

To: CRCOG Transportation Committee

From: Jacob Knowlton, Community Development Planner

CC: Rob Aloise, Director of Planning
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Subject: Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Discretionary Grant Program

The RCP is a program with the goal of reconnecting communities through community-supported planning activities and capital construction projects that are championed by those communities. Some of these projects may include the removing, retrofitting, or mitigating highways or other transportation facilities that create barriers to community connectivity, including to mobility, access, or economic development. This Program welcomes applications from diverse local, Tribal, and regional communities regardless of size, location, and experience administering Federal funding awards. The total amount of funding available for FY 2022 is up to \$195 million.

The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the RCP grant can be found at https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/2022-06/RCP_NOFO_FY22.pdf.

Highlights from the NOFO Document:

- Two Grant Types: **Planning Grants and Capital Construction Grants**
 - Planning Grants: \$100,000 to \$2 million, 80% Federal / 20% Local Match
 - Capital Construction Grants: \$5 million to \$100 million, 50% Federal / 50% local match
- Matching share may consist of in-kind contributions as well as contributions from the private sector and/or philanthropic organizations.
- Eligible applicants include: **(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.**
 - For **Capital Construction Grants, the applicant must be the owner(s) of the eligible facility** and may file jointly with the eligible applicants listed above.
- Applicants without experience in DOT funding requirements may opt to jointly apply with a partner in the same State or region.
- An applicant may submit no more than three applications.
- Funds are administered on a reimbursement basis.
- Encouragement for the granted funds to be obligated by September 30, 2025.
- If a Capital Construction Grant recipient does not receive the full funds to completely develop the project, the project will receive a 'Reconnecting Extra' designation and be deemed 'Highly Recommended' under FY 2023 – FY 2026 programs: Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) or Multimodal Projects Discretionary Grant (MPDG).
- Post award reporting requirements are documented in the NOFO and may include post construction reporting.
- **Applications must be submitted by 11:59 PM EDT on Thursday, October 13, 2022.**

Eligible Planning Grant Activities Include:

- Planning studies to assess the feasibility of removing, retrofitting, or mitigating an existing eligible facility to reconnect communities, including assessments of:
 - Current traffic patterns on the facility and the surrounding street network
 - Capacity of existing transportation networks to maintain mobility needs
 - Alternative roadway designs or other uses for the right-of-way
 - Impact on the safety and mobility of people
 - Estimated cost to restore community connectivity and to convert the facility to a different design or use, compared to any expected maintenance or reconstruction costs
 - Anticipated economic impact and development opportunities
 - Environmental, public health, and community impacts
- Engineering, or design and planning studies that support environmental review
- Associated needs: land use and zoning reform, transit-oriented development, location-efficient affordable housing, managing gentrification, green and open space, local history and culture, access and mobility barriers, jobs and workforce, or other necessary planning activities

Eligible Capital Construction Grant Activities Include:

- Detailed design activities and associated environmental studies
- Permitting activities including completion of the National Environmental Policy Act process
- The removal, retrofit, or mitigation of an eligible facility
- The replacement of an eligible facility with a new facility that restores community connectivity

CTDOT Application

- The CTDOT is strongly considering submitting a Capital Construction Grant application to advance elements of the Greater Hartford Mobility Study.

How to Apply

- Applications must be submitted through [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) under the Opportunity Number, DOT-RCP-FY22-01.
- All applications should submit the following: Standard Forms; Key Information; Narrative; and Budget. USDOT strongly recommends use of the template included in the NOFO.

User-friendly resources relevant to **rural applicants** can be found on the Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success (ROUTES) website at <https://www.transportation.gov/rural>.

Ongoing updates, webinar notices, and FAQs can be accessed via <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/reconnecting-communities>.

Webinar content can be directly accessed via <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/reconnecting-communities/reconnecting-communities-webinars>

Following evaluation, awarded projects will be announced by posting a list of selected projects at <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/reconnecting-communities>.