



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

08/08/2022

Federal and State Legislative Updates

PROTECT Formula Program

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) announced new guidance and \$7.3 billion in formula funding to help states and communities better prepare for and respond to extreme weather events like wildfires, flooding, and extreme heat. This is a new program under The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). The Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Formula Program funding is available to states over five years to make transportation infrastructure more resilient to future weather events and other natural disasters by focusing on resilience planning, making resilience improvements to existing transportation assets and evacuation routes, and addressing at-risk highway infrastructure. States are encouraged to work with regional and local partner organizations to prioritize transportation and emergency response improvements, as well as address vulnerabilities. Eligible project choices may include the use of natural or green infrastructure to buffer future storm surges and provide flood protection, as well as aquatic ecosystem restoration. A NOFO will be released later in the year for the discretionary grant version of PROTECT. For more information, [click here!](#)

Thriving Communities Request for Information (RFI)

USDOT's new Thriving Communities Program will provide pre-application, planning, and project development support of infrastructure projects that increase affordable transportation options, enhance economic opportunity, and improve access and quality of life to disadvantaged communities. On August 5, 2022, USDOT published a Thriving Communities Request for Information (RFI) in the *Federal Register* to hear directly from transportation professionals, local officials, community partners, and other stakeholders about the specific issues and technical areas where those in disadvantaged communities need more assistance to successfully access infrastructure funding and advance transportation projects. The RFI can be [viewed here and comments submitted](#) through August 26, 2022.

Central Texas Regional Transportation Advisory Group (CTRTAG) Updates

CTRTAG Board Meeting

The next CTRTAG meeting will be on Thursday, Aug.11th, 9:30-11:00 AM. This will be a hybrid meeting, with the in person meeting held at CTCOG Offices, 2180 N. Main Street, Belton, 76513, conference room D8, and the virtual link [here](#). The first Local Agency Update will be held at this meeting for the City of Killeen! The agenda can be viewed [here](#).

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 IIJA/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.

Application Deadline: Oct.13, 2022

For more information and to read the NOFO, [click here!](#)