

Rural Surface Transportation Grant (Rural) Program

PCFO IGAP Grant Snapshot

July 24, 2023

<u>Agency:</u> Department of Transportation	<u>Bureau:</u> Office of the Secretary of Transportation
<u>Application Deadline:</u> August 21, 2023	<u>Max Award:</u> None specified

Description

Created under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant program provides \$5.575 billion for three grant programs: INFRA, Mega, and Rural. The Rural program supports projects that improve and expand our nation's surface transportation infrastructure in rural areas in order 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.

Eligible Recipients

- State;
- Regional transportation planning organization;
- Unit of local government;
- Tribal government or a consortium of tribal governments; or
- Multijurisdictional group of entities above.

Eligible Projects

- A highway, bridge, or tunnel project eligible under National Highway Performance Program
- A highway, bridge, or tunnel project eligible under Surface Transportation Block Grant
- A highway, bridge, or tunnel project eligible under Tribal Transportation Program
- A highway freight project eligible under National Highway Freight Program
- A highway safety improvement project, including a project to improve a high risk rural road as defined by the Highway Safety Improvement Program
- A project on a publicly-owned highway or bridge that provides or increases access to an agricultural, commercial, energy, or intermodal facility that supports the economy of a rural area
- A project to develop, establish, or maintain an integrated mobility management system, a transportation demand management system, or on-demand mobility services

90% of rural funding must be awarded in \$25 million or greater amounts. A rural area is defined as an area outside an Urbanized Area with a population of over 200,000, as designated by the U.S. Census Bureau.

The Rural Program is one of three programs available through the combined Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) Program. Applicants may choose to apply to one, two, or all three of these grant programs.

Matching Grant Requirements 20% matching requirement

New or Existing Program Existing program

Examples of Prior Award Recipients In FY2022, the City of Moorhead, MN received a \$26 million award for a Downtown Moorhead Grade Separation Project. The project will construct two underpasses that will eliminate two at-grade railroad crossings on 11th street in Downtown Moorhead, as part of a comprehensive project to improve US Highway 10 and US Highway 75 through downtown Moorhead. The new underpasses are expected to reduce total train crossing exposures by around 35%, reducing the risk of downtown train-vehicle crashes and preventing life-threatening delays in emergency response times caused by rail blockages. Reduced congestion as a result of the new underpasses will also help reduce vehicle emissions in the downtown area – leading to improved air quality for Moorhead residents. Additionally, the project will improve nonmotorized transportation options and will incorporate universal design elements.

Tips for Being Competitive Rural projects must meet the following requirements:

- The project will generate regional economic, mobility, or safety benefits.
- The project will be cost-effective.
- The project will contribute to the accomplishment of 1 or more of the national goals under [23 U.S.C. § 150](#).
- The project is based on the results of preliminary engineering.
- The project is reasonably expected to begin construction not later than 18 months after the date of obligation of funds for the project.

Labor Requirements The Department aims to award projects that support the creation of good-paying jobs with the free and fair choice to join a union and the incorporation of strong labor standards and workforce programs, in particular registered apprenticeships, labor management partnerships and Local Hire agreements, in project planning stages and program delivery.

Partners Required	None required; however, due to the extensive nature of the projects being funded, partners will likely be needed to demonstrate the lead applicant's ability to complete the project scope.
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Agency Contact	mpdgrants@dot.gov
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Upcoming Events	<p>DOT hosted a series of webinars (listed below) and the recordings are available on the MPDG Program Page.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How to Apply for the MPDG Opportunity• How to Apply for the MPDG Opportunity - Rural and Tribal Applicants, Areas of Persistent Poverty, and Historically Disadvantaged Communities• How to Prepare a Benefit-Cost Analysis for the MPDG Opportunity
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Total Allocation	\$675 million
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Anticipated Award Date	Applicants are expected to be ready to obligate funding by September 30, 2026.
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How To Apply	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Applicants must be registered with SAM.gov and Grants.gov.2. DOT will answer questions up until the application deadline and will publish common questions to the FAQ.3. Applications must be submitted to Grants.gov by August 21.
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Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rural Program Page - DOT• MPDG Combined NOFO - DOT• Grant Opportunity - Grants.gov• Frequently Asked Questions - DOT
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