

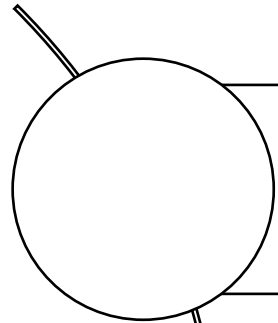


RURAL OPPORTUNITIES TO  
USE TRANSPORTATION FOR  
ECONOMIC SUCCESS

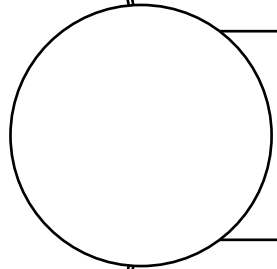
# ROUTES

***Amanda Rogers***  
***US DOT, Office of the Secretary***  
***October 18, 2023***

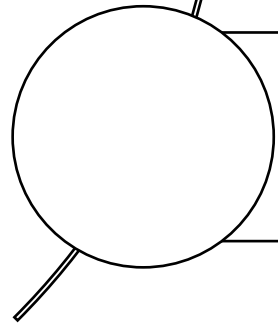
***Contact Us!***  
***[Amanda.Rogers@dot.gov](mailto:Amanda.Rogers@dot.gov)***  
***[Rural@dot.gov](mailto:Rural@dot.gov)***  
***[www.transportation.gov/rural](http://www.transportation.gov/rural)***



Introduction to ROUTES & Resources



Arizona BIL Rural Funding



Technical Assistance



# About the ROUTES Initiative

The Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success (ROUTES) Initiative aims to address disparities in rural transportation infrastructure and improve safety, mobility, and economic competitiveness nationwide.



The ROUTES Office seeks to:

**Engage Rural Communities** through a series of events to better understand the needs and priorities of rural communities and collect essential data from stakeholders representing different communities, groups, workers, and industries to identify solutions.

**Harmonize DOT Programs** to implement rural policy by establishing the ROUTES Council to lead and coordinate Departmental activities to implement the *Bipartisan Infrastructure Law* and better align new and existing funding, financing, and technical assistance programs with the needs of rural and Tribal communities.

**Utilize a Whole-of-Government Approach** by partnering with other rural-focused federal agencies to expand DOT's presence in rural America, better promote Departmental resources to their customers, and capitalize on synergies between federal funding programs.



# Rural Goals

## Safety

*Use a Safe Systems Approach to reduce crashes and fatality rates for all rural road users, including pedestrians and bicyclists.*

## Economic Growth & Global Competitiveness

*Improve mobility for safe and reliable access to jobs, schools, and services for rural and Tribal communities; enhance the movement of goods; and create inclusive and sustainable transportation jobs.*

## Equity

*Ensure access to safe, affordable, and convenient transportation in historically disadvantaged rural and Tribal communities.*

## Climate & Sustainability

*Build a resilient and carbon-negative rural transportation system.*

## Transformation

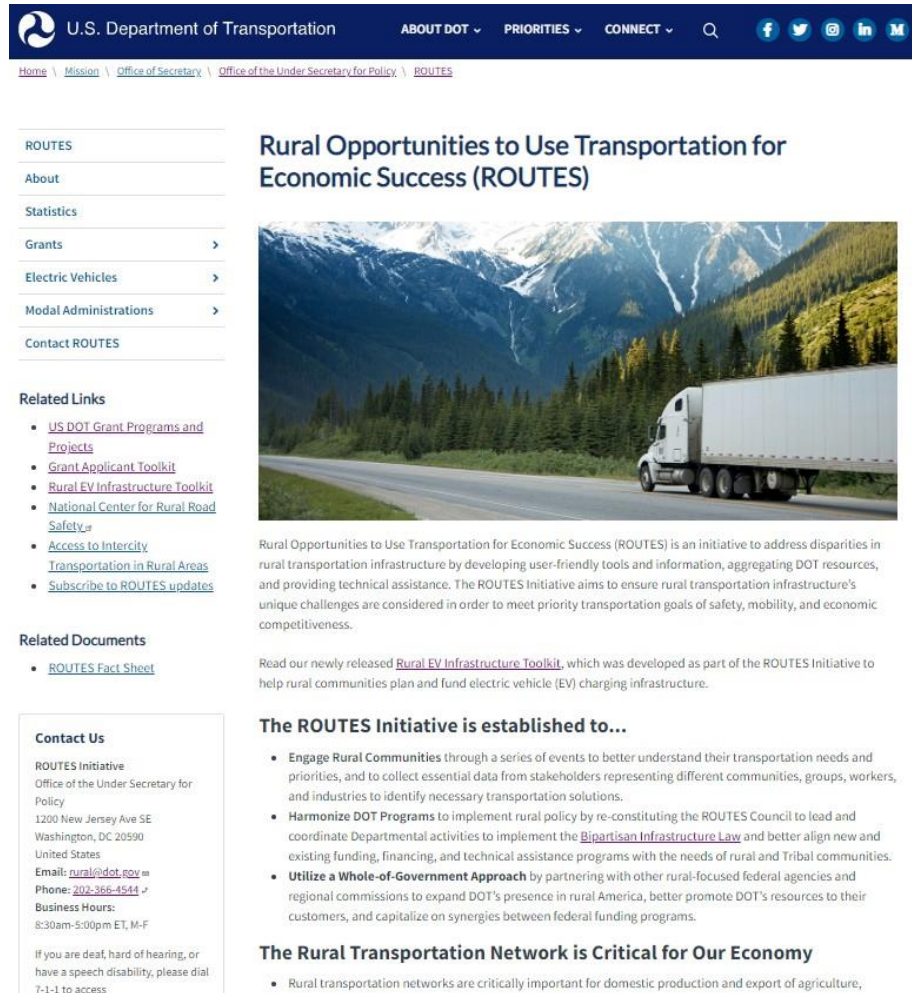
*Ensure that rural transportation planning and investment is purpose-driven to meet the challenge of the present and adapt to changing technology and land use of the future.*

# ROUTES Resources



# One-Stop-Shop for Rural Resources

The ROUTES website consolidates DOT's rural resources in one place.



The screenshot shows the ROUTES website interface. At the top is a dark blue navigation bar with the U.S. Department of Transportation logo and menu items: ABOUT DOT, PRIORITIES, CONNECT, and a search icon. Below the navigation bar is a breadcrumb trail: Home > Mission > Office of Secretary > Office of the Under Secretary for Policy > ROUTES. The main content area features a large image of a white semi-truck on a road in a mountainous, forested area. The title of the page is "Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success (ROUTES)". Below the image is a paragraph describing the initiative. To the left of the main content is a sidebar with a table of contents for ROUTES, including About, Statistics, Grants, Electric Vehicles, Modal Administrations, and Contact ROUTES. Below the sidebar are sections for "Related Links" (listing various toolkits and safety resources) and "Related Documents" (listing a fact sheet). At the bottom left is a "Contact Us" box with the address: ROUTES Initiative, Office of the Under Secretary for Policy, 1200 New Jersey Ave SE, Washington, DC 20590, United States. Email: rural@dot.gov, Phone: 202-366-4544, Business Hours: 8:30am-5:00pm ET, M-F. A note at the bottom of the contact box says: "If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access."

## Webinars

- Benefit Cost Analyses for Rural Projects
- TIFIA Rural Projects Initiative
- Transit Resources
- National Roadway Safety Strategy

## Tools and Toolkits

- Rural Eligibility Map
- Point of Contact Map
- Grant Applicant Toolkit
- Rural EV Infrastructure Toolkit

## Funding Opportunities

- Active & Upcoming NOFOs
- Links to Past Awards

## Modal Specific Landing Pages

## Monthly Newsletters





# Rural EV Infrastructure Toolkit

***Charging Forward: A Toolkit for Planning and Funding Rural Electric Mobility Infrastructure* helps rural stakeholders scope, plan, and fund electric vehicle charging infrastructure.**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

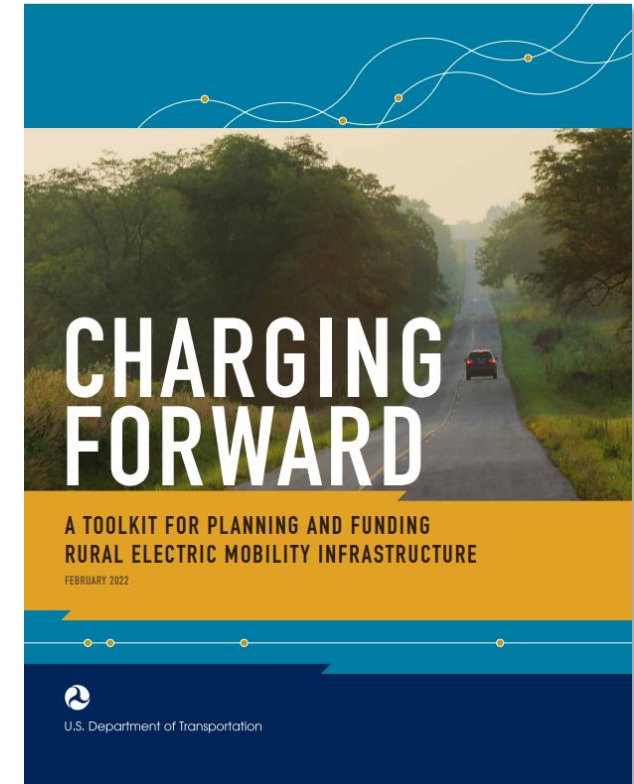
- Electric Vehicle Basics
- Benefits and Challenges of Rural Vehicle Electrification
- Partnership Opportunities
- EV Infrastructure Planning for Rural Areas
- EV Infrastructure Funding and Financing for Rural Areas

## INCLUDES...

- Grant and loan opportunities
- Planning tools and resources
- Rural success stories

## UPDATED (MAY 2023)

- Stakeholder feedback
- Expanded content on
  - Transit vehicles
  - School buses
  - Micromobility
  - Accessible design
- New funding programs, including the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)
  - National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Formula Program (\$5 billion)
  - Discretionary Grant Program for Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (\$2.5 billion)
  - Clean School Bus Program (\$5 billion)





# Key EV Federal Funding Programs

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Highway Administration

- National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Program
- Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant Program
- Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) program
- Federal Land Access Program (FLAP)
- Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program

### Federal Transit Administration

- Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Programs

### Office of the Secretary of Transportation

- Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE)

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Development

- Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program
- Rural Energy Savings Program

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Vehicle Technologies Office

- Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs)

### Office of State and Community Energy Programs

- State Energy Program (SEP)

### Loan Programs Office

- Title XVII Innovative Clean Energy Program

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

- Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) Programs
- Clean School Bus Program

## INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

- Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Tax Credit





# Other Types of Electric Mobility

**Battery-electric buses and electric micromobility can provide additional mobility options and flexibility and can fill critical transportation gaps for individuals without access to a personal vehicle.**



## Electric Transit Buses

- Standard range/fast-charge bus with smaller battery (50-250 kWh)
- Extended range bus with larger battery (250-660 kWh)
- Plug-in (Level 2 or DCFC) charging, overhead conductive, wireless inductive



## Electric School Buses

- Smaller battery, has mid-day opportunity charge
- When not in use, electric school buses with bidirectional batteries can sell power back to the grid or serve as backup power
- Plug-in charging (Level 2 or low-level DCFC)



## Electric Micromobility

- Any small, low-speed, electric-powered transportation device
- Includes electric-assist bicycles (e-bikes) and electric scooters (e-scooters)
- Charges with a cable or dock
- Typically Level 1 residential charging

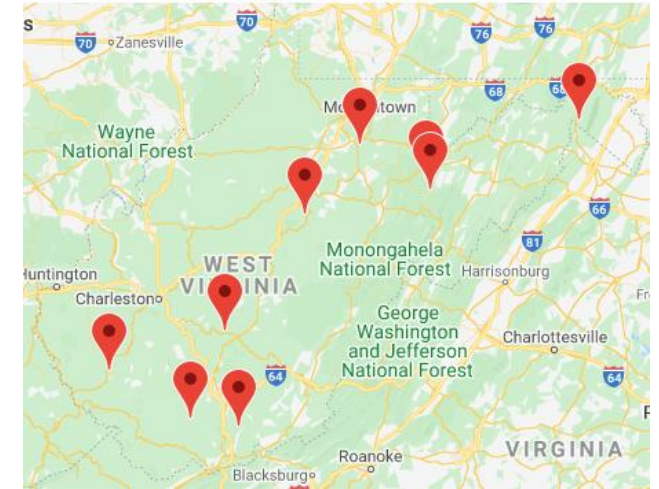


# Success Story: Charging at WV State Parks

*State parks in West Virginia attract visitors, shoppers, and diners through complimentary EV charging.*

## CHARGING AT STATE PARK LODGES IN WEST VIRGINIA

In West Virginia, EV charging stations are available at 9 of the 10 State park lodges in the State. Drivers can charge their vehicles for free, but lodge owners noted that while people are charging their vehicles they spend money at the lodges, including in gift shops and restaurants and for overnight stays.



Map of state lodge locations (top) and parking spot for EV charging (bottom) (source: West Virginia State Parks, 2022)



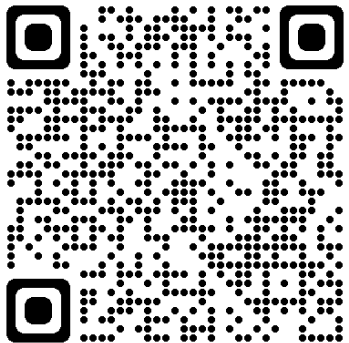
# Rural Grant Applicant Toolkit

## OVERVIEW

- Illustrates key applicant activities when participating in the USDOT discretionary grants process
- Compiles helpful tools and resources for applicants to maximize the potential for award success

## REVISED RURAL APPLICANT TOOLKIT

- Coming soon, a revised Rural Grant Applicant Toolkit will help project sponsors navigate the federal discretionary grant process.

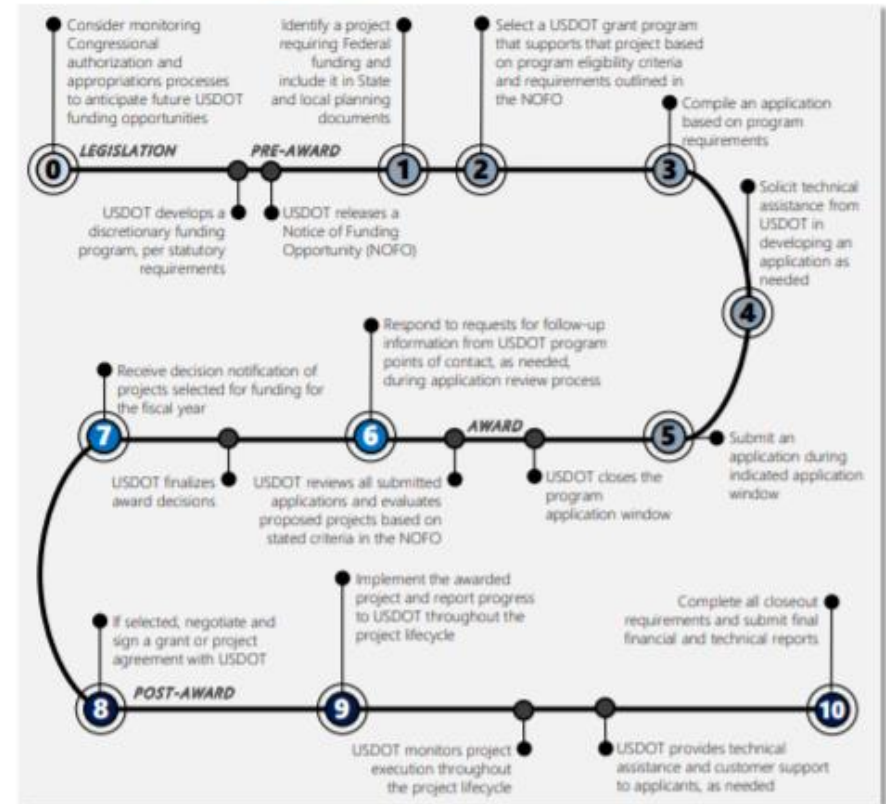


## Applicant Roadmap

Use the numbered steps below to navigate general applicant activities during the USDOT discretionary grant funding process. USDOT activities are also included for reference. Note that specific steps may differ by program.

### APPLICANT ROADMAP KEY

■ Legislation  
 ■ Pre-Award  
 ■ Award  
 ■ Post-Award  
 ① Applicant Activities  
 ● USDOT Activities



Note: This roadmap is not to scale.

 [Download CSV](#)

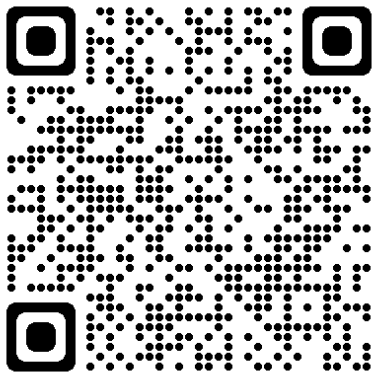
Keywords

Eligible Activities  Eligible Applicants

Agency/Office  Transportation Type

Match Waiver  Rural Set-Aside  Tribal Set-Aside  Status

[Apply](#)



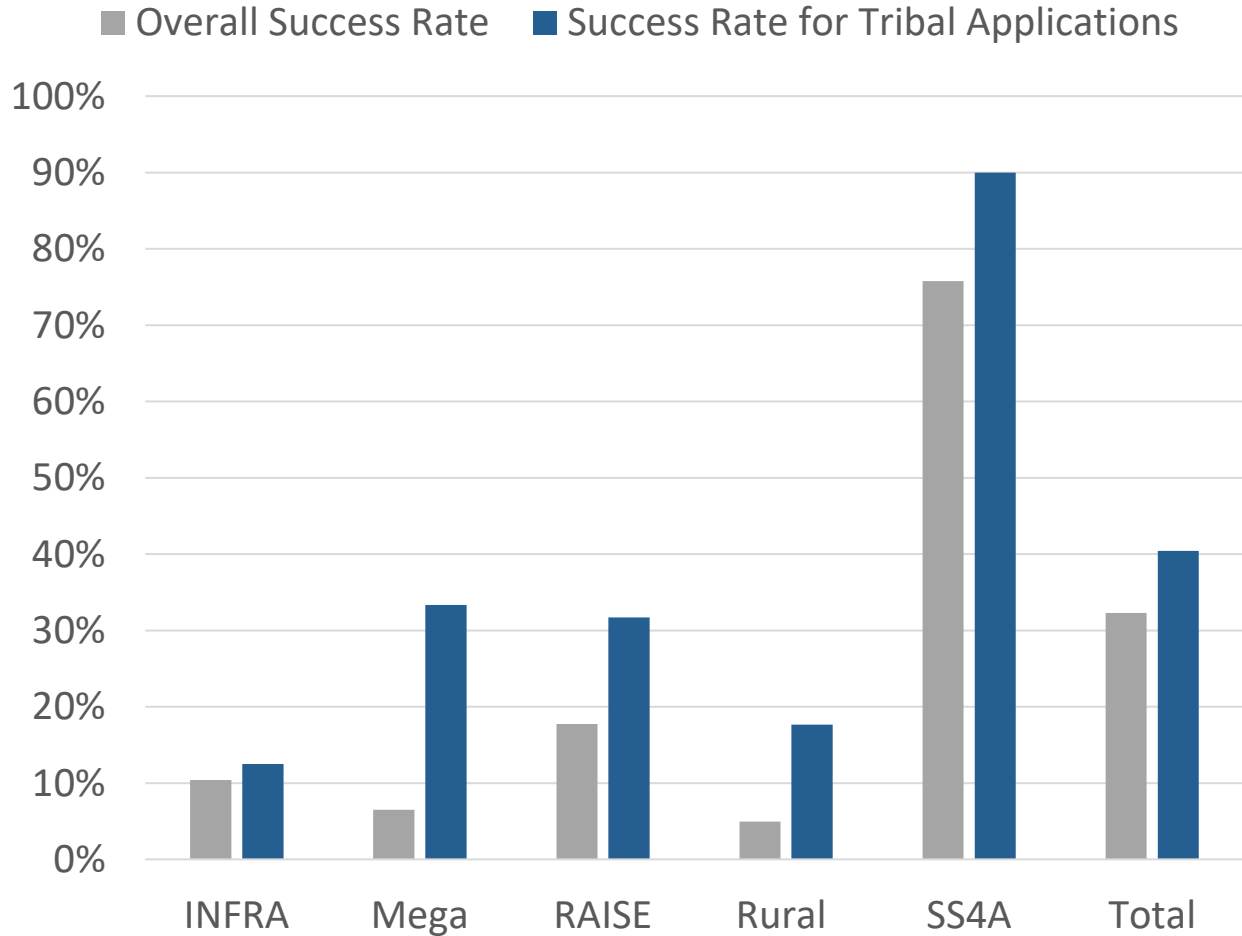
## HIGHLIGHTS

- 90+ grant programs
- Covers DOT and Non-DOT Agencies
  - 8 DOT Agencies
  - 10+ Non-DOT Agencies
- Multiple search filters
  - Keyword
  - Eligible Activities
  - Eligible Entities
  - Transportation Type
  - Match Waiver
  - Status (Open/Closed)
- Customized features for Rural and Tribal communities
- Save results as Excel csv file

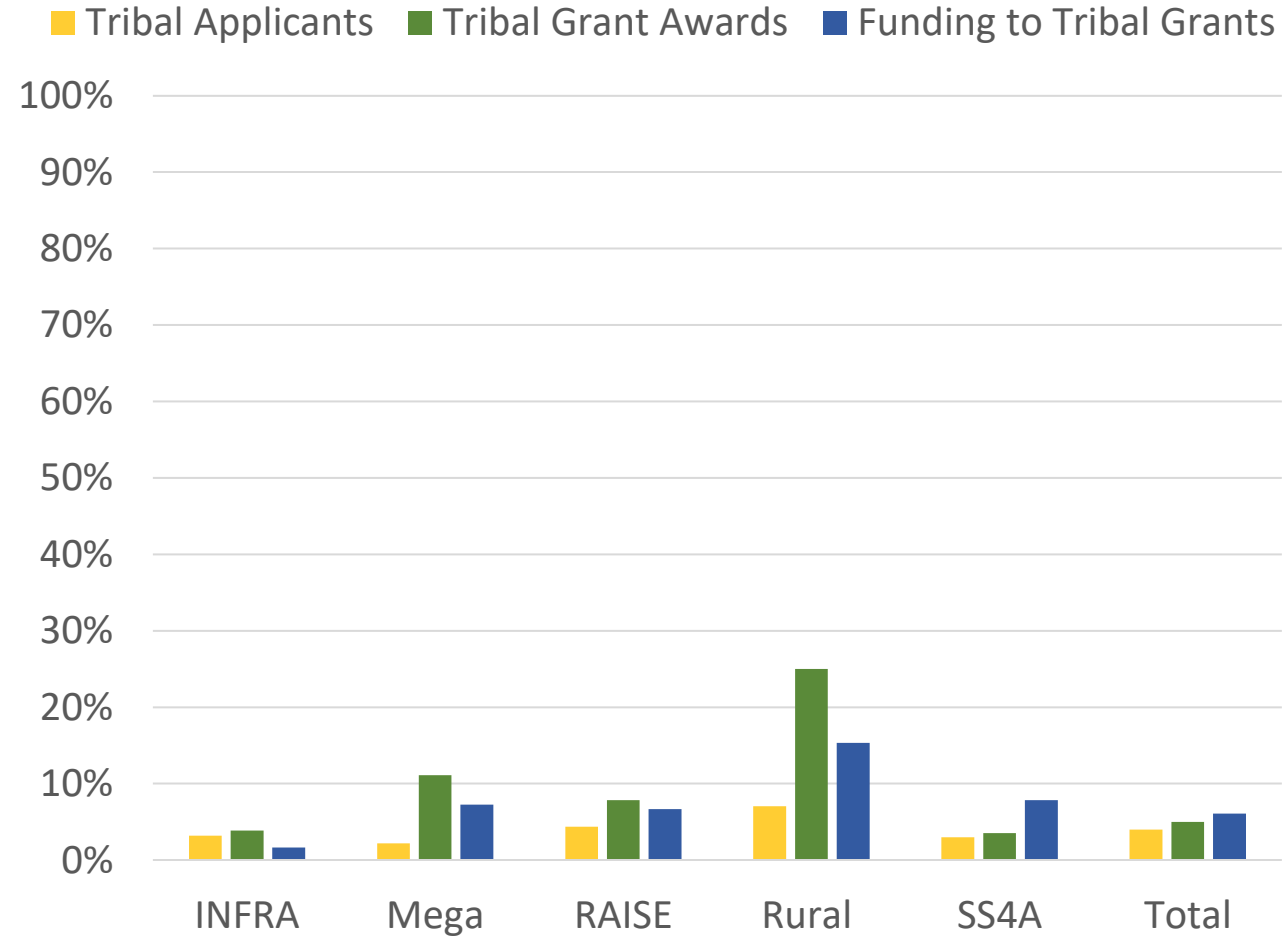
# Arizona BIL Rural Funding

# Tribal Applicants for OST FY22 Grants

Applications from Tribal Entities Tend to Outperform Other Applications



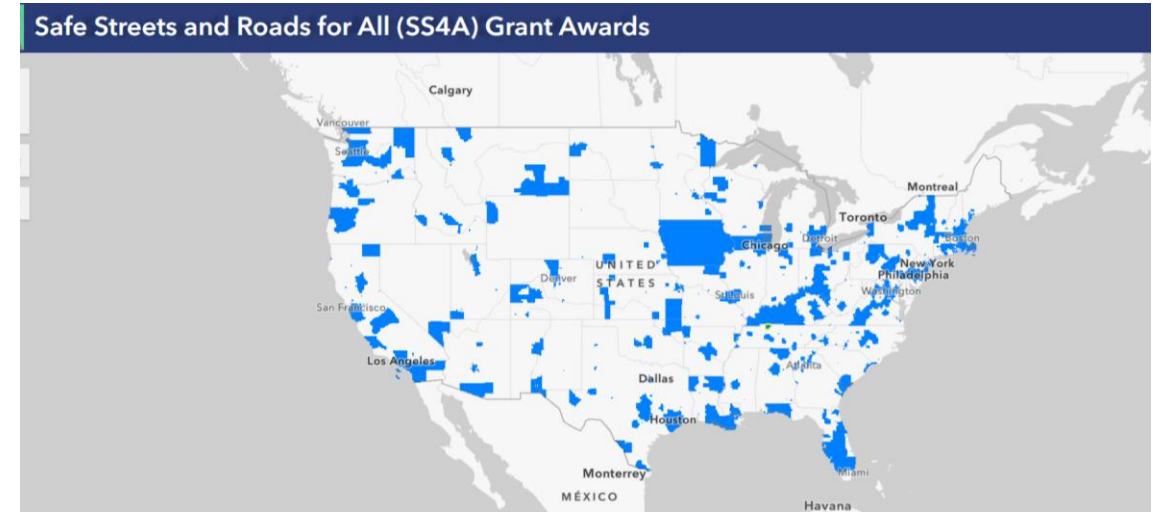
Tribal Entities Make Up a Small Proportion of Grant Applications & Awards



*\*Data shown for FY22. The INFRA and Mega program received zero eligible applications from Tribal governments as the lead applicant. Therefore, for the purposes of INFRA, Mega, and Rural figures, applications submitted by other organizations that include a letter of support from a tribal group or reference consulting with tribal communities in their Environmental Review evaluation are also included in the total.*

# Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)

- Action Plan or “Planning” Grant
  - FY22 Action Plan Grant awards will improve roadway safety planning for over half the United States’ population: 160+ million people.
- Implementation Grant
- FY22 Implementation Grants include strategies to improve roadway safety for all roadway users.
  - Over 90% of awards will improve pedestrian safety
  - Over 80% of awards will improve cyclist safety
  - About two thirds of awards will provide safety benefits to persons with disabilities
- Arizona received a total of \$4,776,090 over 8 Planning Grants
  - MetroPlan Flagstaff Vulnerable Road Users Safety Plan, \$201,360
  - Town of Prescott Valley Transportation Safety Action Plan, \$544,896





## National Infrastructure Project Assistance Program (Mega)

- Supports large, complex projects that are difficult to fund by other means and likely to generate national/regional economic, mobility, or safety benefits
- FY22 awards announced December 2022, \$1.2 billion awarded to 9 projects
- FY25 Notice of Funding Opportunity expected Summer 2024

## Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight & Highway Projects Program (INFRA)

- Supports multimodal freight and highway projects of national/regional significance to improve the safety, efficiency, and reliability of the movement of freight and people across rural and urban areas
- FY22 awards announced December 2022, \$1.5 billion awarded to 26 projects
  - Downtown Mile Safety and Connectivity Improvement Project, Flagstaff AZ, \$32,460,000
  - Pedestrian safety improvements and freight and passenger rail infrastructure enhancements along an approximately one-mile segment of the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe (BNSF) Southern Transcontinental Corridor

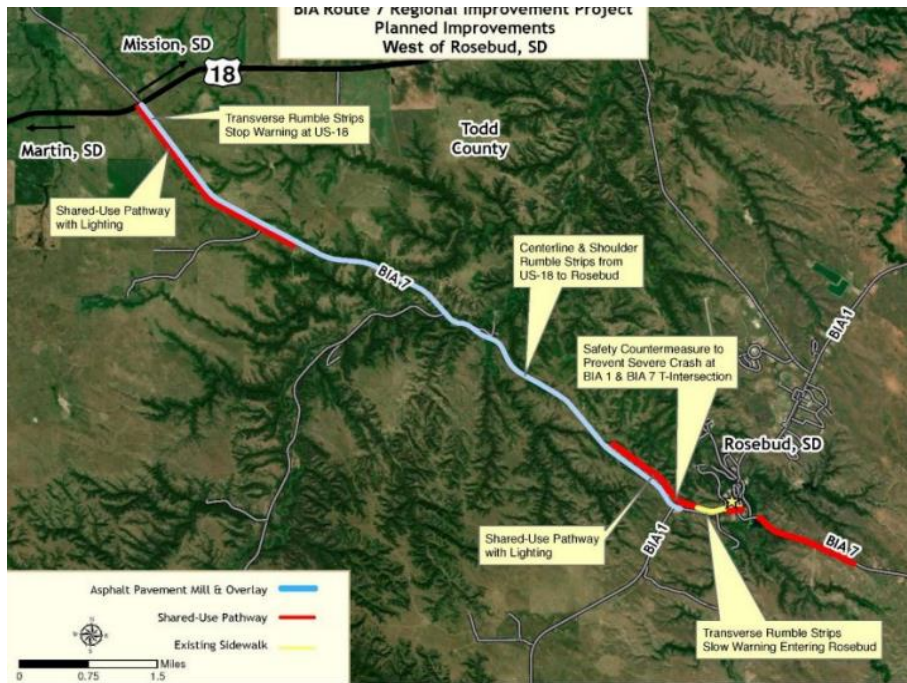






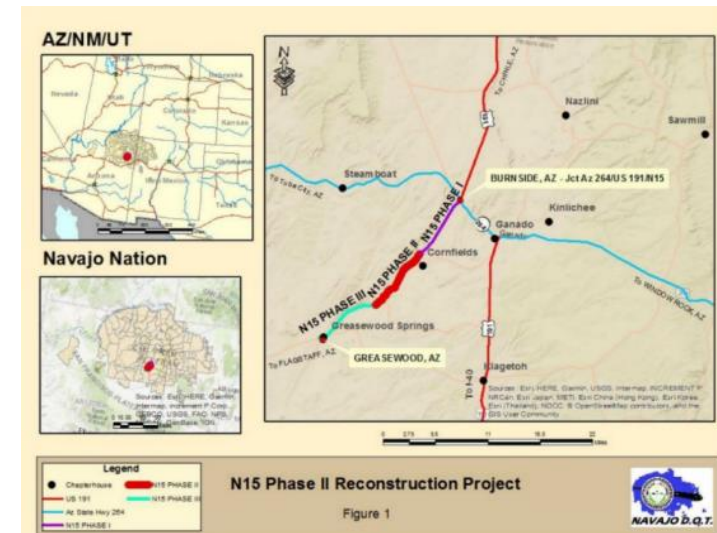
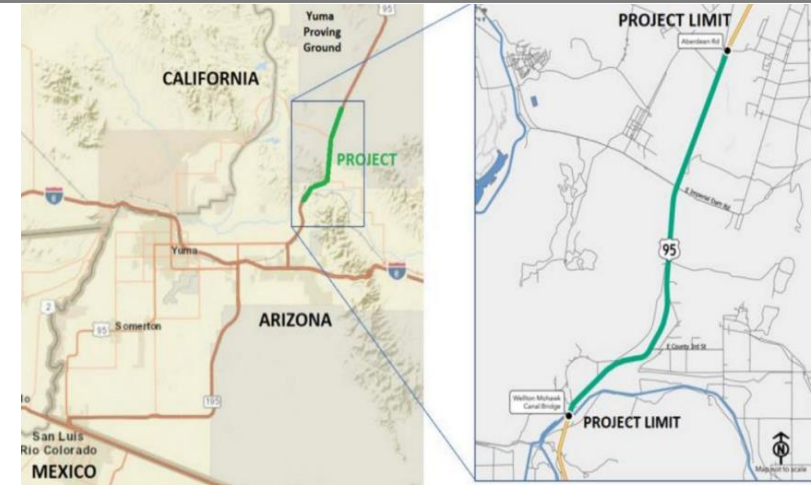
# Rural Surface Transportation Grants

The Rural Grant Program supports projects to 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.



- FY22 awards announced December 2022
  - \$273.9 million awarded to 12 projects
  - BIA Route 7 Regional Improvement Project (Rosebud Sioux Tribe), SD, \$26,200,400
    - The project will reconstruct and resurface approximately 24 miles of arterial roadway from U.S. Route 18 to U.S. Route 83. Several sections will also add separated shared-use pathways.
  - Iapah Road Safety and Rehabilitation Project (Tooele and Juab County, Goshute Indian Reservation), UT, \$6,030,695
- At least 90% to projects with min. of \$25 million
- Max. 80% Cost Share, Max. 100% Federal Cost Share
- FY25 Notice of Funding Opportunity expected Summer 2024

- Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity
  - Supports road, rail, transit, and port projects that fulfill national objectives
- 162 projects were awarded over \$2.2 Billion in FY23
- US 95 Safety Improvements: Wellton-Mohawk Canal to Aberdeen Rd (top)
  - Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization will receive \$8,500,000
  - Planning project to complete the design and environmental clearance for 9 miles of safety improvements on US 95. The construction of a separated four-lane highway will significantly reduce the number of roadway accidents, roadway backups, and create a safer/more reliable corridor.
- Davis Road Planning Project
  - Cochise County will receive \$2,057,500
- N15 Highway Reconstruction, Phase II Project (bottom)
  - Navajo Nation/Apache County, AZ will receive \$20,000,000
  - This project will reconstruct 7.1 miles of BIA Route N15 from Sunrise Springs to Cornfields by widening the roadway, improving drainage structures, and installing livestock underpasses.





# Thriving Communities Program

- Selected communities will receive two years of deep-dive technical assistance, planning, and capacity building support to help them plan, fund, and implement infrastructure projects.
- Will also receive three years of support as part of a Community of Practice that provides peer-to-peer learning opportunities with other TCP recipients.
- Three Communities of Practice—Comple Neighborhoods, Networked Communities, and Main Streets
- FY22 Arizona TCP Awardees
  - City of Douglas with Arizona DOT and Industrial Development Authority (Networked Communities)
  - City of San Luis with Greater Yuma Port Authority and Campesinos Sin Frontera (Networked Communities)
- FY23 Thriving Communities Program is now open!
  - Communities interested in receiving assistance must submit a Letter of Interest via [DOT webform](#) by 4:59 PM ET November 15, 2023.

**22%**

**of selected lead applicants have never applied for a USDOT grant**

**39%**

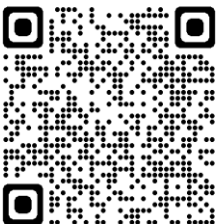
**of selected lead applicants have been unsuccessful in obtaining a USDOT grant**

**50%**

**of eligible Tribal applicants selected for participation**

**42%**

**of selected communities are in a rural area**





# Other Successful FY23 Arizona Grants

## Bus and Buss Facilities/Low-No Emission Grants

- Northern Arizona Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority, \$16,358,000
- Regional Public Transportation Authority (Valley Metro), \$13,295,699

## Tribal Transit Projects/Tribal Safety Fund

- Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians, \$116,800
- Colorado River Indian Tribes, \$2,500 (Planning)
- Colorado River Indian Tribes, \$1,571,680 (Capital)

## Micellaneous

- Mohave County, \$1,000,000 (ATTIMD Program)
- Yuma International Airport, \$1,100,000 (Airport Terminals)
- FTA Emergency Relief Grants for CY 2017, 2020-22 declared disasters

# Technical Assistance



- DOT Navigator helps communities find grant opportunities and access technical assistance
  - Contacts to DOT regional/field offices
  - Grant writing resources
  - Various webinars
  - Best practice documents
- Sample Grant Application Resources
  - How to Navigate Grants.gov to Submit Applications
  - Maximizing Award Success: An Introduction to Evaluation Criteria
  - Understanding Federal Match Requirements
  - What is a Benefit-Cost Analysis?
- Email [USDOTassist@dot.gov](mailto:USDOTassist@dot.gov) with additional TA questions

**DOT Navigator**  
The DOT Navigator is a resource to help communities understand how to apply for grants, and plan for and deliver transformative infrastructure projects and services.  
[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE DOT NAVIGATOR](#)

**Spotlight on Technical Assistance Resources**  
Check out the featured technical assistance resources below and view a [searchable list of technical assistance resources](#).

- DOT Discretionary Grants Dashboard: Search Opportunities**  
Search grants that can help meet transportation infrastructure needs
- USDOT Project Delivery Center of Excellence**  
Explore resources to deliver infrastructure projects—on time, task, and budget
- Toolkit for Planning and Funding Rural EV Infrastructure**  
Access the toolkit to help rural communities scope, plan, and fund EV charging...

[SEARCH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RESOURCES](#)

## Search Technical Assistance Resources

At DOT, "technical assistance" includes programs, processes, and resources that provide targeted support to a community, region, organization, or other beneficiary to help them access and deploy federal funding and build local capacity to develop, design, and deliver transportation plans and projects.

View and search the table below to find existing technical assistance resources and programs funded or managed by DOT that can provide deeper levels of assistance, technical information, best practices, and training.

Keywords

▼ Advanced options

<b>Stakeholder Type(s)</b> Select All <input type="checkbox"/> Contractor <input type="checkbox"/> Local Government <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Regional/Metro Planning Orgs (MPO) <input type="checkbox"/> State DOT <input type="checkbox"/> Transit Agency <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Government <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Territory	<b>Resource Type(s)</b> Select All <input type="checkbox"/> Direct Support <input type="checkbox"/> Fact Sheet <input type="checkbox"/> Grant <input type="checkbox"/> Guidance Document <input type="checkbox"/> Report <input type="checkbox"/> Resource Center <input type="checkbox"/> Toolkit <input type="checkbox"/> Training <input type="checkbox"/> Video/Webinar	<b>Transportation Mode(s)</b> Select All <input type="checkbox"/> Air (airports, aviation, drones) <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycle <input type="checkbox"/> Electric or Autonomous Vehicles <input type="checkbox"/> Highway <input type="checkbox"/> Intelligent Transportation and Data Systems <input type="checkbox"/> Micromobility (bike share, scooters, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Pedestrian <input type="checkbox"/> Ports <input type="checkbox"/> Railway <input type="checkbox"/> Transit
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[Apply](#)



# Mapping and Dataset Tools

- **US Census Data:** This new platform is helpful for data users who need basic data, as it is much quicker than searching through tables for a variety of high-level estimates.
- **State-Level GIS Resources:** Maintained by Purdue University, this catalog of resources by state-level organizations. In some cases, state-level GIS warehouses may offer more specific and user-friendly data layers of Federal sources, such as Census data.
- **Smart Location Mapping:** Can be used to compare neighborhoods conditions and prioritize investments. Access to jobs and workers via transit and equitable access to jobs and services are among the types of benchmarks that can be analyzed using this tool.
- **TIGERweb:** Can be used to associate an address with census geography based on its location can be used to determine if your project is located in an urban area.

Incorporated Places - Current/AC				
GEOID	STATE	PLACE	PLACENS	BASENAME
0100124	01	00124	02403054	Abbeville
0100460	01	00460	02403063	Adamsville
0100484	01	00484	02405123	Addison
0100676	01	00676	02405125	Akron
0100820	01	00820	02403069	Alabaster
0100988	01	00988	02403074	Albertville
0101132	01	01132	02403077	Alexander City
0101228	01	01228	02403080	Aliceville
0101396	01	01396	02405136	Allgood
0101660	01	01660	02405146	Altoona

TIGERweb Overview

# Equitable Transportation Community (ETC) Explorer

OVERVIEW: USDOT creates the first-of-its-kind transportation-specific tool, harnessing the latest census tract data across federally available data sources to provide users a centralized, easy-to-use platform that creates visibility into drivers of transportation disadvantage.

## KEY FEATURES & DATA



### Transportation-specific disadvantage index

Incorporates **40+ data elements** across **5 categories of disadvantage**: Transportation Insecurity, Health Vulnerability, Climate/Hazard Risk Component, Environmental Burden, Socioeconomic Vulnerability

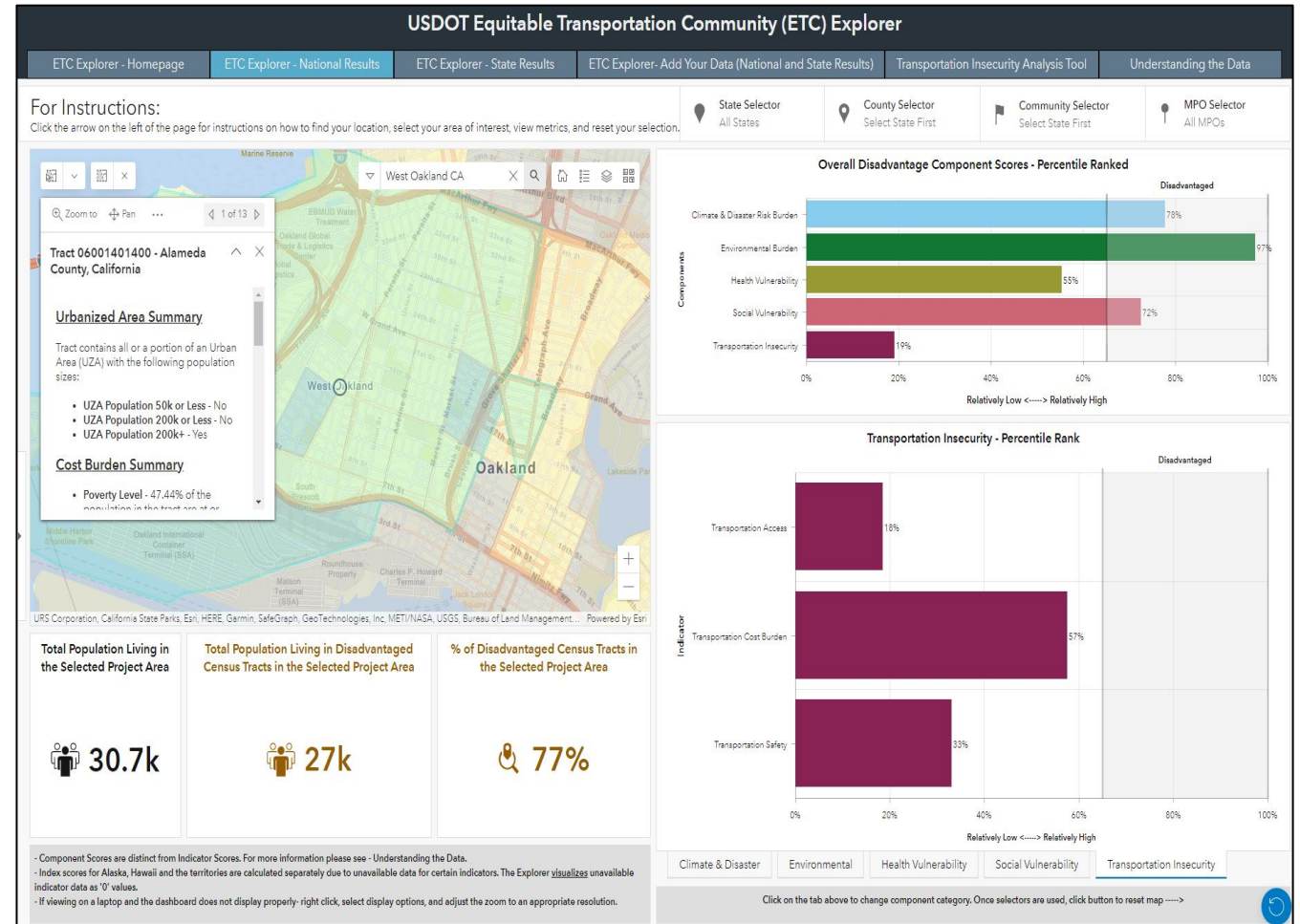


### Transportation Insecurity & Access Tool (TIAT)\*

Visually displays the raw data for a select group of indicators related to **cost, access, and safety** at the state or national level, that reflect transportation insecurity.

### Latest Census Tracts

Incorporates 2020 U.S. Census Tracts and data from sources including NOAA, USDOT, FEMA, EPA, Census Bureau, BIA, MRLC, DHS, CDC, DOI, and Esri.





# Checklist for a Strong Climate Change

- Provides an overview of considerations for applicants to develop a strong grant application that incorporates strategies related to climate change
- Includes considerations for:
  - Reducing greenhouse gas emissions
  - Addressing climate resilience and adaptation
- Provides a list of resources for additional information from USDOT and its Operating Administrations

## Checklist for a Strong Climate Change Mitigation, Adaptation and Resilience Grant Application

### Two Core Components of a Strong Project

Most U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) discretionary grants include selection criteria associated with climate change. Although criteria may differ among grant programs, a strong application in this area generally consists of two core components:

1. Reducing transportation greenhouse gas emissions (also called greenhouse gas mitigation, climate change mitigation, or decarbonization)
2. Incorporating climate adaptation and resilience features

This checklist is furnished to spark thoughts and ideas for applicants to consider in developing a strong application. Not everything listed here needs to be addressed to be competitive. Review the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the specific program you are considering to be responsive to its priorities or requirements.



Summary of transportation decarbonization strategies. Source: [U.S. National Blueprint for Transportation Decarbonization](#)





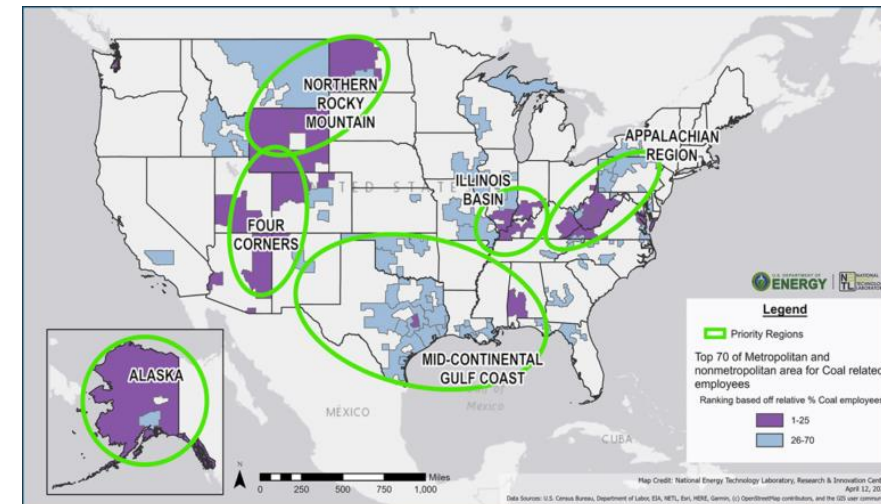
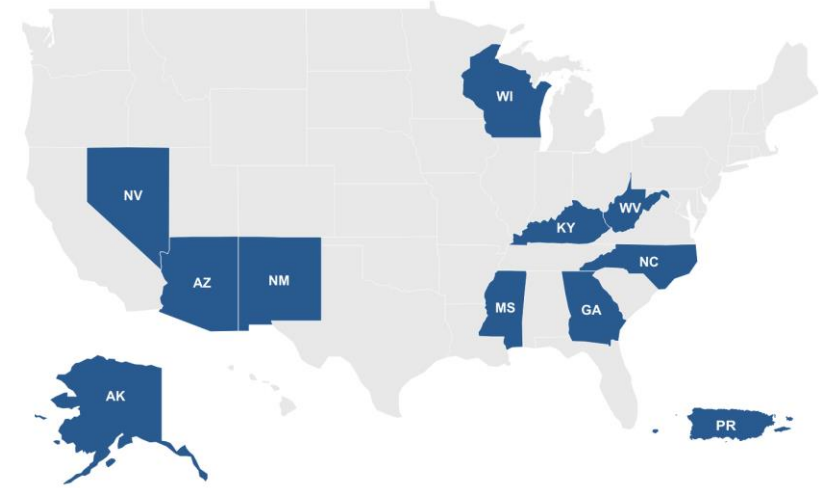
# Place-Based Interagency Activities

- **Rural Partners Networks (USDA)**

- All-of-government program that helps rural communities find resources and funding to create jobs, build infrastructure, and support long-term economic stability on their own terms
- 36 RPN community networks across 11 states/territories
  - Cocopah Indian Tribe
  - San Carlos Apache Tribe
- 3 USDOT-lead Signature Projects (GA, NC, WV)
- Participated in Federal Forums (KY, GA, NC, NV, PR)

- **Energy Communities (DOE)**

- Interagency working group to help communities dependent on coal, oil, gas, and power plants revitalize their economies and support energy workers
- 25 priority energy communities
- Supporting five rapid response teams, including Four Corners





**Subscribe to the ROUTES Newsletter --->**

**OR**

**Contact Us!**

[Rural@dot.gov](mailto:Rural@dot.gov)

[www.transportation.gov/rural](http://www.transportation.gov/rural)

