

To: Transportation Committee
From: CRCOG Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Coordination Team
Date: January 13, 2023 [REVISED January 24, 2023]
Subject: Summary of U.S. Department of Transportation's Upcoming Key Notices of Funding Opportunity

On January 6, 2023, the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) updated their list of Key Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). Below is a summary of the discretionary grant programs that may be most applicable to CRCOG, based on a review of available information provided by U.S. DOT at the time of writing this memorandum. This is not an inclusive or exhaustive list and does not currently include programs for which NOFOs have already been issued (e.g., Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity, RAISE).

Please visit [U.S. DOT's website](#) for a complete list of programs, links to program websites/fact sheets, and anticipated opening/closing dates. We expect U.S. DOT to update this list from time to time, and additional information will be available about each program once the NOFOs are issued. CRCOG will continue preparing memoranda and/or updating the [BIL Webpage](#) and notifying you of updates as new NOFOs are issued.

While specific information about local cost share for programs may not be available at this time, please plan for this accordingly as you identify potential projects and prepare budgets and capital improvement plans for your municipalities.

Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program (SS4A)

Brief Program Description: The U.S. DOT's SS4A grant program serves to significantly reduce or eliminate fatalities and serious injuries on roadways for all users. U.S. DOT allocated \$1 billion in FY2022 to achieve this goal by supporting planning, infrastructure, behavioral, and operational initiatives through two types of grants: Action Plan Grants and Implementation Grants.

FY2023 NOFO Opening Date: April 2023

Funding Amount: TBD for FY2023

Eligible Applicants: CRCOG, Municipalities, Others

Two Application Types:

Action Plan Grant: CRCOG applied for SS4A Round 1 funding to update the Regional Transportation Safety Plan to serve as the region's Action Plan – U.S. DOT expects to announce awards for SS4A Round 1 in early 2023.

Implementation Grant: Town of Farmington submitted a Joint Application on behalf of five CRCOG Member Towns for SS4A Round 1 funding to implement projects cited in local and regional action plans.

Visit the [SS4A Program Website](#) for examples of each type of application.

CRCOG anticipates assisting Member Towns in preparing applications that will further the region's goals towards achieving Vision Zero. Many projects may already be referenced in [CRCOG's Regional Transportation Safety Plan](#), which we have self-certified to serve as the region's current comprehensive safety action plan, or other local plan your municipality may

have adopted. If that is the case, then an Implementation Grant may be the best next step in the implementation process.

Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Pilot Program

Brief Program Description: The Federal Transit Administration's (FTA's) TOD program was initially developed in the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) Act, which was enacted in 2012. BIL amendments expanded eligible activities to include site-specific plans in addition to comprehensive plans. The program will fund efforts associated with an eligible transit project that will seek funding through [FTA's Capital Investment Grants Program](#). A major goal of the program is to focus growth surrounding transit stations to create compact, mixed-use communities with easy access to jobs and services. See the [TOD Pilot Program Fact Sheet](#) for more information.

FY2023 NOFO Opening Date: April 2023

Funding Amount: \$13 million for FY2023

Eligible Applicants: State, local government authorities

Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Opportunity (MPDG)

Brief Program Description: This U.S. DOT program offers the opportunity to apply for three discretionary grant opportunities (Mega, INFRA, and Rural) using one application. Visit [U.S. DOT's MPDG website](#) for information about each of the three grants, and descriptions of projects that were awarded funding in Round 1 - FY 2022.

Mega is known as the National Infrastructure Project Assistance Program. The program funds large, complex projects that are likely to generate national or regional economic, mobility, or safety benefits, but are difficult to fund by other means.

INFRA is known as the Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highway Projects Program, or Infrastructure for Rebuilding America. This program funds multimodal freight and highway projects of national or regional significance. The program serves to improve the safety, efficiency, and reliability of the movement of freight and people in and across rural and urban areas.

Rural is short for the Rural Surface Transportation Grant. This program supports projects that improve and expand the surface transportation infrastructure in rural areas to increase connectivity, improve the safety and reliability of the movement of people and freight, and generate regional economic growth and improve quality of life.

FY2023 NOFO Opening Date: Spring 2023

Funding Amounts:

Mega: \$5 billion total over FY2022-FY2026

INFRA: \$8 billion total over FY2022-FY2026

Rural: \$2 billion total over FY2022-FY2026

Eligible Applicants: State, CRCOG, Municipalities, Others

Thriving Communities

Limited information about Round 2 – FY2023 - of this program is available now. Please stay tuned if this program is of interest to you. You may wish to visit the [Program Website](#) that was used for Round 1 – FY2022.

FY2023 NOFO Opening Date: Spring 2023

Reconnecting Communities Program and Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant Program

Brief Program Description: [U.S. DOT's Reconnecting Communities Program](#) is dedicated to funding planning grants, capital construction grants, and technical assistance to restore community connectivity through the removal, retrofit, mitigation, or replacement of eligible transportation infrastructure facilities.

U.S. DOT will prioritize its technical assistance to economically disadvantaged communities, as may be defined per the NOFO.

FY2023 NOFO Opening Date: Late Spring 2023

Funding Amount:

Planning Grant: \$50 million for FY2023

Capital Construction: \$148 million for FY2023

Eligible Applicants:

Planning Grant: State, CRCOG, Municipalities, Others

Capital Construction: Facility Owner (as Lead Applicant, or a Joint Applicant with eligible applicant(s) to Planning Grants)

All Stations Accessibility Program

Brief Program Description: The [Federal Transit Administration's \(FTA's\) All Stations Accessibility Program](#) (ASAP) funds capital projects to upgrade the accessibility of legacy rail fixed guideway public transportation systems for people with disabilities. A main goal of this program is to increase the number of existing stations or facilities for passenger use that meet or exceed the new construction standards of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). See the [ASAP Fact Sheet](#) for more information.

FY2023 NOFO Opening Date: July 2023

Funding Amount: \$350 million for FY2023

Eligible Applicants: State, local government authorities

Bridge Investment Program

Brief Program Description: The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Bridge Investment Program (BIP) seeks to reduce the number of existing bridges in poor condition, or in fair condition at risk of falling to poor condition. Applicants can use up to 5 percent of BIP funding for eligible projects that consist solely of culvert replacement or rehabilitation, as may be defined per the NOFO. See the [BIP Fact Sheet](#) for more information.

There are three types of projects:

- Large Bridge Projects (total eligible costs >\$100 million)
- Bridge Projects (total eligible costs </= \$100 million)
- Planning Grants

FY2023 NOFO Opening Date: Summer 2023

Funding Amount: Estimated to be \$2.487 billion in FY2023

Eligible Applicants: State, CRCOG, Municipalities, Others

Railroad Crossing Elimination Program

Brief Program Description: The [Federal Railroad Administration Railroad Crossing Elimination Program](#) funds highway-rail or pathway-rail grade crossing improvement projects for the purpose of improving the safety and mobility of people and goods.

FY2023 NOFO Opening Date: Summer 2023

Funding Amount: TBD for FY2023

Eligible Applicants: State, CRCOG, Municipalities, Others

Consolidated Rail Infrastructure & Safety Improvements Grant Program (CRISI)

Brief Program Description: The [Federal Railroad Administration \(FRA\) CRISI Program](#) funds projects that improve the safety, efficiency, and reliability of intercity passenger and freight rail.

As you may recall, in Fall 2022, CRCOG issued [two letters of support](#) related to this grant. The first letter was issued in support of the Connecticut Department of Transportation's (CTDOT) application for the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield (NHHS) Rail Program Phase 3B Doubletrack Project in West Hartford, Windsor, Windsor Locks, and Enfield, CT. The second letter was issued to the Massachusetts' Department of Transportation (MassDOT) in support of their project, entitled *Connecting the Commonwealth: Early Actions for the Inland Route*.

FY2023 NOFO Opening Date: Fall 2023

Funding Amount: TBD for FY2023

Eligible Applicants: State, CRCOG, Municipalities, Others

Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grants Program

Brief Program Description: [U.S. DOT's SMART Program](#) was established to provide funding for demonstration projects focused on advanced smart city or community technologies and systems in a variety of communities to improve transportation efficiency and safety. Autonomous vehicles, connected vehicles, smart traffic signals, and sensor-based infrastructure that collects data to inform transportation-related operations and performance are a few examples.

There are two stages of the program:

- Stage 1 Planning and Prototyping Grants
- Stage 2 Implementation Grants

U.S. DOT expects that only recipients of Stage 1 grants will be eligible for Stage 2 grants. See the [SMART Program Fact Sheet](#) for more information.

FY2023 NOFO Opening Date: Fall 2023

Funding Amount: \$100 million for FY2023

Eligible Applicants: State, CRCOG, Municipalities, Others

National Culvert Removal, Replacement, and Restoration Grants

Brief Program Description: This Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Grant Program funds the replacement, removal, and improvement of culverts or weirs that would meaningfully improve or restore fish passage for anadromous fish. Anadromous fish species are born in freshwater such as streams and rivers, spend most of their lives in the marine environment, and migrate back to freshwater to spawn. Salmon are the most widely known examples of anadromous fish, but this category of fish also includes sturgeon, river herring, striped bass, and other species.

See the FHWA Grant Program [Fact Sheet](#) for more information.

FY2023 NOFO Opening Date: Winter 2023 - 2024

Funding Amount: Estimated to be \$800 million for FY2023

Eligible Applicants: State, CRCOG, Municipalities, Others

Please contact [Elizabeth Sanderson](#), BIL Coordinator, if you would like additional information or are interested in applying for BIL discretionary grants.