

# Funding Opportunities for Municipalities

August 2023

## In This Newsletter

This edition includes the following upcoming funding opportunities:

- U.S. DOT Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN)
- U.S. DOT Municipal Project Discretionary Grants – MEGA/Infra/Rural
- U.S. DOT Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program
- EPA 2023 Clean School Bus (CSB) Grant Program
- U.S. DOT Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT)

### U.S. DOT Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN)

Application Deadline: September 28, 2023

This funding source is directed towards applicants interested in reconfiguring infrastructure to remove transportation barriers and connect the communities they serve. Projects may target localized transportation challenges, walkability, safety, and improving access, resiliency or planning and building capacity in disadvantaged communities. Specific project examples include public transportation, infrastructure removal, ADA-compliant infrastructure, capping and lids, parks and trails, tree canopy cover improvement, roadway redesigns, complete streets reconversions, and main street revitalizations.



Towns may be considered for two different grants through this one application, each with a 20% non-federal match minimum (with exceptions). The **Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program** offers nearly \$200M in funding for community planning (award of up to \$2M) or capital reconstruction (minimum award of \$5M). The **Neighborhood Access and Equity (NAE) Program** has over \$3B available in funding for community planning, capital construction, and regional partnerships. There are no minimum or maximum awards, and the non-federal

match is reduced for disadvantaged communities. More information about the two grant programs can be found [here on the CRCOG website](#).

Disadvantaged communities, as identified in the White House Council on Environmental Quality [Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool \(CEJST\)](#): East Hartford, Enfield, Hartford, Manchester, New Britain, Vernon. Other tools may be used to determine this.

Submit applications online through ValidEval by 11:59 pm on September 28.



## **U.S. DOT Municipal Project**

### **Discretionary Grants –**

#### **MEGA/Infra/Rural**

Application deadline: August 21, 2023

This funding source provides a streamlined application process for three grants including large, difficult-to-fund projects, multimodal freight or highway projects of national or regional significance, or expansion of surface transportation infrastructure in rural areas. Eligible projects are conducted for economic, mobility, safety, accessibility, congestion, resiliency, supply and quality of life benefits to the relevant transportation systems.

The **National Infrastructure Project Assistance (MEGA) Program** provides up to \$1.8B for large, complex projects with a minimum project size of \$100M that are difficult to fund by other means. There is a minimum non-Federal funding match of 20%. The **Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Program** provides up to \$3.1B for multimodal freight and highway projects of national or regional significance, prioritizing construction projects. There is a minimum award of \$5M and total Federal funding assistance is not to exceed 20%. The **Rural Surface Transportation Grant** provides up to \$675M for projects improving the nation's rural surface infrastructure. A maximum of 80% of eligible project costs can be from this program – although other federal funds may satisfy the non-Rural share.

Submit applications through [Grants.gov](#)

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## **U.S. DOT Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program**

Application Window Opens: August 14, 2 pm

This program provides early-stage development assistance for rural and tribal infrastructure projects. Funds can be used to hire staff, procure advisory assistance for financial, technical and/or legal assistance related to evaluate and develop projects that qualify for certain federal funding and financing programs. There is a state cap of \$230,000 for FY2022 funds and \$360,000 for FY2023 funds, but no

local match is required.

Funding for projects with this grant is dependent not on the classification of the town but of the project area as rural. If you're curious about the urban-rural development in your town and whether or not your project qualifies for this grant you may benefit from the [US Census TIGERWeb mapping tool](#). The communities of Andover, Columbia, Hebron, Mansfield, Marlborough, Stafford and Willington are wholly outside of the Hartford Urban Area.

Application window: rolling Aug 14 – Sep 27, 2023 (via.  
<https://www.transportation.gov/buildamerica/RuralandTribalGrants>)

Applications will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, so plan to apply soon after the window opens at 2 pm on Aug 14.

More information about this funding source may be found [here on the CRCOG website](#).

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### **EPA 2023 Clean School Bus (CSB) Grant Program**

Application deadline: August 22, 2023

This program is available for towns interested in doing their part to combat the climate crisis through reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. The funding source assists municipalities in replacing existing school buses with low and zero-emission (ZE) school buses. Eligible activities include the replacement of existing internal-combustion engine (ICE) school buses with electric, propane, or compressed natural gas (CNG) school buses, as well as the purchase of electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE) infrastructure and EVSE installations. Funding is anticipated to award up to \$400M in this funding round.

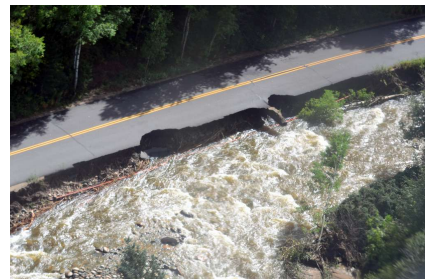


Submit applications electronically through [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov)

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### **U.S. DOT Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT)**

Application Deadline: August 18



Improving resilience of the surface transportation system, including highways, public transportation, ports, and intercity passenger rail, is a direct address to the climate crisis facing Connecticut and the Capitol Region in particular. This wide-reaching funding opportunity supports towns in making transportation

infrastructure and services more resilient to climate change and extreme weather. Funds may be used to strengthen the transportation system against natural hazards including sea level rise, flooding, extreme weather events, and other natural disasters. Successful projects will center safety, equity, and the resilience of the most vulnerable populations.

There are four different grant types available through this program. **Planning Grants** have up to \$45M available for developing Resilience Improvement Plans. A minimum award size of \$100,000 is suggested, with no maximum. Three types of **Resilience Grants** are also available, each with a requested minimum award size of \$500,000 with no maximum. There is up to \$638M available for **Resilience Improvement Grants** to improve the ability of existing surface transportation to withstand natural disasters, flooding and extreme weather events. **Community Resilience and Evacuation Route Grants** have up to \$45M available for strengthening and protecting evacuation routes. Finally, up to \$120M is available for **At-Risk Coastal Infrastructure Grants** for activities to enhance the resilience of highway and a range of non-rail infrastructure.

Submit applications electronically through Grants.gov



## Recently Submitted Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Applications

This year, CRCOG assisted several municipalities with submitting applications for funding through the Safe Streets and Roads for All federal grant. Below is a summary of recent applications:

- **Hartford** – Planning & Demonstration Grant for supplemental planning and demonstration activities to:
  - Develop a Strategic Plan to implement priority projects identified in existing transportation plans and initiatives.
  - Conduct a Sidewalk Inventory and Assessment of existing conditions to inform the City's ADA 504-transition plan to build a safer, more connected pedestrian network.
  - Implement an Automated Traffic Enforcement Pilot Program to address reckless driver behavior.
- **Newington** – Planning & Demonstration Grant for a Corridor Study along Cedar Street (Route 175) from the Berlin Turnpike (Route 15) to Fenn Road.
- **Southington** – Implementation Grant to construct safety improvements along West Street (Route 229), as recommended in the Corridor Study that was completed in Summer 2022.
- **West Hartford** – Planning & Demonstration Grant to implement an automated speed enforcement pilot program, building upon safety planning work being performed by the Town's Vision Zero Task Force.

- **Wethersfield & Rocky Hill** – Planning & Demonstration Grant to conduct a Corridor Study of the portion of Silas Deane Highway (Route 99) from Hartford/Wethersfield Town Line to Parsonage St. in Rocky Hill.

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## Request for Project Screening Submissions

If you're interested in funding your town's projects, CRCOG would like to help! We'll screen your projects and help find available federal funding sources. Please contact Elizabeth Sanderson with the following information: name of municipality, point of contact, 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.

Please contact [Elizabeth Sanderson](#) with questions, comments or concerns. Thank you!

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## Useful Resources

You may find more information about all of the above grants and funding opportunities located [here on the CRCOG website](#).



241 Main Street, 4th Floor  
Hartford, CT 06106

[Visit our Website](#)



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# Funding Opportunities for Municipalities

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September 2023

## In This Newsletter

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This edition includes the following upcoming funding opportunities:

- U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grants Program
- U.S. DOT Thriving Communities Program
- U.S. DOT Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program
- U.S. DOT Bridge Investment Program
- U.S. DOT Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN)
- U.S. DOT FTA Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Pilot Program
- U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Carbon Utilization Procurement Grants
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Fiscal Year 2023 Discretionary Funding Opportunities

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## Upcoming Events

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### **Vision Zero Webinar, "Step by Step, Lane by Lane"**

**Date: Tuesday, September 19, 2023**

Time: 9 am

Location: Online on Zoom





[Register Here](#)

Join us for our Vision Zero Webinar, “Step by Step, Lane by Lane” and learn why communities are increasingly committing to Vision Zero approaches to eliminate fatal and serious injuries on our roadways. Hear how Jersey City successfully achieved Vision Zero. We’ll be joined by Duane Martin (Town of West Hartford), Mike Moorehouse (FHI Studios), Mike Lydon (Street Plans), and Barkha Patel (Jersey City) for an excellent discussion.

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## **CRCOG BIL Workshop Series: Electric Vehicle Charging Stations**

**Date: Wednesday, October 18, 2023**

Time: 8:30 am

Location: CRCOG Board Room, 241 Main St., 3rd Floor, Hartford, CT



BIL Workshop  
Series

# ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS



Siting, Permitting and  
Construction



Electric Utility Services



Funding Opportunities

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18  
8:30 - 11:30 AM  
CRCOG BOARD ROOM  
241 MAIN ST., 3RD FLOOR  
HARTFORD, CT**

[Register Here](#)

Join us for an informational seminar to learn more about electric vehicle charging stations. We will review best practices in siting, design, permitting, and construction as well as explore potential funding sources and incentive programs.

Presentations by industry experts will begin at 9 am. Light refreshments will be provided.

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## **CTDOT National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program Webinars**

**Date: Wednesday, September 20, 2023**

Time: 8 am or 7 pm

Location: Online on Zoom

The Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) is preparing to open a grant solicitation for Phase 1 of Connecticut's National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Program. Phase 1 grants will award funding to applicants working to expand Connecticut's electric vehicle charging network by building a strong, reliable, and accessible fast-charging network along the state's interstate highways.



Two informational webinars will provide stakeholders with guidance about applying for grants. These pre-solicitation webinars will outline the application process, identify the state's criteria for grants, and provide time for Q&A.

[Register Here for 8 am Session](#)

[Register Here for 7 pm Session](#)

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## **Transportation-Related Funding Opportunities**

### **U.S. DOT Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grants Program**

**Application deadline: October 10, 2023**



#### **U.S. DOT STRENGTHENING MOBILITY AND REVOLUTIONIZING TRANSPORTATION (SMART) GRANTS PROGRAM**

- \* **Program Purpose:** To conduct demonstration projects focused on innovative solutions that make transportation systems safer and more efficient.
- \* **Application Deadline:** October 10, 2023
- \* **Apply Online @** [ValidEval](#); [Program Website](#)
- \* Partnerships are encouraged!

**CRCOG**

[CONTACT: ESANDERSON@CRCOG.ORG](mailto:ESANDERSON@CRCOG.ORG)

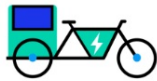


U.S. DOT is now accepting applications for Stage 1 Planning and Prototyping Grants for the SMART Program. Up to \$50M is available for Stage 1 demonstration projects focused on innovative solutions that make transportation systems safer and more efficient.

SMART projects must involve at least one of the following eight technology areas:



CONNECTED  
VEHICLES



DELIVERY/  
LOGISTICS



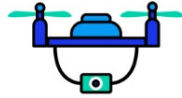
SENSORS



SYSTEMS  
INTEGRATION



COORDINATED  
AUTOMATION



INNOVATIVE  
AVIATION



SMART  
GRID



TRAFFIC  
SIGNALS

This round, grant awards must be a minimum of \$250,000 and maximum of \$2M. Examples of projects that may be eligible for funding are provided [here](#). More information about projects that received awards last year is available [here](#).

Submit applications through [ValidEval](#) before the application deadline.

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## U.S. DOT Thriving Communities Program

NOFO Coming Soon!

Expected Application Deadline:  
December 15, 2023



The Thriving Communities Program (TCP) aims to ensure that

disadvantaged communities have what they need to thrive. Communities that have been adversely or disproportionately affected by environmental, climate, and human health policy outcomes will be offered the opportunity to apply for funding to receive technical tools and organizational capacity to compete for federal aid and deliver quality infrastructure projects.

U.S. DOT expects to award \$22M through a total of nine awards with up to five awards for each of the two different types of cooperative agreements:

1. TCP-National Capacity Builder (TCP-N), with award amounts projected to be \$4-5 million each
2. TCP-Regional Capacity Builder (TCP-R), with awards amounts projected to be \$1-2 million each

Capacity Builder Teams will provide "deep-dive technical assistance, planning, and capacity building support to under-resourced and disadvantaged communities across the U.S. to help ensure these communities have the technical tools and organizational capacity to comprehensively plan for and deliver quality infrastructure projects and community development projects that enable their communities and neighborhoods to thrive" ([Thriving Communities Program Website](#)).

The Notice of Funding Opportunity will likely be posted on [Grants.gov](https://www.Grants.gov) on September 22

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## U.S. DOT Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program

Application window: Aug 14 - Sep 27, 2023



### U.S. DOT RURAL AND TRIBAL ASSISTANCE PILOT PROGRAM

- \* **Program Purpose:** To provide early-stage development assistance for rural and tribal infrastructure projects.
- \* **Application Window:** Opens 2 pm on August 14, 2023; **Apply Online:** [Program Website](#).
- \* **Individual awards expected to be \$150,000. No Local Match Required. Cap per state of \$320,000 for FY2022 funds and \$360,000 for FY2023 funds.**



CONTACT: [ESANDERSON@CRCOG.ORG](mailto:ESANDERSON@CRCOG.ORG)



This program provides early-stage development assistance for rural and tribal infrastructure projects. Funds can be used to hire staff, procure advisory assistance for financial, technical and/or legal assistance related to evaluate and develop projects that qualify for certain federal funding and financing programs. There is a state cap of \$230,000 for FY2022 funds and \$360,000 for FY2023 funds, but no local match is required.

Funding for projects with this grant is dependent not on the classification of the town but of the project area as rural. If you're curious about the urban-rural development in your town and whether or not your project qualifies for this grant you may benefit from the [US Census TIGERWeb mapping tool](#). The communities of Andover, Columbia, Hebron, Mansfield, Marlborough, Stafford and Willington are wholly outside of the Hartford Urban Area.

Application window: rolling Aug 14 – Sep 27, 2023 (via.  
<https://www.transportation.gov/buildamerica/RuralandTribalGrants>)

Applications will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

More information about this funding source may be found [here on the CRCOG website](#).

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## **U.S. DOT Bridge Investment Program**

NOFO Coming Soon!

To solve a problem, you must first define it. Using data from the [CT DOT Master Bridge List](#), CRCOG has mapped state and local bridges in the region that may be eligible for funding from the U.S. DOT Bridge Investment Program (BIP).



The maps are available to view on [CRCOG's BIL Webpage for the BIP](#).

Although the BIP Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) has not been published yet, the maps can be used to guide decisions and plan investments, taking advantage of once-in-a-generation funding while it is available.

If you are interested in applying for federal funding through the BIP, then please contact [Elizabeth Sanderson](#).

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## **U.S. DOT Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN)**

Application deadline: September 28, 2023





# RECONNECTING

## *Communities and Neighborhoods*

### FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FROM U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



#### Program Purpose

To remove transportation barriers and connect the communities they serve. Five grants in one application through the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program (RCP) and Neighborhood Equity and Access Program (NEA).



#### Project Examples

Public transportation, infrastructure removal, ADA-compliant infrastructure, capping and lids, parks and trails, tree canopy cover improvement, roadway redesigns, complete streets reconversions, and main street revitalizations.



#### Application Process

Applications are due by September 28, 2023.

Apply Online @ ValidEval

Visit the [Program Website](#) or [CRCOG's Summary](#).





CONTACT [ESANDERSON@CRCOG.ORG](mailto:ESANDERSON@CRCOG.ORG)



This funding source is directed towards applicants interested in reconfiguring infrastructure to remove transportation barriers and connect the communities they serve. Projects may target localized transportation challenges, walkability, safety, and improving access, resiliency or planning and building capacity in disadvantaged communities. Specific project examples include public transportation, infrastructure removal, ADA-compliant infrastructure, capping and lids, parks and trails, tree canopy cover improvement, roadway redesigns, complete streets reconversions, and main street revitalizations.

Towns may be considered for two different grants through this one application, each with a 20% non-federal match minimum (with exceptions). The **Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program** offers nearly \$200M in funding for community planning (award of up to \$2M) or capital reconstruction (minimum award of \$5M). The **Neighborhood Access and Equity (NAE) Program** has over \$3B available in funding for community planning, capital construction, and regional

partnerships. There are no minimum or maximum awards, and the non-federal match is reduced for disadvantaged communities. More information about the two grant programs can be found [here on the CRCOG website](#).

Disadvantaged communities, as identified in the White House Council on Environmental Quality [Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool \(CEJST\)](#): East Hartford, Enfield, Hartford, Manchester, New Britain, Vernon. Other tools may be used to determine this.

Submit applications online through ValidEval ([Community Planning](#) or [Capital Construction](#)) by 11:59 pm on September 28.

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## Energy-Related Funding Opportunities

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### U.S. DOE Carbon Utilization Procurement Grants (UPGrants)

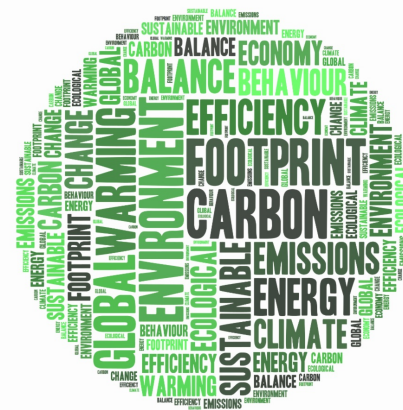
Application deadline: April 30, 2024

The Department of Energy (DOE) is investing \$100M over fiscal years 2023 through 2026 for UPGrants.

UPGrants are demonstration grants that will allow states, local

governments, and public utility or agency entities to procure and use commercial or industrial products that are derived from anthropogenic carbon oxides, which are carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide emissions concentrated through human activity. Through innovation we can support a transition to clean energy, curb climate crisis, and significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Applicants must submit Concept Papers in advance of submitting Full Applications.



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## Housing and Community Development-Related Funding Opportunities

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### HUD FY2023 Discretionary Funding Opportunities

Application deadlines vary by program.

HUD has over 20 [discretionary grant programs](#) available that support agency initiatives such as Affordable Housing Development and Preservation, Community and Economic





Development, Environment and Energy, Fair Housing, Homelessness, Homeownership, Rental Assistance, Supportive Housing and Services:

**Exploring Office to Residential Conversions (HUDRD-EORC)**

Deadline: October 12, 2023

**FY2023 HOPE VI Main Street Grant Program**

Deadline: October 12, 2023

**Tenant Education and Outreach**

Deadline: October 23, 2023

**Green and Resilient Retrofit Program (GRRPE) Elements**

Deadline: March 28, 2024

**Green and Resilient Retrofit Program (GRRPL) Leading Edge**

Deadline: April 30, 2024

**Green and Resilient Retrofit Program (GRRPC) Comprehensive**

Deadline: May 30, 2024

**FY2023 and FY2024 Authority to Accept Unsolicited Proposals for Research Partnerships**

Deadline: June 30, 2025

**Notice of Funding Opportunity for FY2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Renewal or Replacement of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Grants**

Deadline: September 28, 2023

More information about each program is available on [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) or [HUD's Grant Information webpage](#).

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## **Useful Resources**

### **Recent Applications**

#### **Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT)**

CRCOG and three other Councils of Government (COGs) in northern Connecticut collaborated on an application for a discretionary grant from the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) program.

If awarded, funds will be used to develop a multijurisdictional Resilience

Improvement Plan (RIP) for the inland, non-coastal municipalities represented by each COG. The plan will assess and determine the vulnerability and risks to local/municipal transportation infrastructure from major natural events.

Projects referenced in a regional RIP may be eligible for reduced local match requirements for future funding opportunities.

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## Commentary

As my Minnesota Grandfather would say, there are two seasons in Minnesota: Winter and Construction. Representatives of the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) named this the Summer of Infrastructure. Construction projects and grant opportunities are plentiful. The Federal government is prioritizing projects that repair roads, improve safety, and make infrastructure more resilient, all while increasing investments in disadvantaged communities. While welcomed, this influx of federal funding can be overwhelming. At CRCOG we are here to help. Information about many infrastructure programs is provided within this newsletter, on [CRCOG's BIL Webpage](#), and in prior emails you may have received.



This funding is critical for us to build better infrastructure in the communities we live, work, and visit. There are no guarantees, but we remain hopeful that the federal funding programs announced in Year 1 of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) will return next year, and for more years to come.

If you have questions [please contact me](#). If you missed an opportunity this Summer, like Safe Streets and Roads for All, or another program, let's talk and prepare for next year.

In addition, if you would like CRCOG to feature information about a recent application you submitted or an award for funding that you received, then please contact me.

We look forward to sharing your achievements with others in the region, and to hearing about how your community will take advantage of these funding opportunities while they are here.

Thank you,

[Elizabeth Sanderson](#)

CRCOG BIL Coordinator/Principal Program Manager

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## Request for Project Screening Submissions

If you're interested in funding your town's projects, CRCOG can help! We'll screen your projects and help find available federal funding sources.

Please contact [Elizabeth Sanderson](#) with the following information:

- Name of municipality
- Point of contact
- 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

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## Useful Links

[CRCOG's BIL Webpage](#) contains more information about many of the grants and funding opportunities mentioned here.



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