

Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE)

PCFO IGAP Grant Snapshot
January 25, 2024

Agency: US Department of Transportation (DOT)	Bureau: Office of the Secretary of Transportation
Application Deadline: February 28, 2024	Max Award: \$25 million

Description

RAISE grants will support planning or constructing surface transportation infrastructure projects that will improve safety; environmental sustainability; quality of life; mobility and community connectivity; economic competitiveness and opportunity including tourism; state of good repair; partnership and collaboration; and innovation.

Eligible Recipients

- States and the District of Columbia
- Any territory or possession of the United States
- A unit of local government
- A public agency or publicly chartered authority established by one or more States
- A special purpose district or public authority with a transportation function, including a port authority
- A Federally recognized Indian Tribe or a consortium of such Indian Tribes
- A transit agency
- A multi-State or multijurisdictional group of entities that are separately eligible

Eligible Projects

Capital Projects

Surface transportation capital projects may include:

- Highway, bridge, or other road projects
- Public transportation projects
- Passenger and freight rail transportation projects
- Port infrastructure investments
- Surface transportation components of an airport project
- Intermodal projects
- Projects to replace or rehabilitate a culvert or prevent stormwater runoff for the purpose of improving habitat for aquatic species

Eligible Projects

- Projects investing in surface transportation facilities that are located on Tribal land and for which title or maintenance responsibility is vested in the Federal Government
- Any other surface transportation infrastructure project that the Secretary considers to be necessary to advance the goals of the program

The minimum RAISE grant award for capital projects is \$5 million in urban areas and \$1 million in rural areas.

Planning Projects

Activities eligible for funding under RAISE planning grants are related to the planning, preparation, or design of eligible surface transportation capital projects. Activities include those related to multidisciplinary projects or regional planning, such as:

- Development of master plans, comprehensive plans, transportation corridor plans, and integrated economic development, land use, housing, and transportation plans
- Zero emissions plan for transit fleet
- Planning activities related to the development of a multimodal freight corridor, including those that seek to reduce conflicts with residential areas and with passenger and non-motorized traffic
- Planning activities related to zero emissions goods movement
- Development of port and regional port planning, including State-wide or multi-port planning within a single jurisdiction or region
- Risk assessments and planning to identify vulnerabilities and address the transportation system's ability to withstand probable occurrence or recurrence of an emergency or major disaster

At least 5% of funds will be awarded to planning projects and at least 11% of funds will be awarded to historically disadvantaged communities (HDCs) or areas of persistent poverty (APPs). Awards will be evenly split between rural and urban areas.

DOT created a [Grant Project Location Verification Tool](#) to help applicants determine if their project is located in: 1) an urban or rural area, 2) an area of persistent poverty, and 3) an historically disadvantaged community.

Matching Grant Requirements

Federal cost share of an eligible project may not exceed 80%. The following formula should be used to determine cost share:

$$\frac{\text{(RAISE Grant Request + Other Federal Funds)}}{\text{Total Project Cost}} = \text{Federal Cost Share}$$

Cost share requirements do not apply to projects located in a rural area, historically disadvantaged community (HDC), or an area of persistent poverty (APP).

New or Existing Program

Existing

Examples of Prior Award Recipients

In FY2022, the City of Cincinnati received a \$20 million grant for a project that will connect three neighborhoods with street safety improvements, approximately 36 enhanced intersections, new bicycle facilities, and pedestrian amenities on three corridor segments totaling approximately 3.5 linear miles. Linn Street will be restored to a 'great street,' complete with bike and pedestrian enhancements to mitigate the impact of connections that were severed by the construction of Interstate 75 over Queensgate rail yard lines.

Tips for Being Competitive

DOT has identified 8 Selection Criteria that will be used to evaluate applications: 1) safety, 2) environmental sustainability, 3) quality of life, 4) improves mobility and community connectivity, 5) economic competitiveness and opportunity, 6) state of good repair, 7) partnership and collaboration, and 8) innovation. Competitive applicants will describe how their project aligns with and advances the goals in each selection criteria.

Applicants are encouraged to use the Department's [Equitable Transportation Community \(ETC\) Explorer](#) as a resource to describe how their project area is experiencing transportation related disadvantage as it relates to safety, affordable transportation options, pollution, access to good-paying jobs, climate change, and/or improving quality of life.

Labor Requirements

Under the 'economic competitiveness and opportunity' merit criterion, DOT will consider how the project will create good-paying jobs with free and fair choice to join a union including through the use of a project labor agreement; and adopt local and economic hiring preferences for the project workforce or include other changes to hiring policies and workplace cultures to promote the entry and retention of underrepresented populations.

Partnership Requirements

"Partnership and Collaboration" is a merit criterion that will be used in application evaluation. Competitive applicants will demonstrate plans to support and engage diverse people and communities. For example, DOT will consider how the project has or will collaborate with public and/or private entities; documents support from local, regional, and/or national levels; engage residents and community-based organizations to ensure equity considerations for underserved communities are meaningfully integrated throughout the project.

Agency Contact

RAISEgrants@dot.gov

Upcoming Events

- How to Prepare A Benefit-Cost Analysis for RAISE Grants - January 26, 2024 at 2pm ET: [Register here](#)
- Benefit-Cost Analysis Spreadsheet Template and Office Hours - January 31, 2024 at 2pm ET: [Register here](#)
- What Happens After Being Selected for Award? - February 1, 2024 at 2pm ET: [Register here](#)

DOT has hosted several additional webinars on the RAISE program. Visit the [RAISE Webinar Series](#) page for the full list of recordings.

Total Allocation

\$1.5 billion

Anticipated Award Date

June 27, 2024

Resources

- [Grant Opportunity on Grants.gov](#)
- [RAISE Notice of Funding Opportunity](#)