A suite of high-level expertise, consulting, and financial resources exclusively available to member communities of the Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative
What is the MRCTI Infrastructure Facility?
The MRCTI Infrastructure Facility (Facility) is a consultive body of experts and organizations assembled by MRCTI from both the Corporate Advisory Board and other existing partnerships. The Facility is designed to provide our cities additional capacity to credibly and competitively apply for Jobs Act grants over the next several funding cycles.

The Facility is not intended to complete Jobs Act grant applications but provide even greater value by advising MRCTI cities on their overall Jobs Act competitive strategy and developing capacities critical to Jobs Act mandates.

How does the Facility Work?
All MRCTI dues-paying member cities are eligible to participate in the facility completely free of charge. Eligible cities can engage the Facility in two ways: 1) by simply attending and interacting in the high-level regional Jobs Act strategy sessions offered for the upper, middle, and lower river regions; and/or 2) completing the intake form on the Facility landing page for deeper-dive services. The three high-level Jobs Act strategy sessions are organized into the following state divisions: Upper River—MN, WI, IA; Middle River—MO, IL, KY; Lower River—TN, AR, MS, LA

What does the Facility Provide?
The Facility provides eligible cities a suite of high-level expertise, consulting, and financial resources that is already robust and unique to MRCTI at the time of launch. However, additional partners and capacities will be added to the Facility over the life of the Jobs Act. The following competencies are currently available through the Facility to help our cities...

- Assemble an overall IIJA strategy
- Organize/assess data and science
- Prioritize projects most suited to the IIJA
- Assemble a financial plan for IIJA projects
- Develop a resilience, climate, mitigation strategy
- Develop an environmental justice platform
- Develop and position projects for the IIJA
- Deep-dive assistance with resilience, FEMA, water infrastructure, transportation infrastructure, broadband deployment, improved city services

Who are the Facility Partners?
As of first quarter 2022, the Facility is populated by experts from the following organizations:

- Arnold & Porter
- Quantified Ventures
- Two Degrees Adapt
- CSRS

Over $75 billion in new federal funds will come into the Corridor over the next five years.
Communities need to examine the IIJA, assess needs, and formulate a strategy to compete where there are the best chances to secure funds from the over thirty different accounts funded through the infrastructure package. The MRCTI Infrastructure Facility can help with all of these steps.

It is recommended MRCTI cities form their own internal task force of city staff, elected officials, and critical community stakeholders whose expertise intersect with environmental justice, rail, roads, bridges, broadband, energy, water, land management, ports, and/or ecological restoration. The IIJA is a five-year bill, plan for the long-haul. An internal IIJA task force for your city can help make the most of the Facility as well.

What can my city do to position for IIJA opportunities?

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What should my city process look like?

Shown below is a possible schematic demonstrating a series of steps with description and timeline over which an MRCTI city can plan to engage the IIJA. The Jobs Act is comprised of over 30 programs. These programs will be opened by their parent federal agency over the course of the year with new programs coming on-line later in 2022. Most programs are competitive and most will have at least a couple of funding cycles available over the next five years. So, even if your city is unsuccessful in securing funds in one cycle, there will be another opportunity.

Quarter 1, 2022

City Task Force

Cities can take the immediate step of forming an IIJA Task Force.

Quarter 2, 2022

Map IIJA

The IIJA Task Force, once formed, can begin unpacking the IIJA using MRCTI resources.

Quarter 2/3, 2022

Needs and IIJA

Cities are best suited to link their needs to IIJA opportunities. MRCTI can help with this process.

Quarter 2/3, 2022

Set Strategy

Focusing on needs over projects, set a strategy for the programs your city will apply; recall, there are 5 cycles. MRCTI Facility can help with this process.

Quarter 3/4, 2022

Applications

Now, your city can begin completing and submitting applications at a competitive level. MRCTI can help your city gain support.