

# Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program (WCPP)



**Application deadline: 8/1/2025** 



# Available funding for FY26: Up to \$80M

Note: Current as of June 6th, 2025. Subject to change with future announcements (e.g., agency announcements, revised NOFOs). Source: <u>Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program Notice of Funding</u>

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# The WCPP Grant provides funding and develops studies to reduce wildlife vehicle collisions and improve habitat connectivity



## Goals and merit criteria:

The Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program (WCPP) intends to provide grants on a competitive basis for projects that seek to achieve a reduction in the number of wildlife-vehicle collisions (WVC) and improve habitat connectivity for terrestrial and aquatic species

The objectives of the grant are to:

- Improve safety, protect motorists and wildlife by reducing wildlife-vehicle collisions (WVCs)
- Improve habitat connectivity for terrestrial and aquatic species

Eligible project types will include non-construction and construction projects, ranging from statewide plans and corridor studies to design and construction.

# **WCPP Grant Details**

Match funding requirement: 20%<sup>1</sup>

Direct Pay applicability: No

## Eligible grant uses



## **Construction Projects**

#### Example projects to mitigate WVC may include:

- Design and pre-construction of an under/overpass for wildlife passage;
- Environmental permitting and right-of-way acquisition to construct a wildlife crossing structure;
- Adaptation or replacement of a culvert or bridge to accommodate connectivity;
- · Construction of wildlife under/overpass and fencing;
- Preservation or restoration of habitat necessary to secure the effectiveness of a crossing project; or
- Construction of multiple crossing structures to connect habitat for terrestrial or aquatic species

## **Non-Construction Projects**

### Example projects to mitigate WVC may include:

- Research on safety innovations, and monitoring on the effectiveness of WVC mitigation;
- · Development of mapping tools to document WVCs;
- · Analysis of impacts of WVCs and best practices;
- Planning studies to identify terrestrial and aquatic wildlife migration corridors and roadway barriers to habitat;
- Developing or updating Statewide Transportation and Wildlife Action Plans;
- · Tracking wildlife and mapping WVCs; or
- · Outreach activities to educate the public

## **Award amounts**



## Maximum grant size:

There is no minimum or maximum award size; however, applicants are encouraged to submit applications for large-scale projects with total project costs of \$200,000 or greater

As reference, requests for funding in years 2022 and 2023 applications for:

- Construction projects ranged between \$1.5M and \$25M
- Non- construction projects ranged between \$200K and \$1.2M

1. Match requirements may be reduced to 0% for certain safety construction projects, or for projects on federal land or tribal lands. See the NOFO for additional details.

Source: Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program Notice of Funding

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3

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# High level requirements to apply for the WCPP Grant

## **Eligible Entities**

## All WCPP eligible applicants can be:

- A State department of Transportation (State DOT);
- A metropolitan planning organization (MPO);
- A unit of local government;
- A regional transportation authority;
- A special purpose district or public authority with a transportation function;
- An Indian Tribe;
- A Federal Land Management Agency (FLMA);
- Or a group of the above entities

**Key Grant Application Components** 

## Application components:

- SF-424 (all applicants)
- Standard Form 424 (Application for Federal Assistance- all applicants)
- Grants.gov Lobbying Form (Certification Regarding Lobbying- all applicants)
- Disclosure of Lobbying Activities form (SF-LLL- all applicants)
- Project abstract (all applicants)
- Project narrative (all applicants)

## For Construction Projects:

 Standard Form 424C (Budget Information for Construction Programs)

## For Non-construction Projects:

 Standard Form 424A (Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs)

# Additional information on application

In addition, the Key Contacts form is optional for all applications. Applicants may also submit any letters of support or endorsement for consideration by FHWA

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4

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# **Examples of past winners<sup>1</sup>**



## Michigan Statewide Wildlife Vehicle Collision Hot Spot Analysis (2024)

Applicant: Michigan Department of Transportation

Funding: \$467K (Non-construction)

## **Project description:**

- Funds will be used to collect ecological and transportation data needed to identify roadways that present the greatest risk to motorists and wildlife
- MDOT will work with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to complete a statewide analysis of hotspots and identify key crossing locations for wildlife that pose a risk to motorist safety

The Interstate 25 Greenland Wildlife Overpass Project (2023)

Applicant: Colorado Department of Transportation

Funding: \$22M (Construction)

### **Project description:**

- This project plans to build a dedicated, overpass on I-25 between Denver and Colorado Springs, the state's two most populous cities
- Once completed, the Greenland Wildlife Overpass will be one of the largest overpass structures in North America, spanning six lanes of interstate highway
- It will help reduce vehicle collisions with big game species such as elk and mule deer along I-25 and connect vital habitats on both sides of the highway from the Great Plains to the Rocky Mountains

Kentucky's Wildlife-Vehicle Collision Reduction Plan and US-60/ I-64 Corridor Study (2023)

Applicant: Kentucky Transportation Cabinet

Funding: \$1.2M (Non- construction)

### **Project description:**

- This project will develop Kentucky's first WVC Reduction Plan in parallel with a pilot corridor study focused on the US-60/I-64 Corridor that will evaluate segments of US 60 and I-64 between the Louisville Metropolitan Area and Frankfort, Kentucky
- The statewide plan includes a study to correlate WVC data from different sources along with wildlife habitat data and roadway data to identify priority areas to reduce WVCs and improve habitat connectivity across the state

1. Michigan does not appear on the list of awarded WCPP grants recipients for 2022-2023

Source: Federal Highway Administration's Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program Grant Selections, Grant Selections for Fiscal Year 2024-2025