

# Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program

PCFO IGAP Grant Snapshot

August 4, 2022

<b>Agency:</b> US Department of Transportation (DOT)	<b>Bureau:</b> Office of the Under Secretary for Policy
<b>Application Deadline:</b> October 13, 2022	<b>Max Award:</b> Planning grant (\$50M) and Capital Construction grant (\$145M)

## Description

The Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program is the first-ever Federal program dedicated to reconnecting communities that were previously cut off from economic opportunities by transportation infrastructure. The program provides technical assistance and grant funding for planning and capital construction to address infrastructure barriers, restore community connectivity, and improve peoples' lives. Applicants can apply for either Planning or Capital Construction grants.

## Eligible Recipients

### Planning Grants:

- States
- Units of local government
- Federally recognized Tribal governments
- Metropolitan planning organizations
- Nonprofit organizations

### Capital Construction Grants:

- the Facility Owner or
- Owners of an eligible facility, for the purposes of submitting a grant application, may submit a joint application with: (1) a State; (2) a unit of local government; (3) a Federally recognized Tribal government; (4) a Metropolitan Planning Organization; and (5) a non-profit organization.

## Matching Grant Requirements

- Planning Grants: 20% matching grant requirement
- Capital Construction Grants: 50% matching grant requirement

## Eligible Projects

### Planning Grants

Planning grants may be used to study the feasibility and impacts of removing, retrofitting, or mitigating an existing eligible facility or to conduct planning activities necessary to design a project to remove, retrofit, or mitigate an existing eligible facility.

Eligible planning activities include:

- Planning studies of: current traffic patterns on the eligible facility proposed for removal, retrofit, or mitigation and the surrounding street network; transportation network capacity; alternative roadway designs or other uses for the right-of-way; impacts to the mobility of freight and people; impacts to the safety of the traveling public; cost; anticipated economic impacts and environmental impacts both human and natural.
- Public engagement activities to provide the public opportunities to provide input into a plan to remove and convert an eligible facility.
- Other transportation planning activities required in advance of a project to remove, retrofit, or mitigate an existing eligible facility to restore community connectivity, as determined by DOT.

#### Capital Construction Grants

Capital construction grants may be used for projects for which all necessary studies and other planning activities have been completed to remove, retrofit, mitigate, or to replace an existing eligible facility. Eligible capital construction projects include:

- Removal, retrofit, or mitigation of an existing eligible facility.
- Replacement of an eligible facility with a new facility that restores community connectivity and is sensitive to the context of the surrounding community.
- Preliminary and detailed design activities and associated environmental studies; predevelopment / preconstruction; permitting activities including the completion of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process; delivering community benefits and the mitigation of impacts identified through the NEPA process or other planning and project development for the capital construction project.

Recipients of FY 2022 Planning Grants and Capital Construction Grants will have access to RCP technical assistance based on the availability of DOT resources. DOT will prioritize technical assistance for recipients serving economically disadvantaged communities.

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### **New or Existing Program**

New program created under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

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### **Tips for Being Competitive**

Competitive applicants will demonstrate a strong approach to four merit criteria: 1) Equity, Environmental Justice, and Community Engagement; 2) Mobility and Community Connectivity; 3) Community-based Stewardship, Management, and Partnerships; and 4) Equitable Development and Shared Prosperity. In addition, competitive applications will be aligned with the DOT's strategic goals of equity, safety, economic strength and global competitiveness, climate and sustainability, and transformation.

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### **Labor Requirements**

The program intends to strengthen the economy through the creation of good-paying jobs with the free and fair choice to join a union, strong labor standards, and workforce programs.

**Examples of Prior Award Recipients** N/A

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**Agency Contact** ReconnectingCommunities@dot.gov

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**Upcoming Webinars and Information Sessions**

The DOT is hosting a series of webinars. Registration information for upcoming events, as well as presentation slides and recordings from past events, is available on the [Reconnecting Communities Program Page](#).

- July 14, 12:00pm ET: “Interested in Applying? Reconnecting Communities Grant Program Overview for Prospective Applicants”
- July 28, 2:00pm ET: “Interested in Applying? Reconnecting Communities Grant Program Overview for Prospective Applicants - Encore”
- [August 4, 3:00pm ET](#): “Reconnecting Communities - Tribal, Rural, Nonprofit Focus”
- [August 22, 2:00pm ET](#): “Capital Construction”
- [August 30, 3:00pm ET](#): “Benefit Cost Analysis”

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**Types of Partners Required**

DOT encourages joint applications from place-based partnerships headed by a lead applicant. Applicants without experience in DOT funding requirements may opt to jointly apply with a partner in the same State or region, that has an established financial relationship with DOT and has knowledge of Federal grant administration requirements, to minimize delays in establishing and implementing funding agreements.

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**Total Allocation** \$195 million for FY2022

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**Anticipated Award Date** Not stated

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**Links to Grant Opportunity**

- [Grant Opportunity on Grants.gov](#)
- [Reconnecting Communities Program Page](#)
- [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#)