



Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program (WCPP)



**Anticipated application period¹:
04/04/2024 - 08/01/2024**



Anticipated funding for 2024¹: \$70M

1. Estimate based on last year's timing; subject to updates when NOFOs are released . FHWA is planning to announce the next NOFO in May 2024

Source: [WCPP](#)

The Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program (WCPP) aims to reduce Wildlife Vehicle Collisions (WVCs) while improving habitat connectivity for terrestrial and aquatic species



Primary goals and merit criteria of the program:

The primary goals of the WCPP are to save lives, prevent serious injuries, and protect motorists and wildlife by reducing WVCs, and improve habitat connectivity for terrestrial and aquatic species

Reduction of wildlife vehicle collisions and improvement of terrestrial and aquatic habitat connectivity are the primary merit criteria that will be used in reviewing applications, and each of the primary merit criteria are of equal importance.

The program is implemented in alignment with DOT administration priorities including:

- a) **Safety**
- b) **Climate Change and Sustainability**
- c) **Equity**
- d) **Workforce Development, Job Quality, and Wealth Creation**

Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program grant details

WPCC appropriates funds under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Highway Trust Fund. 60% of the funds are earmarked for rural areas.

Cost sharing 20%

		Construction Projects	Non-Construction Projects
Eligible project examples		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Design and pre-construction of an underpass or 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 structure to accommodate connectivity for terrestrial species that are experiencing WVCs• Construction of a wildlife overpass or underpass and fencing• Preservation or restoration of habitat necessary to secure the effectiveness of a crossing project• Construction of multiple crossing structures in an area to connect habitat for terrestrial or aquatic species	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research on safety innovations to reduce WVCs• Research and monitoring on the effectiveness of WVC mitigation• Development of mapping tools to document WVCs• Analysis of impacts of WVCs and best practices to reduce WVCs• Planning studies to identify terrestrial and aquatic• Wildlife migration corridors and roadway barriers to habitat that lead to WVCs• Tracking wildlife and mapping WVCs• Outreach campaign to educate the public on the hazards of WVCs
Award amounts	Anticipated no. and size of awards	15- 50 grants with anticipated awards ranging from \$200,000 to \$20 million per NOFO 2023 (FHWA may make awards outside of this range as well)	
	Min./Max. award	There is no minimum or maximum project size. Applicants are encouraged to submit for large scale projects of \$200,000 or greater	
	Anticipated period of performance	There is no required project duration . Research and monitoring efforts may occur for several years. Once a grant agreement is executed, and funds are obligated, they are available until expended	

Examples of past winners

In December 2023, FHWA announced \$110 million in grants for 19 wildlife crossing projects in 17 states, including four Indian Tribes



US-89 Wildlife Safety Corridor Project (2022-2023)

Applicant: Utah Department of Transportation
Impacted locality: Kanab, UT
Funding: \$5,497,000

Project description: The Utah Department of Transportation will receive approximately \$5.5 million to construct three wildlife underpasses and extend existing wildlife fencing along US89. These underpasses will reduce the number of wildlife-vehicle collisions and reconnect mule deer habit and critical ranges

Grant goals and merit criteria addressed:

- Reducing WVC & improving habit connectivity



Pennsylvania Wildlife Crossings Strategic Plan and Analytical tools (2022- 2023)

Applicant: Commonwealth
of Pennsylvania
Impacted locality: Statewide
Funding: \$840,000

Project description: PA will develop a comprehensive statewide strategic plan with the state Department of Transportation, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Game Commission and others to address the wide-ranging challenges and opportunities associated with the safe management and stewardship for wildlife crossings across the state

Program goals and merit criteria addressed:

- Reducing WVC & improving habit connectivity

What you will need to apply for a WCPP grant

WCPP grants are available to public entities across transport and governance. FHWA encourages multiple eligible applicants to submit a joint application.



Eligible Entities

- State Department of Transportation (State DOT);
- Metropolitan planning organization (MPO);
- Unit of local government;
- Regional transportation authority;
- Special purpose district or public authority a transportation function
- An Indian Tribe
- A Federal land management agency (FLMA)



Key Application Components¹

25-page
application limit

- Application submission form
 - Application Submittals
 - Project Abstract
 - Project Narrative
 - Basic Project Information - Description, Location, and Parties
 - Budget Narrative - Grant Funds, Sources, and Uses of all Project Funding
 - Project Merit Criteria
 - Project Readiness
 - Administration Priorities
- Primary Merit Criteria
 - Reduction of Wildlife Vehicle Collisions
 - Improvement of Terrestrial and Aquatic Habitat Connectivity
- Secondary Merit Criteria
 - Leveraging Investments
 - Economic Development and Visitation Opportunities
 - Education and Outreach
 - Survival of Species

Additional information on application

Other application considerations:

- There is no limitation on the number of applications that may be submitted by an eligible applicant
- All applicants, other than FLMA's and State DOTs, shall include documentation of consulting with the State DOT in which applicant is located

¹. Not inclusive of all requirements to apply; please refer to NOFO for the detailed eligibility and application requirements