



# Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Grant Program



Application period (previous year)<sup>1</sup>:  
7/6/2022 - 10/4/2022



Available funding (previous year): \$575M

1.No announcement for FY23/24 release yet

# RCE provides funding for highway-rail or pathway-rail grade crossing improvement projects that focus on improving the safety and mobility of people and goods



## Goals and merit criteria for RCE grants:

FRA will consider the extent to which the projects address the following DOT Strategic Goals:

- safety;
- equitable economic strength;
- improving core assets;
- equity and barriers to opportunity;
- climate change and sustainability;
- transformation;
- eliminating crossings and making corridor-wide improvements;
- geographic diversity

# RCE Program Details

RCE is a moderately competitive program with a 40% award rate, and ~50% of the awards going to small planning grants under \$1M

Match funding  
requirement: 20%

		Capital grants	Planning grants
<b>Description</b>		Construction projects that build or upgrade physical infrastructure at railroad crossings	The planning, environmental review, and design of an eligible project described in options 1) - 4)
<b>Eligible grant uses</b>		(1) Grade separation or closure	Analysis (including but not limited to environmental, feasibility)
		(2) Improvement or installation of protective devices, signals, signs, or other measures to improve safety	Community engagement
		(3) Track relocation	
		(4) Other means to improve the safety and mobility of people and goods	
<b>Award amounts</b>	<i>Minimum award</i>	\$1M	No minimum award
	<i>Maximum award</i>	No maximum; largest award in 2022 was \$42M	
	<i>Award distribution</i>	A minimum of 20% of funding will be for projects located in rural areas or on Tribal Lands <sup>1</sup>	
	<i>Award type set aside</i>		A minimum of 3% of grant funds (\$18M)
<b>Previous awards (national)</b>	<i>2023 Awards (153 applications)</i>	~33 capital grants (\$520M total)	~30 planning grants (\$50M total)
<b>Previous awards (MI)</b>	<i>2023 awards (4 applications)</i>	1 capital grant (\$24M)	1 planning grant (\$424K)

1. Rural Area" means any area that is not within an area designated as an urbanized area by the most recent Bureau of the Census.

Source: [RCE NOFO 2022](#), [FY22 Selections](#)

# Examples of past winners in Michigan



## West Side Grade Separation Project (2022)

**Applicant:** City of Monroe

**Impacted locality:** City of Monroe

**Funding:** \$24M

**Project description:** The proposed project will complete project development activities, right-of way acquisition, final design, and construction of the Monroe West Side Grade Separation and Traffic Safety Improvement Project to eliminate an existing grade crossing and construct a new grade separation with CSX.

**RCE goals and merit criteria addressed:**

- Improve roadway traffic flow on the west side of Monroe
- Improve safety response times for emergency vehicles



## Manistee County Safer Southern Rail Route (2022)

**Applicant:** Manistee County

**Impacted locality:** Manistee County (rural)

**Funding:** \$424K (planning)

**Project description:** The proposed planning project will support a track relocation study to abandon a northern perimeter track around Lake Manistee for a new southern segment.

**RCE goals and merit criteria addressed:**

- Elimination of four at-grade crossings
- Elimination of three marine bridges
- Elimination of a rail car staging area on CSX right-of-way

# What you will need to apply for a RCE grant

RCE grants are open to a range of public entity applicants, and requires a moderately thorough application; it does not include a BCA and the NOFO does not distinguish requirements between capital and planning grants



## Eligible Entities

- States and the District of Columbia
- Local government
- Unit of local government or a group of local governments
- Federally recognized Indian Tribe
- Public port authority
- Metropolitan planning organization
- Group of the entities described above



## Key Application Components<sup>1</sup>

25-page  
application limit<sup>2</sup>

- Project description
- Statement of work
- Project location information identifying impacted location (e.g., file like ShapeFile, or decimal format)
- Project budget and funding information
- Narrative of how project meets selection criteria and DOT goals
- Project readiness narrative
  - Project schedule and milestones
  - Describe past experience in managing and overseeing similar projects
  - Environmental readiness
    - State the status of the NEPA application process (not started, started, complete)

1. Not the requirements to apply for TAC support. Not inclusive of all documents required to apply; please refer to NOFO for the full requirements and details  
2. Excluding supporting documents