

To: Transportation Committee
From: CRCOG Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Coordination Team
Date: February 3, 2023
Subject: Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Updates

Please see the following updates provided in advance of the February 14, 2023 Transportation Committee Meeting.

U.S. DOT Safe Streets and Roads for All Discretionary Grant Program (SS4A):

- Memorandum: SS4A Round 1 Grant Awards
- Memorandum: SS4A Round 2 Implementation Grant Application Submission Strategy

BIL Webpage Updates:

- General Information: U.S. DOT will host a webinar on Preparing for Upcoming DOT Discretionary Grant Opportunities, Wednesday, February 8, 2023 at 3:00 – 4:00 pm.
 - [Register here.](#)
- New Funding Opportunity: Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Area of Persistent Property (AoPP) Program. \$20 million is available in FY2023 for eligible activities in AoPP and Historically Disadvantaged Communities (HDC), which includes the following municipalities in CRCOG:
 - East Hartford
 - Enfield
 - Hartford
 - Manchester
 - Mansfield
 - New Britain
- RAISE Grant Webinars, provided by U.S. DOT:
 - [How to Compete for RAISE Grants](#)
 - View recording [here](#). Passcode: .g8gN9*\$
 - [How to Compete for RAISE Grants: New Applicants](#)
 - View recording [here](#). Passcode: 6js#RT7G
 - [How to Compete for RAISE Grants: Rural & Tribal Communities](#)
 - View recording [here](#): Passcode: Hf%M1H.3
 - How to Use the New RAISE Mapping Tool
 - Recording will be available soon, check [here](#) for updates
 - [How to Prepare a Benefit-Cost Analysis for RAISE Grants](#)
 - View recording [here](#). Passcode: mm2#yDwN

A reminder, CRCOG seeks information from Member Towns about what federal discretionary grant programs you or other agencies/entities in your town have applied for or are interested in pursuing. Please contact [Elizabeth Sanderson](#) with this information, or if you have questions, comments, or concerns.

To: Transportation Committee
From: Matt Hart, Executive Director
Date: February 3, 2023
Subject: U.S. DOT Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Round 1 Grant Awards

I am thrilled to inform you that CRCOG has been awarded an action plan grant in the first round of Safe Streets For All (SS4A) funding established under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

We will use this grant of \$958,000 combined with the local match of \$239,500 to update our Regional Transportation Safety Plan, also referred to as a comprehensive safety plan.

The safety plan is an important planning document because it will serve as the basis for implementation projects under future rounds of the SS4A. In order for an implementation project to be eligible for funding, the applicant needs to demonstrate that the project is listed as a priority under its safety plan or would further the goals and objectives of the plan. The safety plan could also function as a useful planning tool for other purposes, such as providing critical data to support other grant applications. CRCOG and its members will be able to use our updated regional transportation safety plan for these purposes.

With the safety plan update, we will update our crash data and develop a priority list of projects. The update will provide us with the opportunity to include the FHWA's latest proven safety countermeasures, including crosswalk visibility enhancements and roundabouts, and allow us to conduct broader outreach and incorporate more of an equity focus within the plan.

The City of New Britain and CRCOG consolidated their respective safety plan applications. We will feature New Britain as a case study in the updated plan.

CRCOG is one of 473 awardees in the country to receive an action plan grant, and one of only six recipients in Connecticut. The Federal government was strongly encouraging planning grants during this first round and awarded only 37 implementation grants for the first year and none within in Connecticut.

I do want to thank and acknowledge the Town of Farmington for submitting a five-town implementation grant application on behalf our region. Those towns can certainly reapply for the next round of implementation grants and CRCOG will be ready to assist them with this task.

I also want to thank Commissioner Mark Boughton and the staff at the CT Bipartisan Infrastructure Law team (CTBILT) for their guidance and support, and the members of our staff team, particularly Elizabeth Sanderson and Roger Krahn, for their excellent work on the action plan application. The members of our federal delegation played a crucial role in establishing the BIL and supporting our application. Kudos to all involved on a job well done!

As they say, "now the real work begins" as we work to execute a grant agreement with USDOT and begin work on the safety plan update. This is excellent news for all our members and presents a tremendous opportunity to leverage future rounds of SS4A funding for critical transportation safety projects in our region.

To: Transportation Committee
From: Elizabeth Sanderson, BIL Coordinator
Date: February 3, 2023
Subject: U.S. DOT Safe Streets and Roads for All Discretionary Grant Program, Round 2 – FY2023 (SS4A) Implementation Grant Application Submission Strategy

Last month, the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) announced that the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Round 2 of the Safe Streets and Roads for All Discretionary Grant Program (SS4A) will be issued in April 2023. U.S. DOT expects to award \$1.1 billion to improve roads and prevent deaths and serious injuries, working towards a vision of zero roadway deaths.

CRCOG recently learned that our application for an Action Plan Grant to supplement and update the [Regional Transportation Safety Plan \(RTSP\)](#) was selected for award. While Round 1 targeted more Action Plan Grants, we anticipate Round 2 will award more Implementation Grants than the 37 projects that were recently awarded for Round 1.

The goal of SS4A is to significantly reduce or eliminate fatalities and serious injuries on roadways for all users. The SS4A Round 1 NOFO offered two types of grants, but applicants could only apply for one or the other:

- Action Plan Grant – to develop, update, or supplement a comprehensive safety action plan that complies with specified components; or
- Implementation Grant – to implement projects and strategies identified in an existing Action Plan to address a road safety issue.

Advanced notice of when U.S. DOT anticipates issuing the Round 2 NOFO offers a brief window of time to develop a strategy and convene key players to prepare a robust and competitive **Implementation Grant** for the region.

Based on a review of the Round 1 NOFO, we anticipate the following next steps for preparation of a Round 2 Implementation Grant:

1. Identify eligible project(s) and/or strategies.
 - a. To be eligible, projects and strategies must be identified in an existing Action Plan, as defined in the NOFO.
 - b. Municipalities will be responsible for providing the **local cost share**, which was 20% of the total project cost for Round 1, and **grant administration fees** that may be assessed by the municipality or Lead Applicant if different from the municipality.
 - i. For example, a project with total eligible costs of \$2 million will require a local match (non-Federal share) of \$400,000.
 - c. If CRCOG will serve as Lead Applicant for a multi-jurisdictional application, then the project location must be referenced in the [RTSP](#).
2. Municipalities with eligible project(s) submit an **Intent to Apply Form**, like the attached form.
 - a. CRCOG will provide an updated Intent to Apply Form after the NOFO is issued.
3. After reviewing the NOFO and Intent to Apply Forms, CRCOG will host a **workshop** with Member Towns to review Application Requirements, Selection Criteria, and Questions.
4. Municipalities interested in applying for a Joint Application will submit a **Letter of Commitment** to CRCOG, endorsed by a municipal official, that:
 - a. Demonstrates the municipality's commitment to the project scope, schedule, and budget.

- b. A municipality's commitment of the local non-Federal funds will be needed prior to the application deadline.
5. CRCOG will distribute an **Application Checklist**, like the attached, that outlines tasks and timelines to be followed to meet the application deadline.
6. If a proposed project or strategy is on a state road, a **Letter of Support from Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT)** will be needed.
 - a. CRCOG will assist in obtaining the Letter of Support.
7. Joint Applicant(s) execute a **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)/Letter of Intent** with Lead Applicant that:
 - a. Grants CRCOG (or other) the authority to apply as Lead Applicant on behalf of Joint Applicant(s).
 - b. The document will set expectations and address concerns related to submitting a Joint Application, including but not limited to ownership, maintenance, grant administration, project administration, project cost allocation.
 - i. CRCOG will provide a draft document that may serve as a template.

List of Attachments:

1. Draft Intent to Apply Form
2. Draft Application Checklist

Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program Intent to Apply Form

Please complete and submit to esanderson@crcog.org by **[DATE TBD]**.

Municipality:

Contact Person (Name, Email, Phone):

Anticipated Project Cost:

Type of Application (Action Plan or Implementation Grant):

Project Name/Location:

Roadway Ownership (State/Municipal/Both):

Would your Municipality be willing to have your project combined into a multijurisdictional application?

If yes, would your Municipality be willing be the Lead Applicant for a multijurisdictional application?

Because projects must be included in a Safety Action Plan, identify the page number where this project appears within CRCOG's Regional Transportation Safety Plan or indicate that you will be self-certifying a different plan wherein this project is included:

Briefly describe the project, including its major components, the proven safety countermeasure(s) being proposed, and whether any preliminary work has been completed. Feel free to attach additional information if available:

Implementation Grant Application Checklist Town Documents to Submit to CRCOG

[This checklist is subject to modifications following issuance and review of the Round 2 NOFO]

Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Program

Please complete and submit documents by **[DATE TBD]**, to:
Elizabeth Sanderson, ESanderson@crcog.org, 860-424-4701

Municipality: _____

Contact Person (Name, Email, Phone): _____

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If an item is not included, provide the date when the document will be submitted to CRCOG staff.

Included
 Yes No

- 1. Unique Entity Identification** UEI is obtained from <https://sam.gov/content/home>
 UEI number : _____
 Comment: _____

- 2. Table 3: Supplemental Estimated Budget** (NOFO p. 27). Please use attached form for consistency in budget line items among the CRCOG towns. Municipalities will need to budget for the non-Federal share (which was 20% in Round 1) and grant administration costs.
 Comment: _____

- 3. Budget Narrative/Summary**
 Provide a brief summary of the estimated budget.
 Comment: _____

- 4. Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)** signature required

Comment: _____

5. Budget information for Construction Programs (SF-424C)

Comment: _____

6. Assurances for Construction Programs (SF-424L)

signature required

Comment: _____

7. Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL) signature required

Comment: _____

8. Signature of Chief Elected Official on MOU/LOI

CRCOG will provide a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)/Letter of Intent (LOI) for signature.

The document: 1) identifies the Lead Applicant and Joint Applicant relationships, 2) acknowledges the municipalities support of the Vision Zero target date of 2045, and 3) sets expectations and addresses concerns related to ownership, maintenance, grant administration, project administration, project cost allocation.

Comment: _____

9. Project Description

Prepare a description of your Town's project to be included in the Narrative (12-point font, Times New Roman, 1" margins). Please submit a Word document.

This will be edited for inclusion in the application Narrative, which is limited to a 10-page maximum.

Descriptions must:

- Include references to your project in the Regional Transportation Safety Plan, Capitol Region, last revised July 2022 (the RTSP).
https://crocog.org/document/crocog-rtsp_final-july-2022/
- Address requirements within the NOFO regarding Overview, Location, Selection Criteria (Safety Impact; Equity, Engagement, and Collaboration; Effective Practices and Strategies; Climate Change and Sustainability, and Economic Competitiveness), and Project Readiness.
- Incorporate key goals of this program, such as how the projects and strategies will: save lives and reduce roadway fatalities & serious injuries; be executed to

incorporate equity, engagement and collaboration; be effective; consider climate change, sustainability and economic competitiveness.

- Explain how the project will be able to be completed within 5 years after establishment of the grant agreement.
- If your project is located in an "underserved community," as defined by U.S. DOT and shown on the map here: <https://usdot.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/99f9268777ff4218867ceedfabe58a3a> , then provide more information about this.
- Articulate key points of the Rating Methodology section of the NOFO, such as: including references to data and analysis in the narratives that support the project; clearly indicating how the projects and strategies will address the safety issue using an evidence-based, systemic approach and will have benefits that persist over time.

Comment: _____

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Schedule:

Towns submits application documents to CRCOG staff by [DATE TBD].

CRCOG submits application to Lead Town Applicant by [DATE TBD].
CRCOG will assemble all materials, review, edit, and summarize the documents submitted by Towns.

Lead Applicant submits final application by [DATE and TIME TBD] deadline through www.grants.gov.