



BUILD AMERICA BUREAU

 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Community Transportation Association of America Expo 2023
Susan L Wilson, AICP
May 24, 2023

About the Build America Bureau

Advancing investment in America's transportation infrastructure by providing **financial** and **technical** assistance

Financial Assistance

Flexible, low-cost, long-term credit assistance (loans, loan guarantees, and lines of credit) – \$100 B available – for a wide range of eligible projects; and tax-exempt bonds – \$15 B available – for public-private partnerships.

Technical Assistance

Grants for project planning and development, community solutions, and advisory services; and opportunities for training and education on the use of innovative project planning, financing, and delivery techniques



Build America Bureau

Advancing investment in America's transportation infrastructure

- Lending Federal funds to qualified borrowers
- Clearing roadblocks for credit worthy projects
- Encouraging best practices in project planning, financing, and delivery
- Fully using available lending capacity while protecting taxpayer resources

U.S. Department of Transportation

Office of the Secretary of Transportation

• Build America Bureau

- Outreach
- Technical Assistance
- Project Development
- Risk Management
- Underwriting
- Portfolio Management

Operating Administrations

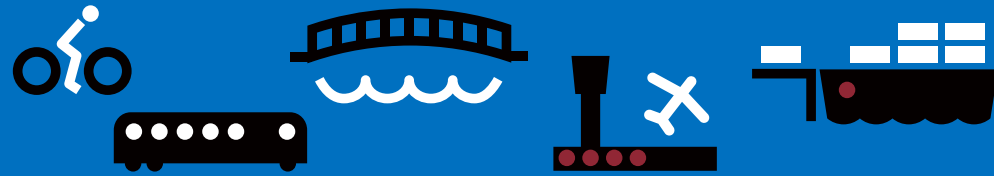
- Federal Highway Administration
- Federal Transit Administration
- Federal Railroad Administration
- Federal Aviation Administration
- Maritime Administration

- Regional staff
- Grant money
- Planning, environment, construction experts



Lending Capacity

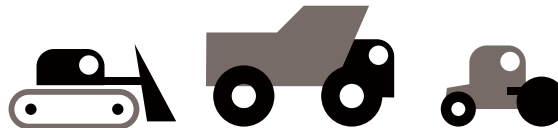
TIFIA
\$70 billion



RRIF
\$30 billion



PABs
\$15 billion



TIFIA 49

Maximizes lending authority up to 49% (vs. traditional 33%) for select projects:



TRANSIT



PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE



TIFIA Rural Project Initiative (RPI)

Rural: Outside urbanized area of population > 150,000

Project costs between \$10 million and \$100 million

TIFIA can finance up to 49 percent of eligible project costs

Fixed rate at one-half Treasury rate

DOT can cover borrower fees



ONE-HALF THE U.S. TREASURY RATE

1.97%

as of 5/21/23

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law



No More
Lead Pipes



High-Speed
Internet Access



Better Roads
and Bridges



Investments in
Public Transit



Upgrade Airports
and Ports



Investment in
Passenger Rail



Network of
Electric
Vehicle Chargers



Upgrade Power
Infrastructure



Resilient
Infrastructure

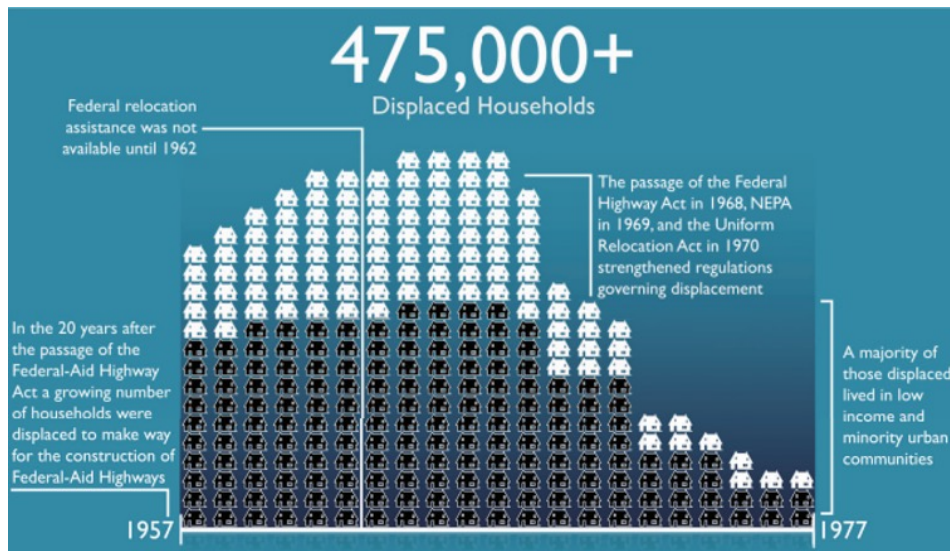


Investment in
Environmental
Remediation



Reconnecting Communities

\$185 Million recently awarded to 45 communities!
Better connect people to opportunities, prosperity and to each other



\$1 billion is available through the RCP Program for FY 2022-26 for planning, capital construction, and technical assistance to reconnect communities. [Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program | US Department of Transportation](#)

Technical Assistance Programs/Resources

Build America Center

- \$5 M FHWA/Bureau partnership
- University of Maryland and four other universities provide TA
- Web - BAC.UMD.EDU

Thriving Communities

- \$21+ M just awarded
- Grants to build the capacity of 64 communities

New!

Rural & Tribal Assistance

- 5-year pilot program (\$10 M total)
- \$3.4 M will be available in the first round - **NOFO coming soon!**

Coming Soon!

Regional Infrastructure Accelerators

- \$10 M awarded to 10 RIAs in the first two rounds
- \$24 M will be available in third round – **applications due May 30th!**

DOT Navigator

- New resource to help communities identify grant and TA opportunities
- Web - transportation.gov/grants/dot-navigator/

Innovative Finance

- 5-year program (\$100 M total)
- \$40 M will be available in the first round - **NOFO coming soon!**

<https://www.transportation.gov/buildamerica/technicalassistance>



Thriving Communities Program



<https://www.transportation.gov/buildamerica/project-development/thriving-communities-program>

- TCP provides tools to ensure that under-resourced communities can access the historic funding provided in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)
- Authorized by FY22 Appropriations for \$25 million through end of 2024
- 20 Main Streets, 29 Complete Neighborhoods, & 15 Networked Communities chosen in 1st round
- Bureau supporting the technical assistance delivery



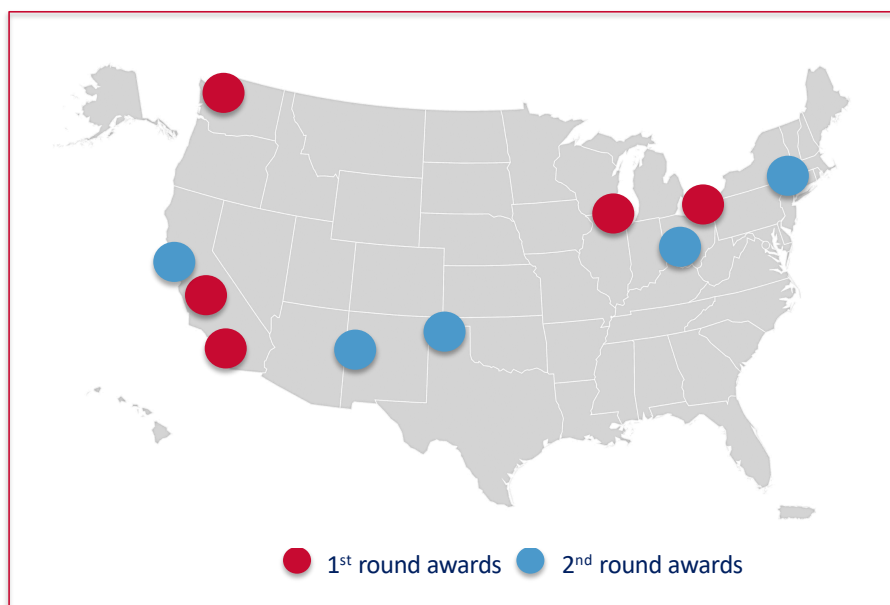
Regional Infrastructure Accelerators (RIA)

- \$10 Million in Grants!
 - TIFIA Program
 - \$10 Million Awarded
 - **\$24 Million NOFO out now.**
 - **Applications due May 30th.**
- Purpose:
 - Serve defined geographic region
 - Resource to the region
 - Act as “extensions” of the Bureau to prepare projects for loans and funding



<https://www.transportation.gov/buildamerica/accelerators>

REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE ACCELERATORS



● FY2021

- San Diego Association of Governments - \$1.47 million
- Pacific Northwest Economic Region - \$1.235 million
- Fresno Council of Governments - \$1 million
- Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning - \$1 million
- Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency - \$295,000

● FY2022

- Metropolitan Transportation Commission, CA - \$1.5 million
- Dona Ana County, NM - \$1.1 million
- Suffolk County, NY - \$1 million
- Central Ohio Transit Authority - \$750,000
- Panhandle Regional Planning Commission - \$454,842

- Funds pre-planning resources and capacity
- Expedites regional transportation projects
- Improves access to billions in Bureau financing
- \$10M awarded to 10 accelerators in 2 rounds
- 2nd round included a TOD project and regional transit planning
- Additional \$24 M for 3rd NOFO currently advertised

Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program



\$10 million over 5 years

**\$3.4 million available first NOFO
(two fiscal years)**

**Maximum award is \$320,000 from
FY 2022 funds and \$360,000 from
FY 2023 funds**

**Up to \$1.6 M specifically for
tribal governments**

No local match!



Grants for technical, financial, or legal support

Technical

- Feasibility studies
- Project planning
- Preliminary engineering/design
- Environmental review
- Property development and land use feasibility analysis
- Public outreach
- Cost estimation
- Public benefit studies

Financial

- Revenue forecasting
- Economic assessments and cost-benefit analyses
- Value for money analysis and procurement options
- Evaluating opportunities for private financing and project bundling
- Financial feasibility analysis; funding/financing options analysis
- Evaluation of costs to sustain project (such as operations and maintenance costs)

Legal

- Statutory and regulatory analysis
- Drafting and negotiation of concession agreements
- Drafting and negotiation of interagency agreements
- Procurement support



Eligibility

- Local governments or political subdivisions located outside of an urbanized area with a population >150,000 residents
- State governments applying on behalf of a project in an area outside an urbanized area >150,000 residents
- [Federally recognized Indian Tribes](#)
- Department of Hawaiian Home Lands



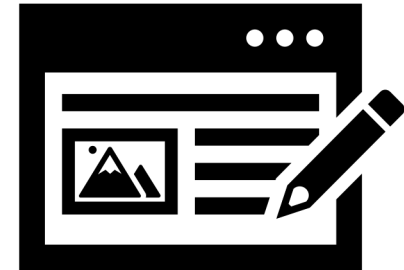
Sample Categories of Projects

- Highway projects, bridges and tunnels
- Public transportation projects
- Freight rail projects
- Airport projects
- Wildlife crossing projects
- Highway-railway grade crossing or grade separation
- Surface transportation project within the boundaries / functionally connected to an international border crossing that improves a facility owned by Fed/State/local government



Application process

- Web-based application form will open 60 days after NOFO is published
- **First-come, first-served**
- Application portal will remain open for 45 days
- Copy of application will be viewable – suggest drafting answers in Word for insertion
- Funding may be fully committed before the open period concludes



<https://www.transportation.gov/buildamerica/RuralandTribalGrants>



Next Steps

- Expected release of the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) in spring 2023 for Fiscal years 2022 and 2023 of funding
- <https://www.transportation.gov/buildamerica/RuralandTribalGrants>
- Application will open 60 days after posting
- Bureau will host webinar on how to apply on June 15, 2023 at 3 p.m.
https://usdot.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_5a7deUSbSxiJdvNivII8dA
- More information will be available on the website



Resources

Visit:

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

Subscribe:

https://service.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDOT/subscriber/new?topic_id=USDOT_167

Bureau news:

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDOT/subscriber/new?topic_id=USDOT_77



DOT Navigator



Coordinating and Improving Access to the range of DOT Technical Assistance Resources

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



Sample Grant Application Resources

- Overview of DOT Funding and Financing
- USDOT Discretionary Grant Process
- Maximizing Award Success
- Is Federal Funding the Right Fit for My Organization?

The screenshot shows the DOT Navigator website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the U.S. Department of Transportation logo, a search icon, and links for 'ABOUT DOT', 'PRIORITIES', and 'CONNECT'. Below the navigation bar is a large hero image of a person riding a bicycle on a wooden boardwalk. Overlaid on this image is the text 'DOT Navigator' and a description: 'The DOT Navigator is a new resource to help communities understand the best ways to apply for grants, and to plan for and deliver transformative infrastructure projects and services.' A red button labeled 'LEARN MORE ABOUT THE DOT NAVIGATOR' is positioned below the text. To the right of the hero image is a vertical social media sharing bar with icons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Email. Below the hero image is a section titled 'WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?' with three columns of content: 'Apply for DOT Grants' (Resources to help understand the federal grant-making process and key federal requirements), 'Find Technical Assistance Resources' (Resources available to public agencies and other transportation stakeholders), and 'Learn About the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law' (Information to help access Bill, funding programs). At the bottom of the page is a dark blue footer with the text 'Stay Connected' and 'Receive email updates about the latest information on DOT grant technical assistance resources.' A red button labeled 'SUBSCRIBE FOR UPDATES' is located below the text.

CONTACT US!

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDOT/subscriber/new?topic_id=USDOT_77

Subscribe to email updates!

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

