

To: Transportation Committee
From: CRCOG's BIL/IIJA Coordination Team
Date: April 19, 2023
Subject: CRCOG Project Screenings for Grant Opportunities

Overview: The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) allocated \$1.2 trillion appropriated under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) to (in part) improve infrastructure and create a more equitable transportation system. Connecticut's share is estimated to be \$6.04 billion delivered in Fiscal Years 2022-2026. While much of this funding is distributed to States based on Federal formulas, the BIL also provides funding through a wide range of competitive discretionary grant programs. To ensure communities in the Capitol Region are optimally positioned to compete for these funds, CRCOG is proposing a strategic approach focused on matching available funding opportunities with projects each municipality is prioritizing.

Proposed Approach: CRCOG is proposing to collaborate with Member Towns to identify priority transportation projects that could be funded in part by federal funding opportunities offered from BIL/IIJA. There is no guarantee that priority projects will receive funding.

Identifying projects and timeframes for targeted applications would assist member municipalities and CRCOG develop the necessary processes and identify gaps in resources for preparing the strongest possible applications for these competitive funding opportunities. CRCOG staff welcomes committee member feedback and further on this approach and how to best serve the interests of Capitol Region communities.

Target Programs: Now that the first fiscal year of BIL/IIJA is ending, CRCOG has gained a greater understanding about many of the federal funding opportunities offered from various new, existing, or revamped programs. Following is a list of transportation programs that we believe offer the greatest opportunities in our region for local transportation-related projects (see Table 1 for more detail):

- Safe Streets for All ([SS4A](#))
- Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability & Equity ([RAISE](#))
- Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities ([BRIC](#))
- Bridge Investment Program ([BIP](#))
- Reconnecting Communities ([RCP](#))
- Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program ([CFI](#))
- Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant ([MPDG](#))

This is not an exhaustive list of competitive funding opportunities through the BIL – it is intended to serve as a targeted framework recognizing the realities of current staffing levels throughout most public sector organizations and the work required to submit competitive funding applications. For many communities, focusing efforts on the above programs would likely be the most efficient use of time and energy.

Next Steps: Please contact [Elizabeth Sanderson](#) to submit your priority projects. Indicate the following:

- Name of Municipality
- Point of Contact/Contact Information
- Project Description, Location, Roadway Ownership (does the project involve State Right-of-Way), Goals/Purpose of Project, Anticipated Total Cost, Amount of Funding Needed, Type and Source of Local Match, Description of Preliminary Work Completed.

CRCOG staff will review projects to find potential funding opportunities, such as with the Target Programs listed in Table 1. Do not hesitate to reach out with questions or comments.

Table 1: List of Priority Transportation Funding Programs

Program	Description	Available Funding	Eligible Applicants	NOFO Timeframe
<u>Safe Streets for All (SS4A)</u>	Competitive grant program at US DOT providing funding directly to and exclusively for local governments to support their efforts to advance “vision zero” plans and other complete street improvements to reduce crashes and fatalities, especially for cyclists and pedestrians.	Round 2 will award \$1.1 billion	CRCOG, Municipalities, Others	<i>FY2023 NOFO Opening Date: April 2023, Closes: July 10, 2023.</i>
<u>Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability & Equity (RAISE)</u>	Existing competitive US DOT grant program providing funding for road, rail, transit, and other surface transportation of local and/or regional significance.	\$7.5 billion with an additional \$7.5 billion subject to Congressional approval	State, CRCOG, Municipalities, Others	FY 2023 NOFO closes February 28
<u>Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities (BRIC)</u>	Existing Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) program to support communities undertaking hazard mitigation projects to reduce the risks they face from disasters and other natural hazards.	For Fiscal Year 2022, FEMA will distribute up to \$2.295 billion through the BRIC program. FEMA anticipates that \$500 million will be available in FY2023.	States, and federally recognized tribal governments can submit applications on behalf of subapplicants for BRIC funding via <u>FEMA Grants Outcomes (FEMA GO)</u> .	FY 2023 TBD
<u>Bridge Investment Program</u>	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 <u>BIP Fact Sheet</u> for more information.	Estimated to be \$2.487 billion in FY2023	State, CRCOG, Municipalities, Others	<i>FY2023 NOFO Opening Date: Summer 2023</i>
<u>Reconnecting Communities</u>	US DOT program intended to reconnect communities divided by transportation infrastructure – particularly historically disadvantaged communities impacted by a highway. Provides dedicated funding for planning, design, demolition, and reconstruction of street grids, parks, or other infrastructure to address these legacy impacts.	<i>Planning Grant: \$50 million for FY2023</i> <i>Capital Construction: \$148 million for FY2023</i>	<i>Planning Grant:</i> State, CRCOG, Municipalities, Others <i>Capital Construction:</i> Facility Owner (as Lead Applicant, or a Joint Applicant with eligible applicant(s) to Planning Grants)	<i>FY2023 NOFO Opening Date: Late Spring 2023</i>

Program	Description	Available Funding	Eligible Applicants	NOFO Timeframe
<u>Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program</u>	<p>US DOT FHWA program to strategically deploy publicly accessible electric vehicle charging and alternative fueling infrastructure along designated Alternative Fuel Corridors (AFCs) and in communities.</p>	<p>\$2.5 billion over 5 years, \$700 million in FY2022 and FY2023</p> <p>Two Funding Categories: 1) Community Charging and Fueling Grants (Community Program”; and</p> <p>2) Alternative Fuel Corridor Grants (Corridor Program)</p>	<p>State, CRCOG, Municipalities, Others</p>	<p><i>FY2023 NOFO Opening Date: March 14; Closing Date: May 30</i></p>
<u>Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG)</u>	<p>U.S. DOT program offers the opportunity to apply for three discretionary grant opportunities (Mega, INFRA, and Rural) using one application. Visit <u>U.S. DOT’s MPDG website</u> for information about each of the three grants.</p> <p>Mega - aka, National Infrastructure Project Assistance Program. Funds large, complex projects likely to generate national or regional economic, mobility, or safety benefits, but are difficult to fund by other means.</p> <p>INFRA - known as the Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highway Projects Program, or Infrastructure for Rebuilding America. Funds multimodal freight and highway projects of national or regional significance. Serves to improve the safety, efficiency, and reliability of the movement of freight and people in and across rural and urban areas.</p> <p>Rural - short for Rural Surface Transportation Grant. 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.</p>	<p>Mega: \$5 billion total over FY2022-FY2026</p> <p>INFRA: \$8 billion total over FY2022-FY2026</p> <p>Rural: \$2 billion total over FY2022-FY2026</p>	<p>State, CRCOG, Municipalities, Others</p>	<p><i>FY2023 NOFO Opening Date: Late Spring 2023</i></p>