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GRANT OPPORTUNITY BRIEF

US DOT/ Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology
NOFO Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation
FY 2022 (SMART) Grants Program

What is the SMART Grant Program?

The purpose of the SMART Grants Program is to conduct demonstration projects focused on advanced smart city and community technologies and systems in a variety of communities to improve transportation efficiency and safety. In addition, SMART focuses on using technology interventions to solve real-world challenges and build data and technology capacity and expertise in the public sector. The SMART Grants Program is a demonstration program for technologies that are not already widespread in the transportation sector.

Available Funding for NOFO

This notice makes available up to \$100,000,000 for FY 2022. SMART grants will be awarded in two stages. Stage I: Planning & Prototyping - 30-50 awards up to \$2 million each for over 18 months; Stage II: Implementation - up to 15M over 36 months, where stage 1 recipients will move into implementation of their projects.

Eligible Projects

The following technology areas are eligible projects under SMART. Projects must demonstrate at least one technology area and may demonstrate more than one technology area.

- Coordinated Automation
- Connected Vehicles
- Intelligent, Sensor Based Infrastructure
- Systems Integration
- Commerce Delivery and Logistics
- Innovative Aviation Technology
- Smart Grid
- Smart Technology Traffic Signals

1. Coordinated Automation Use of automated transportation and autonomous vehicles while working to minimize the impact on the accessibility of any other user group or mode of travel.

2. Connected Vehicles Vehicles that send and receive information regarding vehicle movements in the network and use vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-everything communications to provide advanced and reliable connectivity.

3. **Intelligent, Sensor-based Infrastructure** Deployment and use of a collective intelligent infrastructure that allows sensors to collect and report real-time data to inform everyday transportation-related operations and performance.

4. **Systems Integration** Integration of intelligent transportation systems with other existing systems and other advanced transportation technologies.

5. **Commerce Delivery and Logistics** Innovative data and technological solutions supporting efficient goods movement, such as connected vehicle probe data, road weather data, or global positioning data to improve on-time pickup and delivery, improved travel time reliability, reduced fuel consumption and emissions, and reduced labor and vehicle maintenance costs.

6. **Leveraging Use of Innovative Aviation Technology** Leveraging the use of innovative aviation technologies, such as unmanned aircraft systems, to support transportation safety and efficiencies, including traffic monitoring and infrastructure inspection.

7. **Smart Grid** Developing a programmable and efficient energy transmission and distribution system to support the adoption or expansion of energy capture, electric vehicle deployment, or freight or commercial fleet fuel efficiency.

8. **Smart Technology Traffic Signals** Improving the active management and functioning of traffic signals, including:

- Use of automated traffic signal performance measures.
- Implementing strategies, activities, and projects that support active management of traffic signal operations, including through optimization of corridor timing; improved vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycle detection at traffic signals; or the use of connected vehicle technologies.
- Replacement of outdated traffic signals; or
- For an eligible entity serving a population of less than 500,000, paying the costs of temporary staffing hours dedicated to updating traffic signal technology.

Eligible Projects

Applications must be submitted by 5:00 PM EST on Friday, November 18, 2022, via Valid Eval, an online submission proposal system used by USDOT

Key Considerations

- Not more than 40 percent of funds shall be used to provide SMART grants for projects that primarily benefit large communities; not more than 30 percent shall be provided for eligible projects that primarily benefit mid-sized communities; and not more than 30 percent shall be used to provide SMART grants for eligible projects that primarily benefit rural communities or regional partnerships
- Proposals need to clearly show an understanding of the problem to be solved and the appropriateness of proposed solution that addresses the critical problem or need.

- For all technology areas, if an exemption, waiver, permit, or other special permission is required in order to conduct the proposed project, it will strengthen a Stage 1 application if the applicant can affirm that it has already received such permission.
- All applicants must obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) through GSA.
- USDOT anticipates an annual NOFO for both Stage 1 and Stage 2 grants throughout the 5-year authorization of the program. It is anticipated that the next SMART Grants Program NOFO will be released in late 2023.

Allowable Use of Funds

Eligible development and construction activities for grant funding are the following: planning; feasibility analyses; revenue forecasting; environmental review; permitting; preliminary engineering and design work; systems development or information technology work; acquisition of real property (including land and improvements to land relating to an eligible project); construction; reconstruction; rehabilitation; replacement; environmental mitigation; construction contingencies; and acquisition of equipment, including vehicles.

A SMART grant award may not be used to reimburse any application preparation costs of the SMART grant application, for any traffic or parking enforcement activity, and purchases or leases a license plate reader.

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