

Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART)

PCFO IGAP Grant Snapshot
September 7, 2023

<u>Agency:</u> US Department of Transportation (DOT)	<u>Bureau:</u> Office of the Under Secretary for Policy
<u>Application Deadline:</u> October 10, 2023	<u>Max Award:</u> \$2 million

Description

The SMART program was established to provide grants for demonstration projects focused on advanced smart community technologies and systems in order to improve transportation efficiency and safety. The program funds projects that are focused on using technology interventions to solve real-world challenges and build data and technology capacity and expertise in the public sector.

Eligible Recipients

1. A State
2. A political subdivision of a State, including local governments
3. A Tribal government
4. A public transit agency or authority
5. A public toll authority
6. A metropolitan planning organization
7. A group of 2 or more eligible entities detailed above, applying through a single lead applicant

Eligible Projects

SMART is a two stage funding opportunity. This Notice of Funding Opportunity is focused on State 1 Planning and Prototyping Grants. During Stage 1, public sector project leaders should build internal buy-in and partnerships with diverse stakeholders to refine and prototype their concepts, as well as gather feedback and input on barriers. At the conclusion of Stage 1, awardees will create a fully realized implementation plan with robust performance metrics or to make an informed decision not to proceed with the concept. Applicants for Stage 2 Implementation Grants will be limited to those awarded Stage 1 grants.

The SMART Grants Program funds multiple technology areas, as listed below. Projects must demonstrate at least one technology area and may demonstrate more than one technology area.

- **Coordinated Automation:** Use of automated transportation and autonomous vehicles while working to minimize the impact on the accessibility of any other user group or mode of travel.
- **Connected Vehicles:** Vehicles that send and receive information regarding vehicle movements in the network and use vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-everything communications to provide advanced and reliable connectivity.
- **Intelligent, Sensor-based Infrastructure:** Deployment and use of a collective intelligent infrastructure that allows sensors to collect and report real-time data to inform everyday transportation-related operations and performance.
- **Systems Integration:** Integration of intelligent transportation systems with other existing systems and other advanced transportation technologies.
- **Commerce Delivery and Logistics:** Innovative data and technological solutions supporting efficient goods movement, such as connected vehicle probe data, road weather data, or global positioning data to improve on-time pickup and delivery, improved travel time reliability, reduced fuel consumption and emissions, and reduced labor and vehicle maintenance costs.
- **Leveraging Use of Innovative Aviation Technology:** Leveraging the use of innovative aviation technologies, such as unmanned aircraft systems, to support transportation safety and efficiencies, including traffic monitoring and infrastructure inspection.
- **Smart Grid:** Developing a programmable and efficient energy transmission and distribution system to support the adoption or expansion of energy capture, electric vehicle deployment, or freight or commercial fleet fuel efficiency.
- **Smart Technology Traffic Signals:** Improving the active management and functioning of traffic signals.

Matching Grant Requirements

No matching funds are required.

New or Existing Program

Existing

Examples of Prior Award Recipients

In March 2023, 59 Stage 1 projects across 22 states were awarded a total of \$94 million in grant awards. A full list of awarded projects can be found here: [FY22 SMART Project List](#).

In 2022, the City of Cleveland received a \$1.8 million Stage 1 grant for a Cleveland Complete Corridor Project. The project is focused on the Smart Traffic Signals technology area and aims to examine a project design that would provide the right of way to emergency vehicles using smart traffic signals in Cleveland.

Tips for Being Competitive

DOT has established several priorities for SMART Grant funding. Competitive applicants will be responsive to these priorities and demonstrate that their proposed projects will utilize technology interventions to solve real-world challenges facing communities

DOT Priorities for SMART Grant Funding

- **Safety:** Advance safe, efficient transportation in alignment with the goal of achieving zero roadway deaths
- **Climate Change and Sustainability:** Reduce transportation sector greenhouse gas emissions, incorporate climate resilience features, reduce lifecycle emissions from project materials, avoid adverse environmental impacts, and address disproportionate impacts on disadvantaged communities
- **Equity and the Justice40 Initiative:** Remove transportation-related disparities, increase equitable access to project benefits, and advance the goals of the Justice40 Initiative
- **Workforce Development, Job Quality, and Wealth Creation:** Create good-paying jobs with the free and fair choice to join a union, incorporate strong labor standards and training programs, and support opportunities for disadvantaged and minority-owned businesses

SMART Grant Priorities Defined in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

- **Safety and reliability:** Improve the safety of systems for pedestrians, bicyclists, and the broader traveling public. Improve emergency response
- **Resiliency:** Increase the reliability and resiliency of the transportation system, including cybersecurity and resiliency and adaptation to climate change effects
- **Equity and access:** Connect or expand access for underserved or disadvantaged populations. Improve access to jobs, education, and essential services
- **Climate:** Reduce congestion and/or air pollution, including greenhouse gas emissions. Improve energy efficiency
- **Partnerships:** Contribute to economic competitiveness, incentivize private sector investments or partnerships, and demonstrate leadership amongst a network of local partners and the community
- **Integration:** Improve integration of systems and promote connectivity of infrastructure, connected vehicles, pedestrians, bicyclists, and the broader traveling public
- **Fit, scale, and adoption:** Right-size the proposed solution to the needs and characteristics of the community served, ensure technologies can be integrated with existing transportation system, and support scalability
- **Data sharing, cybersecurity, and privacy:** Promote data sharing and best practices, promote industry best practices regarding cybersecurity and technology standards, and safeguard individual privacy
- **Workforce development:** Promote a skilled and inclusive workforce
- **Measurement and validation:** Allow for the measurement and validation of cost savings and performance improvements for the implemented technologies

Labor Requirements There are no listed requirements. However, the Department intends to use the SMART Grants program to support the creation of good-paying jobs with the free and fair choice to join a union, the incorporation of strong labor standards and training/placement programs, and local wealth creation.

Partners Required There are no explicit partnership requirements. However, successful projects will seek to build sustainable partnerships across sectors and levels of government, as well as collaborate with industry, academia, nonprofits, and other traditional and non-traditional partners.

Agency Contact Contact SMART Grants Program staff via email at smart@dot.gov or call Roxanne Ledesma at 202-774-8003.

Upcoming Events Webinar recordings and presentation slides for past events can be found on the [SMART Grants Program Page](#).

Anticipated Award Date Early 2024

Total Allocation \$50 million. USDOT expects to award up to 30 Stage 1 grants of up to \$2 million per award.

How To Apply

- Ensure that you have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) with [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov). This process can take up to 30 days.
- Register with [Valid Eval](#).
- Submit your application via Valid Eval
 - Answer all registration details and key information questions
 - Upload the completed Standard Forms
 - Upload the Proposal Document
 - Once submitted, you can return to your application until the NOFO closes

Resources

- [SMART Grants NOFO - DOT](#)
- [SMART Grants Program Page](#)