in Awards for Areas of Persistent Poverty

On July 20, 2023, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) [announced](#) \$20 million in awards for 47 communities through the [Areas of Persistent Poverty](#) (AoPP) Program. The awards will help improve public transportation options in areas experiencing long-term economic distress.

Iowa – City of Dubuque (\$225,000)

- The Jule
 - The city of Dubuque's The Jule will receive funding to conduct a planning study that will help the transit agency optimize its bus routes, identify potential service changes, and determine appropriate equipment and facility needs.

Reports and Final Rules

REGULATIONS

COMPLIANCE



RULES



FHWA Publishes Report on Virtual Public Involvement in Rural Communities

In June 2023, the FHWA Office of Federal Lands Highway published a report entitled, “[Rural Virtual Public Involvement: Synthesis and Tools](#).” The purpose of the report is to assist transportation practitioners in developing their own, local frameworks for decision-making around how to connect with rural communities and whether virtual tools might be appropriate in doing so. The report synthesizes current practices, challenges and opportunities, and existing tools for practitioners.

U.S. Access Board Issues Final Rule on Public Right-of-Way Accessibility

On August 8, 2023, the U.S. Access Board published a [Federal Register notice](#) to finalize the Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG). The purpose of PROWAG is to help ensure that pedestrian facilities located in the public right-of-way are readily accessible to and usable by pedestrians with disabilities. PROWAG addresses access to sidewalks and streets, crosswalks, curb ramps, pedestrian signals, on-street parking, and other components of public rights-of-way. The final rule has an effective date of September 7, 2023. More information is available [here](#).

Resources



FHWA Publishes Report on Managing Pavements and Bridges in Fair Condition

In April 2023, the FHWA Office of Infrastructure published a new report entitled, [Considerations in Managing Pavements and Bridges in Fair Condition](#). The report will help State and local transportation agencies understand why focusing investments on assets in fair condition is more effective than heavily investing in those in poor condition.

USDOT Provides Toolkits for Electric Mobility Infrastructure in Urban and Rural Areas

On May 16, 2023, the USDOT published a “preview copy” of an [Urban Electric Mobility Toolkit](#) to help urban communities scope, plan, and identify ways to fund electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure. Urban communities, and stakeholders, can use the toolkit to identify key partners for an electric charging project, relevant planning tools, and available funding or financing opportunities. Previously, the USDOT published a [Rural Electric Mobility Toolkit](#) to help rural communities progress toward EV readiness.

FHWA Updates Guidance on Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning and Project Development

On May 19, 2023, the FHWA Office of Planning, Environment, and Realty published [updated guidance](#) on the Federal legislation, policies, and reference materials related to bicycle, pedestrian, and shared micromobility programs and projects. The guidance describes the range of opportunities to improve conditions for bicycling, walking, and shared micromobility, including available funding programs and planning and design resources that transportation agencies can use to address safety and connectivity among multiple modes of travel. More information is available [here](#).

New Project Delivery Toolbox for Transportation Infrastructure Investments

On July 26, 2023, the [USDOT Project Delivery Center of Excellence](#) launched the [Project Delivery Toolbox](#) to help accelerate completion of transportation infrastructure investments – on time, on task, and on budget. The toolbox aims to be a central repository for project delivery information and best practices across USDOT, and its resources are organized across 8 topic areas: (1) Public Engagement, (2) Environmental Considerations, (3) Equity Considerations, (4) Project Management, (5) Financing, (6) Pre-Construction Consideration, (7) Risk Management, and (8) Construction Considerations.

FHWA Publishes Resources on Electric Bicycle Trends, Impacts, and Case Studies

The FHWA Office of Human Environment recently published a [collection of resources](#) on electric bicycle trends, impacts, and case studies. Electric bicycles present an opportunity to reduce car travel, improve health, and increase access for traditionally underserved populations; however, the relationship between electric bicycles and safety, infrastructure, equity, and the environment is not fully understood and remains of interest to decisionmakers and potential riders.

ITS JPO Launches Smart Community Resource Center

The USDOT's Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Joint Program Office (JPO) recently launched the [Smart Community Resource Center \(SCRC\)](#) to connect States, Tribal governments, and local communities with resources that can be used to develop ITS projects and smart community transportation programs.

SS4A



SS4A

SS4A FY23 Funding Announcements Expected in Fall/Winter 2023

The [fiscal year \(FY\) 2023 Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) for Safe Streets and Roads for All grants closed on July 10, 2023. Planning and Demonstration Grant award decisions are expected to be announced in October 2023 and Implementation Grant award decisions are expected to be announced in December 2023.

The FY24 NOFO for SS4A is expected to open in Spring 2024.

[Subscribe to email updates](#) to be notified when additional information is available.

SS4A FY22 Status Updates

- Corridor MPO
 - Action Plan Grant – Executed
- Des Moines Area MPO
 - Action Plan Grant – Waiting for final signatures
- ECIA
 - Action Plan Grant - Executed
- Fayette County
 - Implementation Grant – In Review
- INRCOG
 - Action Plan Grant - Executed
- 97 County
 - Action Plan Grant – Executed
- SEIRPC
 - Action Plan Grant – Executed
- SIMPCO
 - Action Plan Grant – Executed
- MAPA
 - Action Plan Grant - Executed



Thank you!

Questions?



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