U.S. Department of Transportation

# USDOT Technical Assistance Resources

*Michigan Tech Talk*

August 12, 2024

BUILD AMERICA BUREAU

# Today's Presenters

U.S. Department of Transportation

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# Presentation Overview

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*Today we will cover…*

- USDOT Navigator Overview & Key Resources
  - Spotlight on data tools
- Overview of USDOT's Technical Assistance Resources & Programs
- Spotlight on Build America Bureau Programs
- Spotlight on DOT Funding in Michigan
- Q&A / Discussion

# USDOT Navigator Resources

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# DOT Navigator – One Stop Shop

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## 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

**Stakeholder Type(s)**

Select All
- ☐ Contractor
- ☐ Local Government
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Regional/Metro Planning Orgs (MPO)
- ☐ State DOT
- ☐ Transit Agency
- ☐ Tribal Government
- ☐ U.S. Territory

**Resource Type(s)**

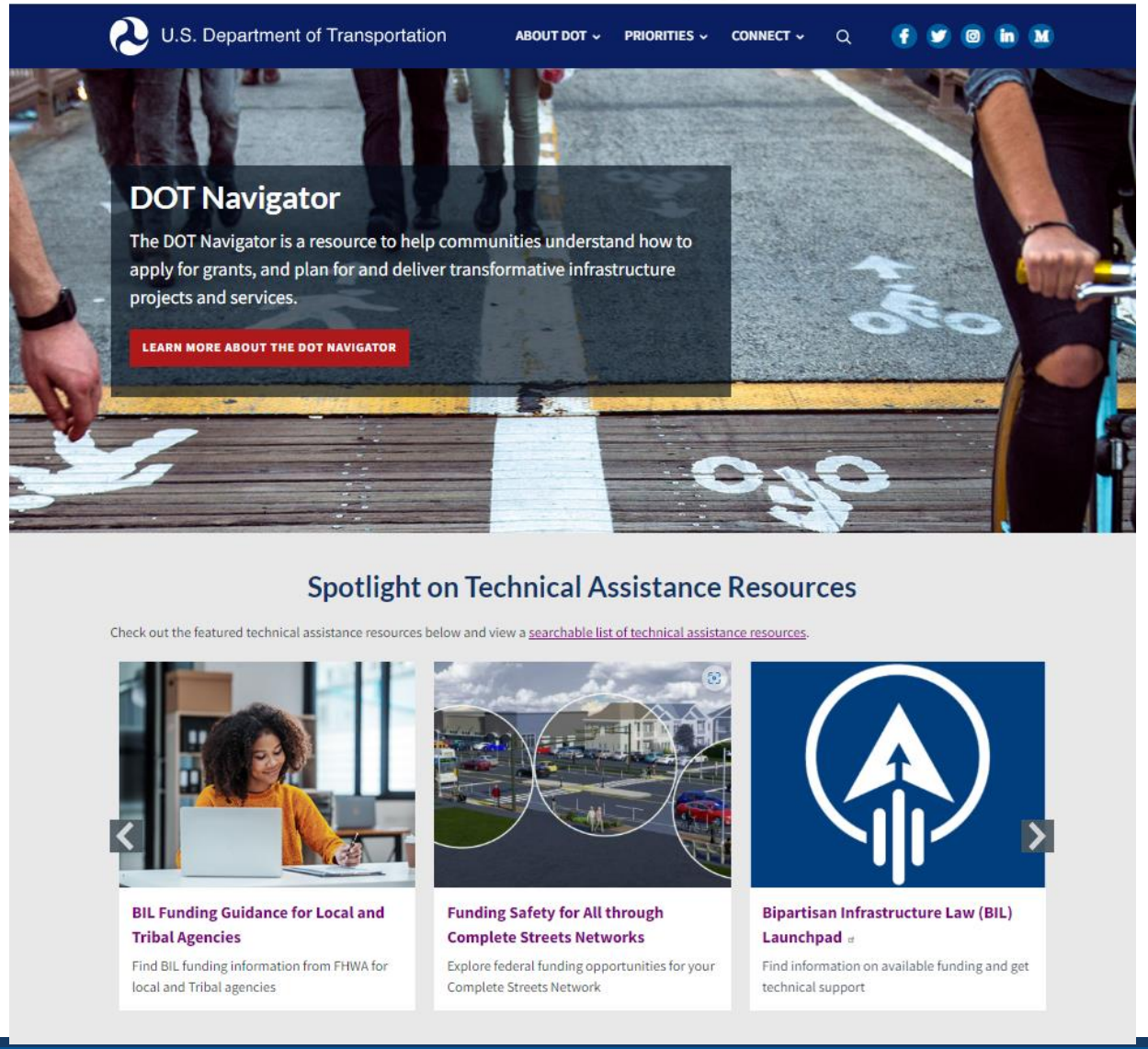
Select All
- ☐ Direct Support
- ☐ Fact Sheet
- ☐ Grant
- ☐ Guidance Document
- ☐ Report
- ☐ Resource Center
- ☐ Toolkit
- ☐ Training
- ☐ Video/Webinar

**Transportation Mode(s)**

Select All
- ☐ Air (airports, aviation, drones)
- ☐ Bicycle
- ☐ Electric or Autonomous Vehicles
- ☐ Highway
- ☐ Intelligent Transportation and Data Systems
- ☐ Micromobility (bike share, scooters, etc.)
- ☐ Pedestrian
- ☐ Ports
- ☐ Railway
- ☐ Transit

Apply

https://www.transportation.gov/dot-navigator



# Discretionary Grants Dashboard

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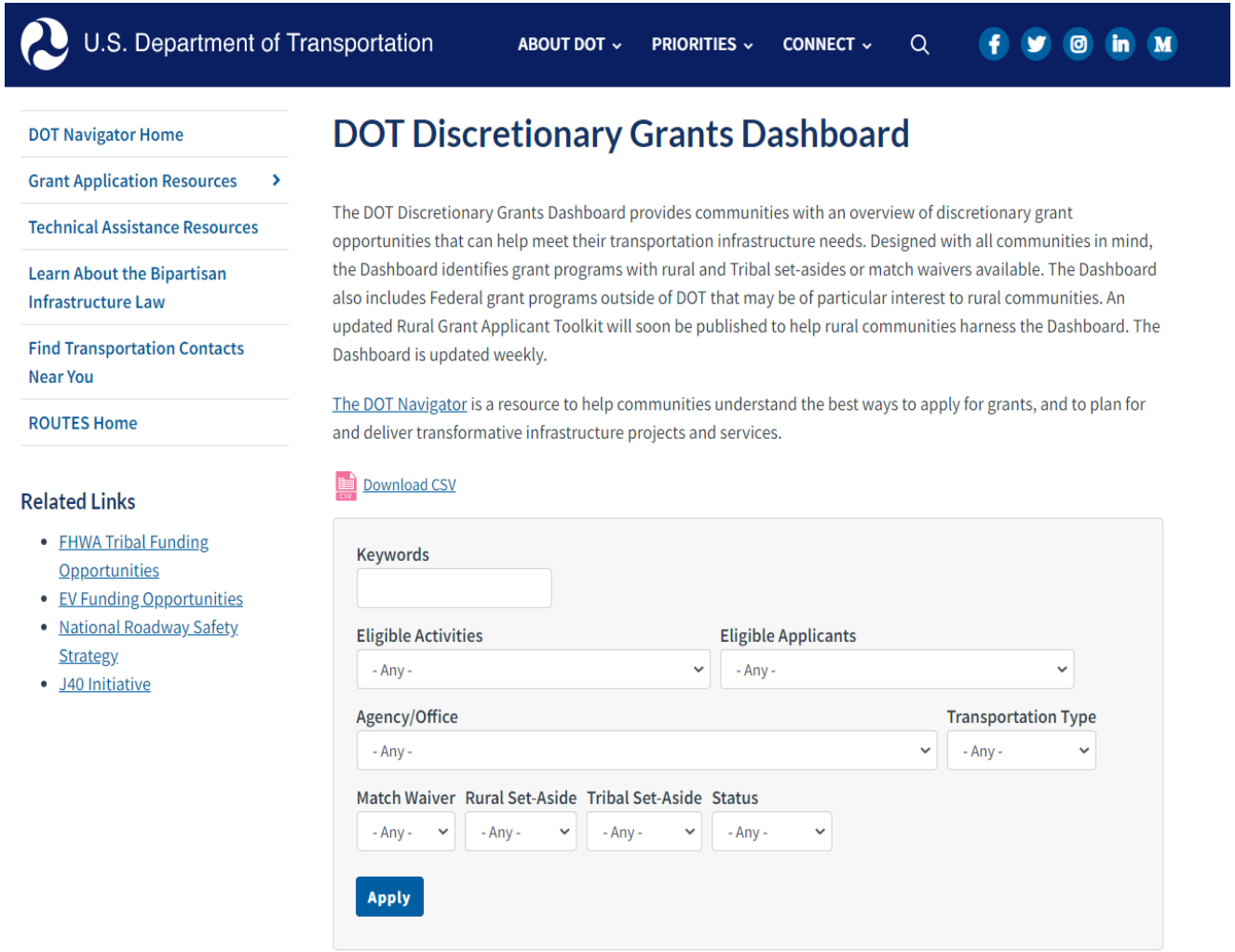


## HIGHLIGHTS

- 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

# Decoding the Grant Process

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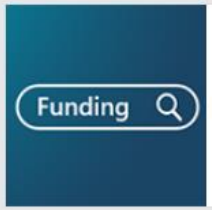
## DOT Navigator: Focus on Helping to Develop Strong Discretionary Grant Applications

### What Do You Want to Do?

**PREPARE A SUCCESSFUL GRANT APPLICATION**

Get planning tips, checklists, and information on applying for federal grants




**FIND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

Search grant opportunities to meet your community's transportation needs

**GET TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RESOURCES**

Find resources to get funding and build capacity to do transportation projects

**LEARN ABOUT FUNDING AND MATCH**

Learn about USDOT grant funding, including match requirements and flexibilities

**ACCESS DATA AND MAPPING TOOLS**

Access data and mapping tools to help write a strong grant application

**LEARN ABOUT THE BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW**

Get information to help access BIL funding programs

### Spanish

- Solicitud de subvenciones del USDOT
- Visión general de fondos del DOT y financiamiento
- Comprendiendo los requisitos no federales de pareo
- Herramientas federales para identificar comunidades desfavorecidas
- Financiamiento federal para transporte: Lista de cotejo de preparación de subvenciones "grants" discrecionales para posibles solicitantes durante el año fiscal 2023
- Lista de cotejo para solicitudes de subvención que alcancen una fuerza laboral de transporte sólida y un plan laboral
- Uso de Fondos del DOT para la Participación Pública
- ¿Es el financiamiento federal el adecuado para mi organización?

*Sign Up to Get Bi-Weekly DOT Navigator Email Bulletins to Stay in the Know about new technical assistance resources, trainings and funding opportunities across a range of transportation topics!*

# These Resources Can Help in Writing Effective Grants

U.S. Department of Transportation

https://www.transportation.gov/grants/dot-navigator/grant-application-resources

## Grant Preparation Checklist

The Fiscal Year 2023 Discretionary Grant Preparation Checklist for Prospective Applicants is intended to help local governments prepare for the year ahead and chart a strategic pathway to take advantage of historic infrastructure investments of over $32 billion available in new fiscal year 2023 Budget Authority.

## Workforce and Labor Plan Checklist

The Grant Application Checklist for a Strong Transportation Workforce and Labor Plan outlines the key components of a strong job quality and workforce plan and includes a checklist of considerations for each component.

## Climate Change Application Checklist

The Checklist for a Strong Climate Change Mitigation, Adaptation and Resilience Grant Application notes core components of a strong application for grants associated with climate change, including reducing transportation greenhouse gas emissions and addressing climate resilience and adaptation.

## USDOT Tip

**The key to an "attractive" application is crafting an effective, compelling, and comprehensive story that demonstrates funding need, commitment, and impact.**

## Also explore the *Benefit-Cost Analysis Spreadsheet Template for Discretionary Grant Programs*

## USDOT Grant Funding and Match Requirements

The following resources provide general information on U.S. Department of Transportation grant funding—including match requirements and flexibilities.

### Overview of DOT Funding and Financing

What money is available? Learn about potential options—including discretionary grants, formula grants, loan financing, and public-private partnerships—in the Overview of DOT Funding and Financing.

### Is Federal Funding the Right Fit for My Organization?

Is Federal Funding the Right Fit for My Organization? provides an overview of general grant requirements, from applying through reporting and oversight.

### Understanding Non-Federal Match Requirements

Are local funds required for projects that receive DOT funding? Find out in Understanding Non-Federal Match Requirements.

### Justice40 Match Flexibility

The Justice40 Initiative aims to ensure that 40 percent of the benefits of certain Federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities. As part of the Justice40 whole-of-government initiative, some USDOT grant programs offer non-Federal match flexibility. View a list of Justice40-covered programs with non-Federal match flexibility.

### Use of DOT Funds for Public Involvement

Can you include public involvement activities in your grant application budget? Find out in this list of frequently asked questions about the Use of DOT Funds for Public Involvement.

# Use Data to Tell a Compelling Story

***Disclaimer:*** *This curated list of federal data and mapping tools is maintained on the DOT Navigator website as a secondary source and does not supersede primary materials issued by each USDOT Operating Administration. USDOT does not promote one resource over another. Accordingly, please work directly with the USDOT Operating Administration managing the BIL discretionary grant program for specific guidance.*

## General Dataset and Mapping Tools

General Dataset and Mapping Tools provides an interactive way to explore and analyze population characteristics of a geographic area to help identify the need for a project, including to identify populations that may be covered by Title VI and Civil Rights federal requirements.

## Climate Change, Air Quality, and Sustainability Analysis Tools

Climate Change, Air Quality, and Sustainability Analysis Tools provides resources for measuring transportation greenhouse gas emissions and air quality impacts, and incorporating climate adaptation and resilience features as they relate to a proposed project.

## Equity and Justice40 Analysis Tools

Equity and Justice40 Analysis Tools provides resources to identify a disadvantaged community that may face transportation burdens or be impacted by climate change, pollution, environmental hazards, and other social or economic impacts to analyze how a potential project may reduce those identified inequities. These tools can also be useful for analysis needed to address Title VI and Civil Right compliance.

## Safety Analysis Tools

Safety Analysis Tools provides resources to help analyze and convey safety benefits and risks, demonstrate safety needs in a community, and communicate the overall impact of a proposed project.

## Specialized Data Resources

Specialized Data Resources provides information often needed to prepare a benefit-cost analysis and examine recommended monetized values, and other resources specific to intelligent transportation systems.

## Transportation Analysis Tools

Transportation Analysis Tools provides resources to better understand, plan for, and convey trends around efficiencies—including connectivity, access, and frequency—across a transportation system.

# Spotlight: Equity and Justice40 Analysis Tools

U.S. Department of Transportation

- **Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST):** indicators of burdens in eight categories (climate change, energy, health, housing, legacy pollution, transportation, water and wastewater, and workforce development)
- **Equitable Transportation Community (ETC) Explorer:** Understand how community or project area is experiencing disadvantage related to lack of transportation investments or opportunities
  - **Coming soon!** ETC Explorer Quick Guides
  - **Reminder:** Part 2 of Navigator webinar series on August 15

**Also featured:**

- Areas of Persistent Poverty & Historically Disadvantaged Communities
- EJScreen
- PLACES
- STEAP
- Justice40 Rail Explorer

# Spotlight: Climate Change, Air Quality, and Sustainability Analysis Tools

U.S. Department of Transportation

- **Transit Bus Electrification Tool (FTA):** Microsoft Excel-based spreadsheet to estimate the partial lifecycle GHG emission savings associated with replacing standard bus fleets with low-emission or zero-emission transit buses.
- **Transit Greenhouse Gas Emissions Estimator (FTA):** Spreadsheet-based tool to estimate the partial lifecycle GHG emissions generated from the construction, operation, and maintenance phases of a project across select transit modes.

# Technical Assistance Webinars

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## Webinars

Join a DOT Navigator webinar or watch a recording that highlights tools and resources to help grant applicants and recipients navigate USDOT funding, requirements, and technical assistance.

JOIN A WEBINAR

## Past webinars:

- Environmental Review for Electric Vehicle Charging Projects
- Benefit Cost Analysis for DOT Discretionary Grant Applications
- Utilizing DOT Data and Mapping Tools for Stronger Grant Applications
- And more!

## Upcoming:

- Two-part series on “Effectively Telling Your Community’s Story”
  - Part 1: July 22 (recording available!)
  - Part 2: August 15 (still time to register!)
- Planned for Fall 2024 (dates TBD)
  - 2 CFR 200 (Uniform Act) updates

# Project Readiness Checklist

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1. Complete the **transportation planning process** to set your project up for success.
2. Plan for completion of **environmental review and permitting** requirements.
3. Consider your project's **civil rights compliance**, and equity considerations and outcomes.
4. Ensure you have the ability to secure the **non-federal share** according to the program's requirements identified in the NOFO.
5. Ensure your organization has sound **project management systems** and sufficient staffing.
6. Develop a clear plan for **project financing and management** of the grant.

**Scan QR code to explore the checklist!**

# We're here to help!

U.S. Department of Transportation

Can't find what you're looking for? Need to get in touch with someone at USDOT?

Send us an email at USDOTAssist@dot.gov

# Additional USDOT Technical Assistance Resources and Programs

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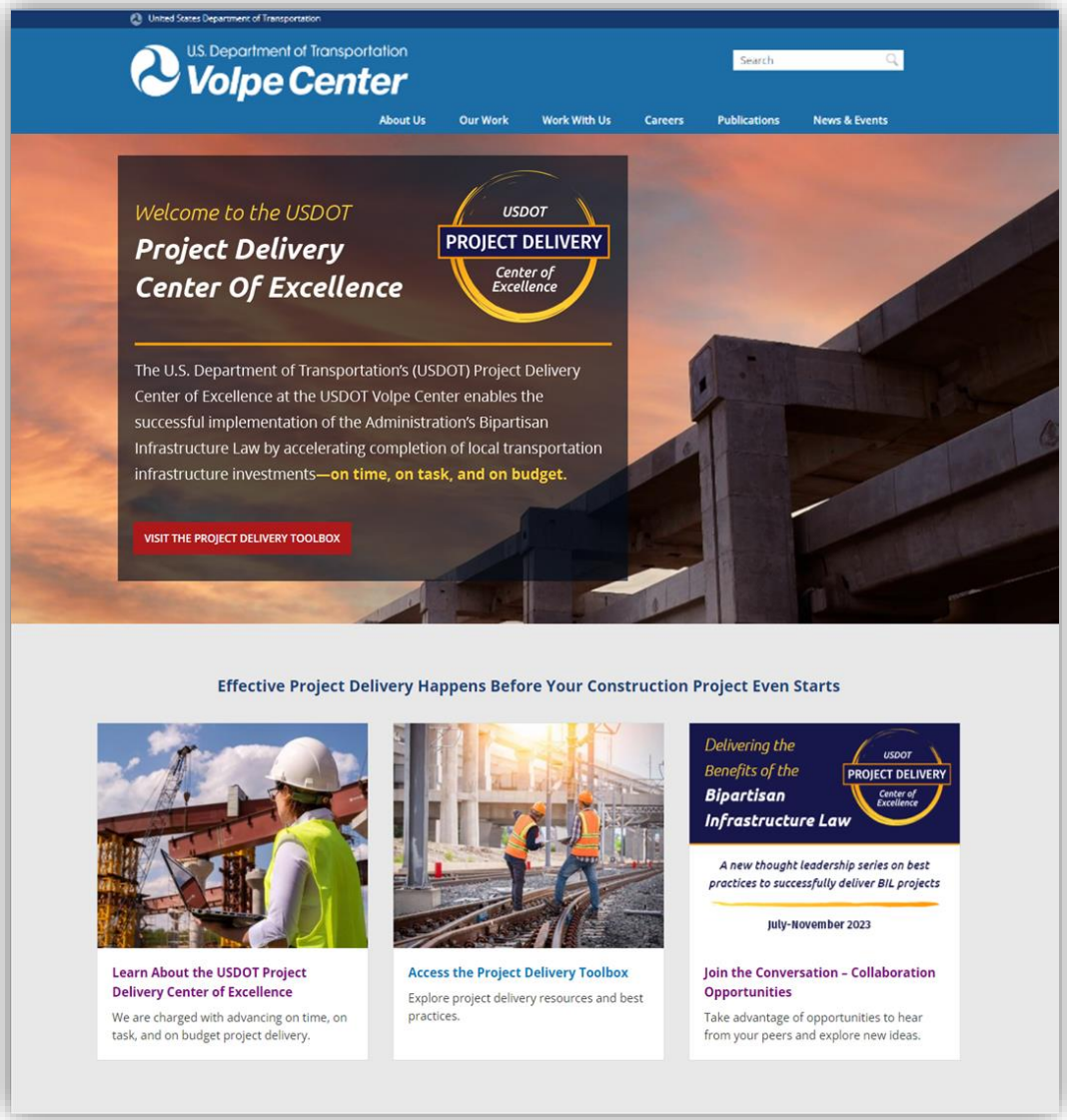
# Project Delivery Center of Excellence

U.S. Department of Transportation

## Effective Project Delivery Happens Before Your Construction Project Even Starts

https://www.volpe.dot.gov/project-delivery

- ☑ Project Delivery Toolbox of resources and best practices
- ☑ Thought leadership series information
- ☑ “Helpful Links” to resources related to BIL and technical assistance
- ☑ “Stay Connected” channels for updates and feedback



# Check out the resources in the Project Delivery Toolbox

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*Welcome to the*

***Project Delivery Toolbox***

USDOT PROJECT DELIVERY Center of Excellence

The USDOT Project Delivery Center of Excellence's Project Delivery Toolbox is a collection of resources and best practices across USDOT to help you successfully implement your construction project **—on time, on task, and on budget.**

**RISK MANAGEMENT**

Prepare for risks to deliver your BIL-funded project on task, on time, on budget. Learn more.

**CONSTRUCTION CONSIDERATIONS**

Explore proven and innovative ways to administer your construction project. Learn more.

**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

Project delivery success begins with effective, ongoing, and meaningful public engagement. Learn more.

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Early consideration of your project's impact to the environment is required. Learn more.

**EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS**

Factor equity and accessibility into planning and delivering your project. Learn more.

**https://www.volpe.dot.gov/project-delivery**

**PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

Delivering an effective BIL-funded project—on task, on time, on budget—requires careful project management. Learn more.

**FINANCING**

Access your funding and avoid obstacles to progress your project without delays. Learn more.

**PRE-CONSTRUCTION CONSIDERATIONS**

Your designs need to be ready to execute when your BIL funding is in. Learn more.

# USDOT's ROUTES Initiative

U.S. Department of Transportation

## The ROUTES Initiative is established to…

- **Engage Rural Communities** to better understand their transportation needs and work together to identify solutions.
- **Harmonize DOT Programs** to best support rural mobility using the ROUTES Council to lead Departmental activities 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 federal agencies, initiatives, and regional commissions to expand the Department's presence in rural America, better promote resources, and capitalize on synergies between federal funding programs.

https://www.transportation.gov/rural

# Small Business Transportation Resource Centers (SBTRC)

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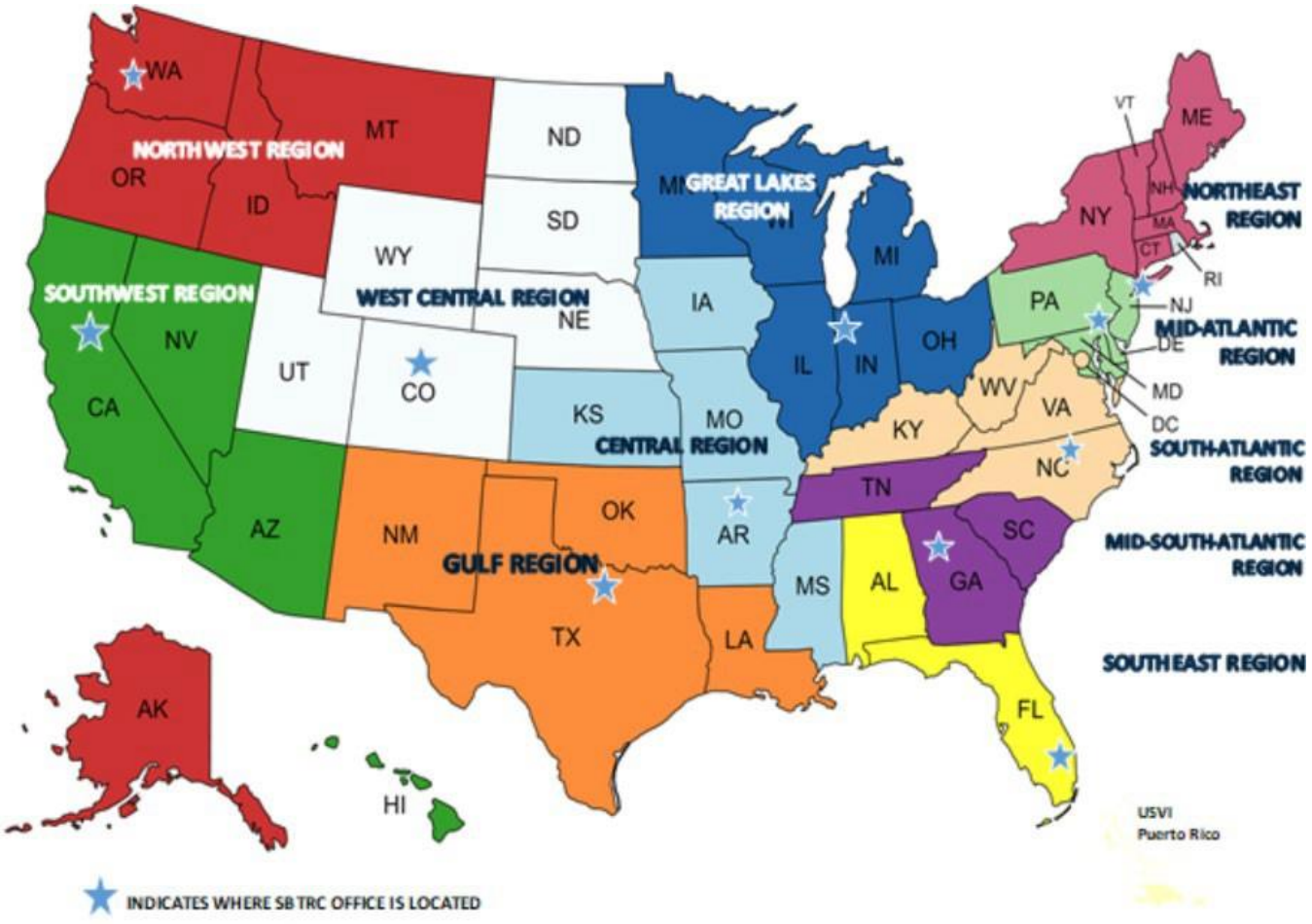


https://www.transportation.gov/osdbu/SBTRCs

- **11 regional centers create a network** to provide services to the Continental US, US Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico
- Deliver a **comprehensive package of business training & technical assistance and disseminates info** to increase the ability of small business transportation enterprises to compete and obtain transportation related contracts
- **Provide USDOT programming:** Bonding Education Program, Access to Capital, and Women and Girls in Transportation Initiative
- Engage with **transportation-related contracts and BIL-funded projects** by fostering key relationships with prime contractors and stakeholders

# Meaningful Public Involvement

U.S. Department of Transportation

- USDOT Published Guide in 2022, and updated in 2023
- Includes a **set of promising practices** to help practitioners across *all modes* of transportation incorporate meaningful public involvement into each stage of the transportation decision-making process and project lifecycle.
- Helps USDOT funding recipients meet the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, planning regulations, and other existing requirements.
- Bi-monthly **virtual trainings being offered throughout 2024**, download the guide and sign up for trainings at https://www.transportation.gov/public-involvement

# Build America Bureau Technical Assistance Programs

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# Build America Bureau's Suite of Technical Assistance Grant Programs

U.S. Department of Transportation

## Innovative Finance and Asset Concessions

- 5-year program ($100 million total)
- Help project sponsors identify underutilized assets with potential to generate economic development
- Increase capacity to utilize innovative financing and project delivery and form partnerships with private sector

## Regional Infrastructure Accelerators

- $34 million awarded to 24 recipients
- Build capacity to incubate good projects and accelerate delivery through innovative approaches
- Assistance in project planning, revenue forecasting, preliminary engineering and design, and statutory and regulatory compliance analyses
- $10 million NOFO from FY24 appropriations coming soon

## Rural and Tribal Assistance

- 5-year pilot program ($10 million total)
- $3.4 million awarded to 13 communities, including 7 Tribes
- Advance early project development by funding technical, legal and financial activities
- $25 million NOFO from FY24 appropriations coming soon

## Thriving Communities Program

- $25 million in FY2022 and in FY2023 ($50 million total)
- Two-years of personalized technical assistance and subgranting funded by USDOT
- Support disadvantaged and lower-capacity communities across project planning and scoping, development and design, and delivery

# Thriving Communities Program Technical Assistance Support Underway in 176 Communities

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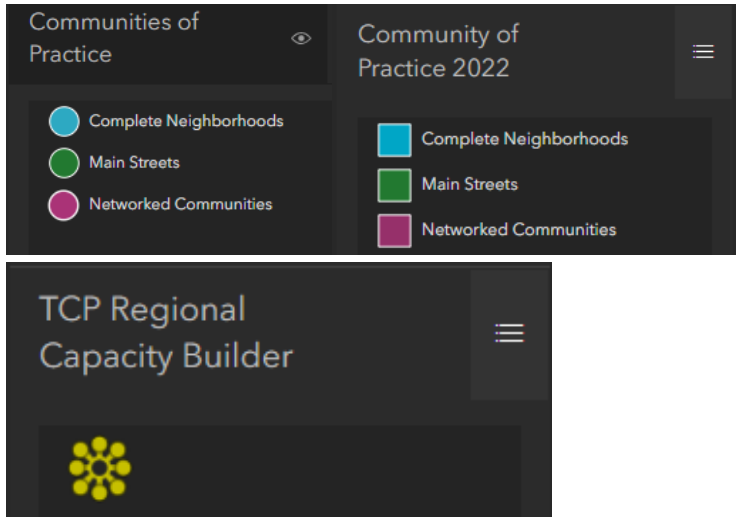

# DOT Technical Assistance in Michigan

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## FY 2022 TCP

- **City of Lansing** (partners: Capital Area Housing Partnership, Southside Community Coalition, the Lansing Economic Development Corporation, and the MLK Corridor Improvement Authority)
- **City of Detroit** (partners: Southwest Detroit Business Association, Southwest Detroit Community Benefits Coalition, and Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation)

## FY 2023 TCP

- **Regional Transit Authority of Southeast Michigan** (partners: Southeast Michigan Council of Governments and Michigan Department of Transportation)
- **City of Buchanan** (partners: LiveBuchanan and Buchanan Township)

## Rural and Tribal Assistance Program

- **Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians** ($300,324): Design and permitting for new road and trail (Wi-Zhewébzet Ė-Zhyaygo: We Are Going Into the Future)

# Examples of Recent DOT Funding in Michigan

U.S. Department of Transportation

| Program | Recipient | Award Amount | Description |
|---|---|---|---|
| Innovative Coordinated Access & Mobility (FTA, 2023-2024) | Michigan Department of Transportation | $480,000 | Buy hybrid electric vehicles and charging stations in Delta, Ionia, Benzie, Clare and Mason counties to expand rides to wellness coordinated transportation for non-emergency medical purposes. |
| Safe Streets and Roads for All (FY 2024) | Village of Stevensville | $81,000 | Develop a new Comprehensive Safety Action Plan. |
| RAISE (2024) | City of Detroit | $20,704,712 | Construction of two shared-use paths that will be part of the Joe Louis Greenway and Iron Belle Trail system. |
| RAISE (2024) | City of Kalamazoo | $25,000,000 | Rebuild and convert (from one-way to two-way) five segments of streets to create a connected multi-modal network. In total approximately 3.5-miles will be improved with Complete Street enhancements. |
| Areas of Persistent Poverty Program (FTA, FY 2023) | Mass Transportation Authority | $480,000 | Conduct a zero-emission transition plan and environmental remediation study on land, previously used as an auto body shop, that will house its future bus fleet. |

# Michigan Electric Vehicle Workforce Hub

U.S. Department of Transportation

- President Biden announced four workforce hubs in April 2024 in Upstate New York, Philadelphia, Milwaukee, and the State of Michigan
- Partnership with Department of Energy and Department of Labor
- Targeting Detroit, Lansing, Grand Rapids, and Marshall
- Help ensure that the workers, unions, and businesses that have historically powered the auto industry lead the next generation of clean vehicles

# Thank you!
# Questions?

## Email us: USDOTAssist@dot.gov

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