



RURAL OPPORTUNITIES TO
USE TRANSPORTATION FOR
ECONOMIC SUCCESS

ROUTES

Alex Clegg – US DOT
November 20, 2024

Contact Us!
Rural@dot.gov
www.transportation.gov/rural

How is US DOT helping communities access resources?

- ✓ **Providing webinars** that walk potential applicants through the general requirements of funding opportunities and provide technical assistance on specific aspects of application requirements
- ✓ **Consolidating Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs)** to simplify applying for funds
- ✓ **Simplifying the language in NOFOs** to make requirements easier to understand
- ✓ **Developing tools** like the Historically Disadvantaged Census Tract tool to assist applicants in developing their applications and DOT's Promising Practices in Meaningful Public Involvement in Transportation Decision Making Guide to assist stakeholders in developing meaningful public engagement.

US DOT Navigator

Online portal to access technical assistance resources available across the US DOT

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

ROUTES

Offers user-friendly tools and information, aggregates US DOT resources and provides technical assistance addressing rural transportation's unique challenges

<https://www.transportation.gov/rural>

Thriving Communities

Technical assistance and capacity building resources to improve communities through transportation improvements

<https://www.transportation.gov/grants/thriving-communities>

About 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, mobility, and economic competitiveness nationwide.

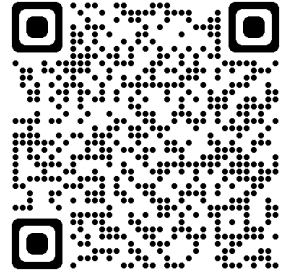


The ROUTES Office seeks to:

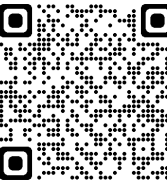
Engage Rural Communities through a series of events to better understand the needs and priorities of rural communities and collect essential data from stakeholders representing different communities, groups, workers, and industries to identify solutions.

Harmonize DOT Programs to implement rural policy by establishing the ROUTES Council to lead and coordinate Departmental activities to implement the *Bipartisan Infrastructure Law* 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 to expand DOT's presence in rural America, better promote Departmental resources to their customers, and capitalize on synergies between federal funding programs.



One-Stop-Shop for Rural Resources




U.S. Department of Transportation ABOUT DOT PRIORITIES CONNECT

Home | Mission | Office of Secretary | Office of the Under Secretary for Policy | ROUTES

- ROUTES
- About
- Statistics
- Grants
- Electric Vehicles
- Modal Administrations
- Contact ROUTES

Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success (ROUTES)



Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success (ROUTES) is an initiative to address disparities in rural transportation infrastructure by developing user-friendly tools and information, aggregating DOT resources, and providing technical assistance. The ROUTES Initiative aims to ensure rural transportation infrastructure's unique challenges are considered in order to meet priority transportation goals of safety, mobility, and economic competitiveness.

Read our newly released [Rural EV Infrastructure Toolkit](#), which was developed as part of the ROUTES Initiative to help rural communities plan and fund electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure.

The ROUTES Initiative is established to...

- **Engage Rural Communities** through a series of events to better understand their transportation needs and priorities, and to collect essential data from stakeholders representing different communities, groups, workers, and industries to identify necessary transportation solutions.
- **Harmonize DOT Programs** to implement rural policy by re-constituting the ROUTES Council to lead and coordinate Departmental activities to implement the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#) 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 and regional commissions to expand DOT's presence in rural America, better promote DOT's resources to their customers, and capitalize on synergies between federal funding programs.

The Rural Transportation Network is Critical for Our Economy

- Rural transportation networks are critically important for domestic production and export of agriculture,

Contact Us

ROUTES Initiative
Office of the Under Secretary for Policy
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States
Email: rural@dot.gov
Phone: [202-366-4544](tel:202-366-4544)
Business Hours:
8:30am-5:00pm ET, M-F

If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access

Webinars

- Benefit Cost Analyses for Rural Projects
- TIFIA Rural Projects Initiative
- Transit Resources
- National Roadway Safety Strategy

Tools and Toolkits

- Rural Eligibility Map
- Point of Contact Map
- Grant Applicant Toolkit
- Rural EV Infrastructure Toolkit

Funding Opportunities

- Active & Upcoming NOFOs
- Links to Past Awards

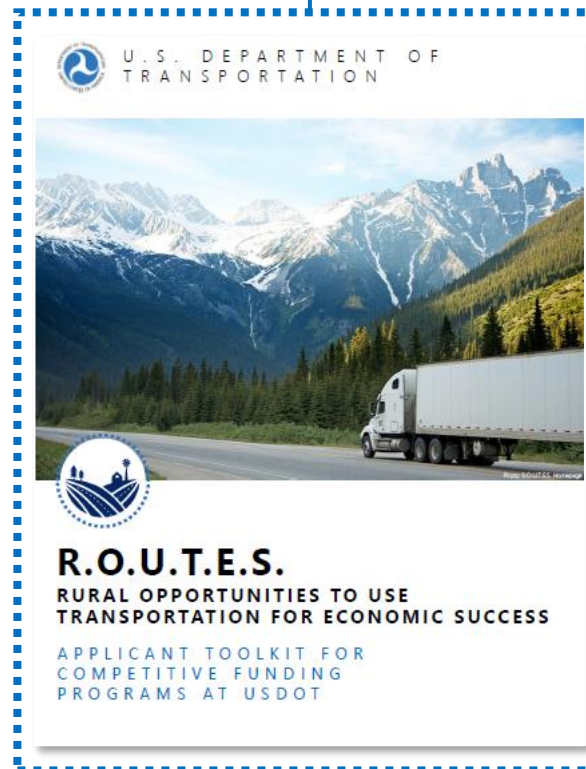
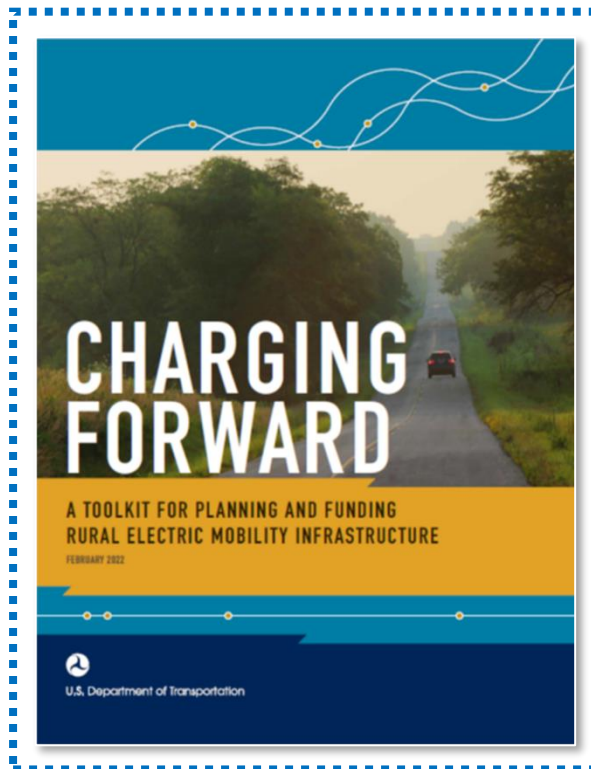
Modal Specific Landing Pages

Monthly Newsletters

ROUTES Toolkits

INTERESTED IN EV INFRASTRUCTURE?

This toolkit helps rural communities scope, plan, and fund electric vehicle charging infrastructure. Rural entities can use the toolkit to identify key project partners and available funding or financing to help make their project a reality.



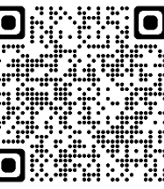
APPLYING FOR A GRANT FROM USDOT?


This toolkit provides user-friendly information and resources to support rural applicants' understanding of USDOT discretionary grant programs and the funding process.

Also, check out the accompanying [DOT Discretionary Grants Dashboard](#).

Check out these toolkits and more at www.transportation.gov/rural.
Contact us at rural@dot.gov.

DOT Discretionary Grants Dashboard



 [Download CSV](#)

Keywords

Eligible Activities Eligible Applicants

Agency/Office Transportation Type

Match Waiver Rural Set-Aside Tribal Set-Aside Status

[Apply](#)

HIGHLIGHTS

- 90+ grant programs
- Covers DOT and Non-DOT Agencies
 - 8 DOT Agencies
 - 10+ Non-DOT Agencies
- Multiple search filters
 - Keyword
 - Eligible Activities
 - Eligible Entities
 - Transportation Type
 - Match Waiver
 - Status (Open/Closed)
- Customized features for Rural and Tribal communities
- Save results as Excel csv file

DOT Navigator



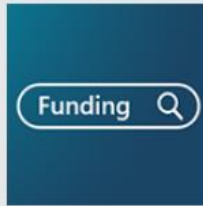
DOT Navigator: Assistance to Help to Develop Strong Discretionary Grant Applications

What Do You Want to Do?



PREPARE A SUCCESSFUL GRANT APPLICATION

Get planning tips, checklists, and information on applying for federal grants



FIND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Search grant opportunities to meet your community's transportation needs



GET TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RESOURCES

Find resources to get funding and build capacity to do transportation projects



LEARN ABOUT FUNDING AND MATCH

Learn about USDOT grant funding, including match requirements and flexibilities



ACCESS DATA AND MAPPING TOOLS

Access data and mapping tools to help write a strong grant application



LEARN ABOUT THE BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW

Get information to help access BIL funding programs

Spanish

- [Solicitud de subvenciones del USDOT](#)
- [Visión general de fondos del DOT y financiamiento](#)
- [Comprendiendo los requisitos no federales de pareo](#)
- [Herramientas federales para identificar comunidades desfavorecidas](#)
- [Financiamiento federal para transporte: Lista de cotejo de preparación de subvenciones "grants" discrecionales para posibles solicitantes durante el año fiscal 2023](#)
- [Lista de cotejo para solicitudes de subvención que alcancen una fuerza laboral de transporte sólida y un plan laboral](#)
- [Uso de Fondos del DOT para la Participación Pública](#)
- [¿Es el financiamiento federal el adecuado para mi organización?](#)

Sign Up to Get Our Bi-Weekly Email Bulletins to Stay in the Know about new technical assistance resources, trainings, and funding opportunities across a range of transportation topics!

Reconnecting Communities Institute

- The Reconnecting Communities Institute (RCI) is a U.S. Department of Transportation (US DOT) **center for learning** to help reconnect communities that were harmed, isolated, and cut off from opportunity by transportation infrastructure.
- Through expert guidance and technical assistance (TA), RCI supports RCP Program grantees and potential grantees of the Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Program in **planning and implementing innovative community reconnection projects**.
 - RCI support will be available to Neighborhood Access and Equity (NAE) grant recipients in the coming months.
- RCI support includes **group and peer-based learning, one-on-one assistance, tool and resource creation, and more**.



USDOT Rural Funding



U.S. Department
of Transportation

BIL Overview for Rural America

More than \$44B over 5 years for rural transportation infrastructure

- Introduced new rural-specific programs
 - Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program
 - Rural & Tribal Assistance Program
- Increased funding for programs with rural set-asides
 - RAISE (50% rural set aside)
 - INFRA (25% rural set aside)

BIL resources

- White House [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Playbook](#)
- White House [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Rural Playbook](#)
- DOT [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Hub](#)
- DOT [Fact Sheet for Rural Communities](#)

Program Status 3 Years Into BIL

- BIL provides funding for MOST programs at DOT over 5 years (FY22-26)
- Congress may provide additional funding to a program through the annual appropriations process
- Multiple programs and/or fiscal years funding may be bundled into a single NOFO

Program	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
RAISE	\$2.25B	\$2.26B	\$1.8B	\$1.5B	~\$1.5B
INFRA (MPDG)	\$1.5B	\$2.9B		\$2.6B	
Mega (MPDG)	\$1.2B	\$2B		\$1.7B	
Rural (MPDG)	\$274M	\$648M		~\$780M	
PROTECT	\$830M		~\$576M		~\$300M
Safe Streets & Roads for All	\$802M	\$888M	\$1.25B	~\$1B	~\$1B
CRISI	\$1.4B	\$2.5B		~\$1B	~\$1B
Railroad Crossing Elimination	\$573M	~\$1.1B		~\$600M	~\$600M
PIDP	\$703M	\$653M	\$580M	~\$450M	~\$450M

Awarded
Under Review
Open
Upcoming

RAISE Grants



- Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity
 - fka TIGER, BUILD
 - Discretionary grant program that supports road, rail, transit and port projects that fulfill national objectives
- 50% rural and 50% urban
- Under BIL, 257 projects in rural communities awarded \$3.15 billion
- 148 projects awarded over \$1.8 billion in FY24
- 7 port projects awarded \$74 million in FY24
 - \$21.3 million for Menominee Harbor to repair a dock wall, increase rail capacity, and other improvements
 - \$17.9 million for the Port of Bellingham to improve rail connections
- FY25 NOFO open now! Up to \$1.5 Billion available, applications due by January 30, 2025
- FY26 NOFO expected to be released fall 2025

PROTECT Grants

Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Effecting, and Cost-Saving Transportation Program

- Competitive program for projects that seek to strengthen surface transportation to be more resilient to natural hazards, including climate change, sea level rise, heat waves, flooding, extreme weather events, and other natural disasters through support of planning activities, resilience improvements, community resilience and evacuation routes, and at-risk coastal infrastructure
- FY24-25 NOFO open now! Up to \$576 million available, applications due February 24, 2025
- FY26 NOFO scheduled to be released October 27, 2025, with up to \$300 million available
- 4 grant categories
 - Planning grants (up to \$56 million for FY24-25)
 - Resilience Improvement Grants (up to \$408 million for FY24-25)
 - Community Resilience & Evacuation Grants (up to \$56 million for FY24-25)
 - At-Risk Coastal Infrastructure Grants (up to \$56 million for FY24-25)
- Administered by FHWA, but port authorities are eligible applicants
- \$12.5 awarded to the Virgin Islands Port Authority for a shoreline stabilization project

Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Program

- Wide range of projects that:
 - improve railroad safety, efficiency, and reliability
 - mitigate congestion at both intercity passenger rail and freight rail chokepoints to support more efficient travel and goods movement
 - enhance multi-modal connections
 - lead to new or substantially improved Intercity Passenger Rail Transportation corridors
- \$2.5 billion awarded in FY23-24
 - \$26.5 million to the Georgia Ports Authority to improve existing rail yards and construct a new one at the Colonel's Island Terminal
 - \$2.9 million to the Lowndes County Port Authority in Mississippi to construct new 6,700 linear feet of additional track
 - \$11.7 million to the Ogdensburg Bridge & Port Authority in New York to modernize tracks and improve grade crossings
- FY25 NOFO is expected later this year with approximately \$1 billion available



Subscribe to the ROUTES Newsletter --->

OR

Contact Us!

Rural@dot.gov

www.transportation.gov/rural

