



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

06/22/2022

Federal and State Legislative Updates

U.S. Department of Transportation Opens Applications for First Round of Funding from Bridge Investment Program

On Jun.10, the USDOT's Federal Highway Administration released a NOFO for the competitive Bridge Investment Program! This program, created by the IJA, will provide \$12.5 billion over five years, with nearly \$2.4 billion available in Fiscal Year 2022 to plan, replace, rehabilitate, protect, and preserve some of the nation's largest bridges. This program contains three funding sources for Planning grants, Bridge Projects (less than \$100 million), and Large Bridge Projects (Greater than \$100 million). Bridge grants will be awarded on a competitive basis for local governments, MPOs, and political subdivisions for projects which :

- Improve the safety, efficiency, and reliability of the movement of people and freight over bridges; and
- Improve the condition of bridges in the United States by reducing
 - (a) The number of bridges, and total person miles traveled over bridges that are in poor or fair condition and at risk of falling into poor in the next three years, or
 - (b) The number of bridges, and total person miles traveled over bridges, that do not meet design standards or the load and traffic requirements typical of the regional transportation network

Eligible applicants may apply for one or all three grants for planning and construction, but for bridge construction grants there is a statutory requirement that the project must be reasonably expected to begin no later than 18 months after obligation of funds and preliminary engineering designs being completed. Multiyear grant contracts may be available based on project size. For large bridge projects, the grant award will not be less than \$50 million and not more than 50% of the project costs. For bridge projects, grant award will not be less than \$2.5 million and not more than 50% of project costs.

Planning Project Application Due: July 25, 2022

Large Bridge Project Application Due: August 9, 2022

Bridge Project Application Due: September 8, 2022,

For more information, 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, Aug.11th.

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.

As part of the coordination of resources and efforts for the implementation of the 2022-26 RCTP, staff has created a new Central Texas Transportation Facebook page to post resources and updates on implementation of the RCTP. Like and follow the page [here!](#)

Funding Opportunities and Resources

Reconnecting Communities Pilot Grant Program

The IJA/BIL authorized \$1 billion over 5 years for the USDOT's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Grant Program. The Program's funds can support planning, capital construction, and technical assistance to restore community connectivity through the removal, retrofit, or replacement of eligible transportation infrastructure facilities that create barriers to mobility, access, or economic development. Eligible infrastructure facilities are highways, including roads, streets, or parkways or other transportation facilities, such as a railroad tracks, that create a barrier to community connectivity, including to economic development, due to high speeds, grade separations, or other design factors. Local governments, MPOs, and non-profits are eligible to apply for planning grants up to \$2 million and capital grants greater than \$5 million, with matches of 20% and up to 50% respectively. A NOFO will be released Summer 2022. For more information, click [here!](#)