



Central Texas Council of Governments
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Central Texas Transportation Grants, Resources, and Updates Newsletter

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Federal and State Legislative Updates

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Funding for Major Infrastructure Projects of Regional or National Significance

USDOT recently announced \$2.9 billion in funding for major infrastructure projects of regional or national significance. This round of funding combines three discretionary grant programs into one multimodal discretionary grant opportunity for applicants, including Texas cities. The three component grant programs are:

- Up to \$1 billion for the National Infrastructure Project Assistance Program, which is designed to fund major projects that are too large or complex for traditional funding programs. Eligible projects could include highway, bridge, freight, port, passenger rail, and public transportation projects of national and regional significance. These could be bridges or tunnels connecting two states; new rail and transit lines that improve equity and reduce emissions; and freight hubs integrating ship, train and truck traffic while improving environmental justice.
- \$1.55 billion for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America Program, which generally provides grants to rebuild infrastructure and create jobs by funding highway and multimodal freight and rail projects. Projects include those that “will improve safety, generate economic benefits, reduce congestion, enhance resiliency, and hold the greatest promise to eliminate supply chain bottlenecks and improve critical freight movements.”
- Roughly \$300 million for the Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program, which supports projects to improve and expand the surface transportation infrastructure in rural areas. According to DOT, eligible projects include highway, bridge, and tunnel projects that help improve freight, safety, and provide or increase access to an agricultural, commercial, energy, or transportation facilities that support the economy of a rural area.”

The deadline for applications is May 23, 2022.
For more information, including the Notice of Funding Opportunity, click [here!](#)

Central Texas Regional Transportation Advisory Group (CTRTAG) Updates

Local Agency Update

As part of CTRTAG’s implementation of the 2022-26 Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan, one of the strategies in the implementation matrix is to introduce a “Local Agency Update” to CTRTAG meetings. This Update will serve to have local city leaders address the Board to discuss their public transportation needs and efforts! The first Local Agency Update will be held at the next CTRTAG meeting on Thursday, May.19th.

To access the 2022-26 RCTP, [Click Here!](#)

If you are interested in providing a Local Agency Update for your City/County, contact dominic.elizondo@ctcog.org.

Funding Opportunities

USDOT Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grants

The IJA also provides funding for several future USDOT competitive grant programs, including the Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Technology (SMART) grants. \$500 million is provided for this program through the IJA to provide grants to eligible entities to conduct demonstration projects focused on advanced smart city or community technologies and systems in a variety of communities to improve transportation efficiency and safety. The grants can be used to carry out projects demonstrating coordinated automation, connected vehicles, sensor-based infrastructure, systems integration, commerce delivery and logistics, smart grid, or smart traffic signal technologies, and/or comprehensive analytics. Eligible entities include units of local government, transit agencies, and Metropolitan Planning Organizations. Not more than 40 percent of the funding may go to large communities, no more than 30 percent to midsized communities, and no more than 30 percent to rural communities or regional partnerships. \$500 million is appropriated over five fiscal years for the program with \$100 million being funded per year.

For more information on the program, [click here!](#)