

US DOT Competitive Discretionary GRANT Opportunities

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021

The US Department of Transportation (US DOT) provides grants to help build up and maintain a fast, safe, efficient, accessible, and convenient transportation system for the American people, today and into the future.

Key Priorities of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021:

- Repair/rebuild roads and bridges with a focus on climate change mitigation, resilience, equity, and safety.
- Improve transportation options and reduce greenhouse emissions.
- Upgrade airports and ports to strengthen supply chains and prevent disruptions that have caused inflation.
- Make the largest investment in passenger rail since the creation of Amtrak to improve reliability, speed, and coverage.
- Build a national network of electric vehicle (EV) chargers.

Multimodal Discretionary Grant Opportunities (US DOT Office of the Secretary)

- ***Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program*** ([website](#))
 - Eligible applicants include state DOTs, local governments, transit agencies, port authorities.
 - Eligible projects include investments in road, rail, transit and port projects that promise to achieve national objectives.
 - Selection criteria safety, sustainability, equity, economic competitiveness, mobility, and community connectivity. (Previously BUILD/TIGER).
- ***Infrastructure For Rebuilding America (INFRA)*** ([website](#))
 - Eligible applicants include states, MPOs, local governments, political subdivisions, special districts, port authorities, federal land management agencies, tribal governments, and multistate or multijurisdictional group of entities.
 - Eligible projects include highway and rail projects of regional and economic significance.
- ***Multimodal | National Infrastructure Project Assistance (“Megaprojects”)*** **NEW!**
 - Eligible applicants include states, MPOs, local governments, partnerships between Amtrak and 1 or more entities above.
 - Program designed for multi-modal, multi-jurisdictional projects of regional or national significance.
 - \$1B/year in advance appropriations; \$2M/year is authorized to be appropriated.
 - Eligible projects include highways and bridges on the national freight network or NHS; highway-rail grade crossing separation/elimination; intercity passenger rail; major transit capital projects that are intermodally connected.
 - Half of program is for projects >\$500M; half is for projects \$100M-500M in cost.
- ***Culvert Removal, Replacement and Restoration Grant Program*** **NEW!**
 - Eligible applicants include states, local governments and Indian tribes.
 - Provides grants for the removal, replacement, and restoration of culverts to address flow of water through roads, bridges, railroad tracks, and trails to improve/restore fish passage, or projects that address fresh-water runoff that impact certain marine life.
 - Provides \$1B over five years to states, tribal nations, and local governments to repair or remove culverts to ease passage for endangered and threatened fish.
 - Program is owned by USDOT in consultation with Director of US Fish & Wildlife Service.

- **Multimodal | Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grant NEW!**
 - Eligible applicants are state DOTs, tribes, transit agencies, public toll authorities, and MPOs.
 - Funds demonstration projects for new technology, ranging from transportation to energy efficiency to connectivity.
 - \$1B per year over 5 years authorized to be appropriated.
 - 15 Target benefits achieved via use of advanced data + intelligent transportation systems technologies and applications*.
 - Only 1 award per recipient over duration of program*.
- **Safe Streets and Roads for All NEW!**
 - Eligible applicants include Indian Tribes, MPOs, and political subdivisions – **NOT STATES**
 - Funds planning and implementation of “comprehensive safety action plans” – Vision Zero and Toward Zero Deaths plans, in practice.
 - \$6B over 5 years (FY 22 – FY 26).
 - Authorized for appropriation of \$200M/year, Appropriated at \$1B/year.
 - Intended grant recipients are City governments – good partnering opportunity.

Transit Discretionary Grant Opportunities (Federal Transit Administration)

- **Transit Oriented Development Pilot Program ([website](#))**
 - Funding to local communities to integrate land use and transportation planning.
 - Must be associated with a new fixed guideway or core capacity transit capital investment.
- **Innovative Coordinated Access & Mobility ([website](#))**
 - Improve access to public transportation by building partnerships among health, transportation and other service providers.
- **Capital Investment Grants (CIG) ([website](#))**
 - Funds transit fixed guideway systems, including heavy rail, commuter rail, light rail, streetcars, and bus rapid transit.
 - Program has three components: New Starts; Small Starts; and Core Capacity.
 - Transit agencies seeking CIG funding must complete a series of steps over several years to secure multi-year funding commitment.
- **Bus & Bus Facilities Program ([website](#))**
 - Capital funding to replace, rehabilitate and purchase buses and related equipment and/or facilities.
 - Construct bus-related facilities, including technological changes or innovations to modify low or no emission vehicles or facilities.
- **Low & No Emissions Grant ([website](#))**
 - Funding for the purchase or lease of zero-emission and low-emission transit buses; and acquisition, construction, and leasing of required supporting facilities.
 - A Fleet Transition Plan is required for applicants.
 - 25% of program funds are set-aside for alternative fuel or hybrid vehicles, facilities, and equipment.
 - Recipients to use 5% of grant award for workforce development training.
- **Rail Vehicle Replacement Grants NEW! ([website](#))**
 - Provides \$1.5 billion (\$300M/year) in competitive grants in addition to \$5337 State of Good Repair formula grant program.
 - Transit rail vehicle procurement grants to replace vehicles that are within 5 years of exceeding useful life.
 - Not more than 3 grant awards/year! 50% non-federal share required.
 - Procurement must be prioritized in the agency TAMP.

- **All Stations Accessibility Program (ASAP) NEW! (Program Information)**
 - Reduce the number of legacy transit/commuter rail stations inaccessible to individuals with disabilities by upgrading existing stations to meet/exceed accessibility standards.
 - Eligible projects repair, improve, or relocate station/facility infrastructure for passenger use; develop/modify plans or assessments; carry out other projects to meet/exceed ADA standards.
 - 80% federal share, encouraged to collaborate with Centers for Independent Living and other entities.
 - \$350M per year FY 22 – FY 26.

Rail Discretionary Grant Opportunities (Federal Rail Administration)

- **Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement Grants (CRISI) (website)**
 - Provides \$5 billion in competitive grants (\$1B/year).
 - Funds projects that improve the safety, efficiency, and reliability of intercity passenger/freight rail.
 - Eligible projects include rail safety projects, regional rail and corridor planning/environmental analysis.
 - Eligible recipients include state DOTs, commuter railroads, Amtrak, or Class II/Class III freight railroads.
- **Restoration & Enhancement Grants (website)**
 - Provides \$500 million in competitive grants (\$100M/year - \$50M from Amtrak National Network).
 - Funds operating assistance grants for initiating, restoring, or enhancing intercity passenger rail transportation.
- **Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail Grants (website)**
 - Previously named “Federal-State Partnership for State of Good Repair program”
 - Funding for capital projects to repair, replace, or rehabilitate intercity passenger rail assets.
 - Provides \$7.2B in competitive grants through advance appropriation with \$1.5B/year authorized to be appropriated.
 - Massive growth in this program’s size – by comparison, FY2020 was \$290M and FY2021 is \$362M.
 - Not more than 55% of total grant awards may be NEC projects.
- **Rail Crossing Elimination Program NEW!**
 - Program goal to eliminate or separate highway-rail grade crossings.
 - Provides \$600M/year in competitive grants through advance appropriation, with \$500M/year authorized for additional appropriations.
 - Eligible activities include closing or separating a rail crossing from a road; relocating track; installing protective devices, signals, and signage at crossings; other means of improving the safety of people and goods at highway-rail grade crossings (including technological solutions); the planning, environmental review, and design of an eligible project type.
 - Eligible grantees include state DOTs, commuter railroads, public port authorities, and MPOs.

Highway Discretionary Grant Opportunities (Federal Highway Administration)

- **Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects (NSFLTP) Program (website)**
 - 50% for federal projects, 50% for tribal projects.
 - Eligible projects include construction, reconstruction, and rehabilitation of nationally significant projects within, adjacent to, or accessing federal and tribal lands.

- **Transportation Alternative Set-Aside** ([website](#)) (Previously TAP)
 - Eligible applicants include local governments, regional transportation authorities, transit agencies, natural resource or public land agencies; school districts, local education agencies, or schools; tribal governments and nonprofit entities.
 - State DOTs and MPOs may partner with an eligible entity project sponsor.
 - Eligible projects include bike/ped facilities, recreational trail projects; safe routes to school projects; and projects for planning, designing, or constructing boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former divided highways.
- **Bridge Investment Program** **NEW!**
 - Program to assist in rehabilitating or replacing bridges, including culverts, and eligibility for large projects and bundling of smaller bridges.
 - \$12.5B over 5 years (FY 22 – FY 26).
 - At least 1 large project or 2 other projects for each state.
 - Eligible activities include projects to replace, rehabilitate, preserve or protect one or more bridges on the National Bridge Inventory and/or to replace or rehabilitate culverts to improve flood control and improve habitat connectivity for aquatic species.
- **Congestion Relief Program** **NEW!**
 - Funds projects in large, urbanized areas to advance innovative, integrated, and multimodal solutions to congestion relief.
 - \$250M over 5 years (FY 22 – FY 26).
 - Minimum grant amount is \$10,000,000; no more than 5 grants per year.
 - Eligible projects include the deployment and operation of mobility services, integrated congestion management systems, and systems that implement or enforce high occupancy vehicle toll lanes, cordon pricing, parking pricing, or congestion pricing.
- **Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Program** **NEW!**
 - Program designed to strategically deploy publicly accessible electric vehicle charging and fueling infrastructure along designated alternative fuel corridors or certain eligible locations.
 - \$2.5B over 5 years (FY 22 – FY 26).
 - 50% of the total funds will be made available each fiscal year for Community Grants, to install EV charging and alternative fuel.
 - Eligible projects include acquisition and installation of publicly accessible EV charging or alternative fueling infrastructure, operating assistance, acquisition and installation of traffic control devices.
- **Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program** **NEW!**
 - Program designed to increase connectivity, improve safety and reliability of the movement of people and freight, and the generation of regional economic growth and improve quality of life.
 - \$2B over 5 years (FY 22 – FY 26).
 - Minimum grant amount is \$25,000,000.
 - Eligible activities include highway and bridge projects.
- **Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program** **NEW!**
 - Program designed to help states improve the resiliency of transportation infrastructure.
 - \$1.4B over 5 years (FY 22 – FY 26).
 - Competitive grants comprise planning grants and resilience grants.
 - Eligible projects include highway, transit, intercity passenger rail, and port facilities, resilience planning activities, including resilience improvement plans, evacuation planning and preparation, and capacity-building, construction activities (oriented toward resilience), construction of (or improvement to) evacuation routes.

- **Reduction of Truck Emissions at Port Facilities Program NEW!**
 - Provides grants to projects that reduce port-related emissions from idling trucks, including through the advancement of port electrification.
 - \$400M over 5 years (FY 22 – FY 26), \$250M authorization and \$150M advance appropriations.
 - Any funded project shall be treated as a project on a federal-aid highway.
 - Awarded grant shall not exceed 80% of the total cost of the funded project.
 - Eligible projects are intended to test, evaluate, and deploy projects that reduce port-related emissions.
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 - Awarded grant shall not exceed 80% of the total cost of the funded project.
 - Eligible projects are intended to test, evaluate, and deploy projects that reduce port-related emissions.
- **Healthy Streets Program NEW!**
 - Program to deploy cool pavements and porous pavements and to expand tree cover.
 - \$500M over 5 years (FY 22 – FY 26).
 - Federal share of the cost shall be 80%.
 - Maximum grant amount is \$15,000,000.
- **Open Challenge and Research Proposal Pilot Program NEW!**
 - Provides grants for proposals to research needs or challenges identified or determined to be important by the Secretary.
 - \$75M over 5 years (FY 22 – FY 26).
 - Federal share of the cost of funded projects shall not exceed 80%.
- **Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program NEW!**
 - Program to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions and improve habitat connectivity for terrestrial and aquatic species.
 - \$350M over 5 years (FY 22 – FY 26).
 - Available amounts of grants for rural projects shall be not less than 60% each fiscal year.
 - Eligible activities include projects to reduce wildlife-vehicles collisions.
- **Prioritization Process Pilot Program NEW!**
 - Program to support data-driven approaches to transportation planning.
 - \$50M over 5 years (FY 22 – FY 26).
 - Eligible projects include development and implementation of publicly accessible, transparent prioritization processes.
 - Maximum grant amount is \$2,000,000.
- **Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program NEW!**
 - Program to redress historic inequities in building the future of transportation infrastructure.
 - \$1B over 5 years (FY 22 – FY 26), \$500M authorization and \$400M advance appropriations.
 - Competitive grants comprise planning grants and capital construction grants.
 - Maximum grant amount is \$2,000,000.
 - Federal cost-share for a project may not exceed 80%.

- **Transportation Resilience and Adaptation Centers of Excellence Program** **NEW!**
 - Program to advance research and development that improves resilience of regions.
 - The Secretary will designate 10 regional Centers of Excellence for Resilience and Adaptation and 1 national Center of Excellence for Resilience and Adaptation.
 - \$25M over 5 years (FY 22 – FY 26). Minimum amount of grant is \$5,000,000 for each Center of Excellence FY 22 – FY 31.

Motor Carrier Discretionary Grant Opportunities (Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration)

- **Commercial Driver License (CDL) Program** ([website](#))
 - Program to reduce the number and severity of commercial motor vehicle by ensuring that only qualified drivers are eligible to receive and retain a CDL.
- **Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) Operator Safety Training Grant Program** ([website](#))
 - Program to reduce the severity and number of crashes on US roads involving commercial motor vehicles.
- **High Priority (HP) Grant Program** ([website](#))
 - Provides grants for Innovative Technology Deployment (ITD), and CMV safety related activities and projects.
- **Immobilization Grant Program** **NEW!**
 - Provides grants to states to immobilize or impound passenger-carrying commercial motor vehicles that are determined to be unsafe or fail inspection.
 - The Secretary to work with states to develop a list of safety violations that would warrant the immediate immobilization or impoundment of a passenger-carrying commercial motor vehicle.

Airport Discretionary Grant Opportunities (Federal Aviation Administration)

- **Airport Infrastructure Grant Program**
 - Provides \$100 million over 5 years (FY 22 – FY 26) competitive grants for airports in the contract tower program and the contract tower cost share program.
 - Eligible projects include non-approach control towers, air traffic control, communications and related equipment, and remote towers certified by FAA
- **Airport Terminal Program**
 - Program to address the aging infrastructure of the nation’s airports.
 - \$5B over 5 years (FY 22 – FY 26).
 - Eligible projects include passenger terminal buildings, airport terminal access roads, multimodal projects, and projects for on-airport rail access.

Port Discretionary Grant Opportunities (Maritime Administration)

- **Port Infrastructure Development Program** ([website](#))
 - Program to improve port infrastructure, intermodal connections, enhance climate resiliency or reduce pollutants or greenhouse gas emissions.
 - \$2.25B over 5 years (FY 22 – FY 26).
- **Reduction of Truck Emissions at Port Facilities Program** **NEW!**
 - Program to reduce idling and emissions at port facilities.
 - \$400M over 5 years (FY 22 – FY 26), \$150 in advance appropriations; \$250M is authorized to be appropriated.
 - Eligible projects include advancement of port electrification and improvements in efficiency, focusing on port operations, including heavy-duty commercial vehicles, and other related projects.

Quick Links:

- USDOT Newsroom: <https://www.transportation.gov/newsroom>
- US DOT Grants Page: <https://www.transportation.gov/grants>
- US DOT Upcoming Notice of Funding Opportunities: <https://www.transportation.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/upcoming-notice-funding-opportunity-announcements-2022>
- White House BIL Guidebook: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/build/>