

Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE)

Funding Information and Application Requirements

FAST FACTS

1 Application Deadline	February 28, 2024, 11:59 PM ET
2 Workshops	Webinars will be posted to the webpage at: https://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants/outreach
3 Eligible Applicants	States and the District of Columbia; any territory or possession of the United States; a unit of local government; a public agency or publicly chartered authority established by one or more States; a special purpose district or public authority with a transportation function, including a port authority; a federally recognized Indian Tribe or a consortium of such Indian Tribes; a transit agency; and a multi-State or multijurisdictional group of entities. Applicants may not submit more than three applications.
4 Purpose of Program	For planning or constructing surface transportation infrastructure projects that will improve safety; environmental sustainability; quality of life; mobility and community connectivity; economic competitiveness and opportunity including tourism; state of good repair; partnership and collaboration; and innovation.
5 Success Rate Last Year	Success rate is between 6% and 9%. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RAISE 2023: 162 projects were funded. RAISE 2022: 166 projects were funded: 121 capital projects and 45 were planning grants. RAISE 2021: 90 projects were funded: 63 capital projects and 27 were planning grants.
6 Authorizing Resolution Required?	Not required

FUNDING INFORMATION

7 Total Funds Available	\$1.5 billion
8 High, Low, Average Grant Last Year	High: \$25 million; Average: \$9,259,259; Low: \$175,000
9 Maximum Funding Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum: \$5 million for Urban areas and \$1 million for Rural areas. No minimum for planning grants. Maximum: \$25 million. Not more than 50% to rural projects and not more than 50% to urban projects.

- Not more than \$225 million to a single State.
- At least \$75 million for eligible planning projects.
- At least \$15 million for projects located in areas of persistent poverty or historically disadvantaged communities.
- Up to \$300 million of available funds will be allowed to pay the subsidy and administrative costs of a project receiving credit assistance under the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 1998 (TIFIA) or Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing (RRIF) programs if that use would further the purposes of the RAISE program.
- Department of Transportation (DOT) will retain up to \$30 million for award, oversight and administration of grants.

10 Local Match Required 20 percent of total project cost. DOT may fund more than 80 percent for projects in rural communities, a historically disadvantaged community, or an area of persistent poverty.

11 Funding Cycle Annual

PROJECT INFORMATION

- 12 Examples of Funded Projects**
- Anaheim, CA: Building Bridges to Transit Project (\$5,066,500) – The project will develop final design and construction documents for five high-impact and high-visibility active transportation connections to the regional rail/bus transit center in Anaheim: two non-motorized multi-modal bridges; an elevated “highline” trail; a major regional trail extension; and the realignment of an engineered riverbank to separate high-speed bicycle and pedestrian traffic.
 - City of Fort Worth, TX: East Lancaster Avenue Complete Streets and Transit Technology Project (\$20 million) – The project will fund the design, right-of-way, environmental, and reconstruction of approximately 6.5 miles of East Lancaster Avenue between Pine Street and Interstate 820 into a multimodal corridor, with accommodations for an integrated high-capacity bus transit service. The project will include dedicated bicycle lanes, sidewalks landscaped separators between the travel lane and bicycle lane, transit shelters, and street lighting.
 - City of Fresno, CA: Fresno High-Speed Rail Station Historic Depot Renovation and Plaza Activation (\$20 million) – The project will renovate, modernize, and preserve the Fresno High-Speed Rail Station, a historic passenger depot building. The project will also provide electric vehicle charging infrastructure and space for future transit charging in anticipation of the future California high-speed rail multimodal station.

2023 Awards can be viewed at:

https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/2023-06/RAISE%202023%20Fact%20Sheets_2.pdf

13 Priorities

RAISE advances the Justice40 Initiative which set the goal that 40 percent of the overall benefits of certain climate, clean energy, and other covered Federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities.

14 Eligible Project Types

- Objectives:
 - Invest in surface transportation that will have a significant local or regional impact; and
 - Support projects that are consistent with the Department's strategic goals: improve safety, economic strength and global competitiveness, equity, and climate and sustainability.
- Recipients of RAISE/BUILD/TIGER grants may apply for funding to support additional phases of a project previously awarded funds in the RAISE/BUILD/TIGER program. However, to be competitive, the applicant should demonstrate the extent to which the previously funded project phase has met estimated project schedules and budget, as well as the ability to realize the benefits expected for the project.
- Projects must demonstrate effort to improve racial equity and reduce barriers to opportunity.
- Projects must demonstrate, to the full extent possible consistent with the law, an effort to create good-paying jobs with the free and fair choice to join a union and incorporation of strong labor standards.
- Projects must demonstrate effort to consider climate change and environmental justice impacts.
- Each applicant must demonstrate, prior to the signing of the grant agreement, effort to consider and address physical and cyber security risks relevant to the transportation mode and type and scale of the project.
- Capital Projects:
 1. Highway, bridge or other road projects eligible under title 23, United States Code;
 2. Public transportation projects eligible under Chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code;
 3. Passenger and freight rail transportation projects;
 4. Port infrastructure investments;
 5. The surface transportation components of an airport project eligible for assistance under part B of subtitle VII;
 6. Intermodal projects;
 7. A project to replace or rehabilitate a culvert or prevent stormwater runoff for the purpose of improving habitat for aquatic species while advancing the goals of the RAISE program;
 8. Projects investing in surface transportation facilities that are located on Tribal land and for which title or maintenance responsibility is vested in the Federal Government; and
 9. Any other surface transportation infrastructure project that the Secretary considers to be necessary to advance the goals of the program.
 10. Right-of-way acquisition, the project will be considered a capital project.
- Planning: Examples – environmental analysis, equity analysis, community

engagement, feasibility studies, benefit–cost analysis, and other pre–construction activities of eligible surface transportation capital projects. In addition, eligible activities related to multidisciplinary projects or regional planning may include:

1. Development of master plans, comprehensive plans, transportation corridor plans, and integrated economic development, land use, housing, and transportation plans;
 2. Zero emissions plan for transit fleet;
 3. Planning activities related to the development of a multimodal freight corridor, including those that seek to reduce conflicts with residential areas and with passenger and non–motorized traffic;
 4. Planning activities related to zero emissions goods movement;
 5. Development of port and regional port planning, including State–wide or multi–port planning within a single jurisdiction or region; and
 6. Risk assessments and planning to identify vulnerabilities and address the transportation system’s ability to withstand probable occurrence or recurrence of an emergency or major disaster.
- Research demonstration or pilot projects only if they will result in long–term, permanent surface transportation infrastructure that has independent utility.
 - For purposes of this notice, a project is designated as urban if it is located within (or on the boundary of) a Census–designated urbanized area that had a population greater than 200,000 in the 2020 Census. If a project is located outside a Census–designated urbanized area with a population greater than 200,000, it is designated as a rural project. A project located in both an urban and a rural area will be designated as urban if the majority of the project’s costs will be spent in urban areas.
 - If a project type is not described as explicitly eligible or ineligible above, then applicants should explain in their application why the project is necessary to advance the goals of the program, and the Department will determine eligibility on a case–by–case basis.
 - The FY 2024 RAISE NOFO includes a Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Program Extra element. Applications for the FY 2024 RAISE grant program that have identical project scope to applications that were submitted and evaluated under the FY 2023 Reconnecting Communities Neighborhoods Program competition and received the designation of “RCN Program Extra,” will automatically advance for second–tier analysis if they receive an overall merit rating of “Recommended” and have at least one “High” rating in a priority criterion. The Department expects projects that rated well under the FY 2023 RCN Program criteria will do well under the FY 2024 RAISE program criteria. Applicants should note in the FY 2024 RAISE Project Information Form whether their FY 2024 RAISE application was also submitted under the FY 2023 RCN competition and received a RCN Program Extra designation.
 - FY 2024 Projects of Merit, which are Highly Rated applications not selected for award, will automatically be carried forward for consideration under FY 2025 RAISE funding. However, if there are any changes to the FY 2024 project being considered in the FY 2025 round, including but not limited to scope, schedule, and budget, an applicant must submit an amendment to the

application by the FY 2025 application deadline in order to be considered.

15 Ineligible Activities

- Costs incurred prior to DOT’s obligation for funds for a project.
- School bus electrification and broadband deployment as a standalone project.
- Improvements to federally owned facilities.

16 Project Readiness

FY 2024 funding is available for obligation through September 30, 2028. Funds must be expended by September 30, 2033.

HOW TO APPLY

17 Application Requirements

- SF 424
- RAISE 2024 Project Information Form
 - Project Description (5 pages)
 - Project Location
 - Project Budget (5 pages)
 - Funding Commitment Documentation
 - Merit Criteria (15 pages)
 - Project Readiness (5 pages)
- Project Schedule
- Environmental Risk (capital projects only)
- Technical Capacity Assessment (capital and planning projects)
- Benefit–Cost Analysis Narrative (capital projects only)
- Benefit–Cost Analysis Calculation
- Letters of Support (optional)
- If the applicant seeks a transfer of the award to another agency, a letter of support from the designated entity must be included in the application.
- Awards are expected June 27, 2024

18 Submission Requirements

Grants.gov

HOW APPLICATIONS WILL BE SCORED

19 Evaluation Criteria and Process

- Tier 1: All applications will be evaluated based on the Merit Criteria.
- Tier 2: All applications rated “Highly Recommended” under the merit criteria review automatically advance for second tier analysis. The Senior Review Team (SRT) can advance applications rated “Recommended” for second tier analysis. based on the following:
 - Merit
 - Safety
 - Environmental Sustainability
 - Quality of Life
 - Mobility and Community Connectivity
 - Economic Competitiveness and Opportunity
 - State of Good Repair

- Partnership and Collaboration
- Innovation
- Project Readiness Review
 - Environmental Risk (capital projects)
 - Technical Capacity (capital and planning projects)
 - Financial Completeness (capital and planning projects)
- Benefit–Cost Analysis (capital projects)

WHO TO CONTACT

20 Agency	U.S. Department of Transportation
21 Contact Name/Phone Number	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Andrea Jacobson at 202–366–9603 or RAISEgrants@dot.gov○ FAQs: https://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants/raise-application-faqs
22 Web Site	https://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants