



NORTHWEST PIEDMONT
RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting

Time: 10:30 – 12:00

Date: April 21, 2021

Location: Online via - <https://zoom.us/j/92064585338>

Welcome

- | | | |
|-----|--|--------------|
| I. | Welcome & Conflict of Interest Statement | Kevin Austin |
| II. | Public Comment Period | Kevin Austin |

Presentation

- | | | |
|------|--|------------|
| III. | Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation | Kyle Laird |
|------|--|------------|

Action Items

- | | | |
|------|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| IV. | October 2020 TAC Minutes | Kevin Austin |
| V. | FY 20-21 Planning Work Program | Carter Spradling |
| VI. | FY 20-21 PWP Local Match Amounts | Carter Spradling |
| VII. | Yadkin Valley Bicycle Plan Adoption | Jesse Day |

Discussion Items

Other Business

- | | | |
|-------|---------------------|------------------|
| VIII. | Division 9 Updates | Division Staff |
| IX. | Division 11 Updates | Division Staff |
| X. | RPO Update | Carter Spradling |
| XI. | TPD Update | TPD Staff |
| XII. | BOT Update | BOT Staff |
| XIII. | New Business | TCC Members |
| XIV. | Adjourn | Kevin Austin |

Next Meeting

June 16, 2021 10:30 AM



NORTHWEST PIEDMONT
RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

AGENDA ITEM

Agenda Item 4

October 21, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Background

The minutes are presented for your review and approval.

Attachment(s)

Meeting minutes.

Actions Requested

Approval.

NORTHWEST PIEDMONT RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

MINUTES

Meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) - October 21, 2020

Meeting Attendees

TAC Members

Kevin Austin (Chair)	Yadkin County
Benita Finney	Davie County
Rick Morris	Danbury
Scott Needham	Pilot Mountain
Steve Yokeley	Mount Airy
Steve Shelton	Danbury
Van Tucker	Surry County
Jeff Eidson	Elkin
Cullie Tarleton	Board of Transportation

NCDOT

Mike Stanley	NCDOT, STIP
Bryan Lopez	NCDOT, Bike and Ped Div
John Rhine	NCDOT, Division 9
Phillip Craver	NCDOT, Division 9
Rob Weisz	NCDOT, Division 11
Mike Pettyjohn	NCDOT, Division 11
Reuben Crummy	NCDOT, TPD

RPO Staff

Jesse Day	PTRC
Carter Spradling	PTRC, NWP RPO

The meeting began at 10:33 AM.

Welcome

- I. **Welcome & Conflict of Interest Statement.** Mr. Austin welcomed those in attendance, reviewed the agenda, opened the meeting, and read the conflict of interest statement. No one present indicated any conflict(s) of interest.
- II. **Public Comment.** Mr. Austin asked for public comment. There were no members of the general public present.

Action Items

- III. **June 16, 2020 Meeting Minutes.** Mr. Austin shared the meeting minutes with the group. Mrs. Benita Finney made a motion to approve the minutes, and Mr. Steve Yokeley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **Prioritization 6.0 Scoring Amendment.** Mr. Weisz proposed an amendment to scoring criteria for P6.0 modernization projects in Division 11. Mr. Van Tucker made a motion to approve the amendment, and Mr. Cullie Tarleton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- V. **2021 Meeting Dates.** Mr. Spradling proposed a schedule of dates for the slate of 2021 NWP RPO TCC meetings. Mr. Scott Needham made a motion to approve the meeting dates, and Mr. Steve Yokeley seconded the motion. The motion passed with Mr. Cullie Tarleton abstaining due to technical issues.

Discussion Items

- VI. **STIP and Prioritization Update.** Mr. Spradling introduced Mr. Mike Stanley as the Central Region Manager of the NCDOT STIP unit. Mr. Stanley provided a presentation outlining NCDOT's financial and operational struggles and how they impact the funding of current and future projects.
- VII. **Yadkin Valley Regional Bike Plan.** Mr. Spradling provided a report outlining the current status of the YVRBP and next steps towards adoption.
- VIII. **Division 9 Update.** Mr. Craver provided a verbal report.
- IX. **Division 11 Update.** Mr. Pettyjohn provided a verbal report.
- X. **TPD Update.** Mr. Crummy provided a verbal report and went over the Northwest Piedmont RPO newsletter.
- XI. **RPO Update.** No update was given.
- XII. **BOT Update.** Mr. Tarleton gave a verbal presentation about new BOT structure and spending plan.
- XIII. **New Business.** No new business was introduced.
- XIV. **Adjourn.** Mr. Austin adjourned the meeting at 11:33.



NORTHWEST PIEDMONT
RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

AGENDA ITEM

Agenda Item 5

FY 2021-2022 Planning Work Program (PWP)

Background

The NWRPO has put together a draft PWP for the upcoming fiscal year. Several categories in the Planning Work Program (PWP) allow for local technical assistance to support customized transportation planning needs.

Items identified in the PWP include the following:

- Ongoing Prioritization 6.0 activities.
- Ongoing data collection and infrastructure mapping.
- RPO involvement in broadband planning activities.
- Assistance with future Comprehensive Transportation Plans.
- Review and update of PTRPO administration documents as needed.
- Fulfill federal Title VI requirements.
- Attend relevant conferences and trainings.

Attachment(s)

FY 2021-2022 Planning Work Program (PWP).

Actions Requested

Approval.

FY 21-22
PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (DRAFT)
NARRATIVE
NORTHWEST PIEDMONT RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

I. DATA COLLECTION AND ASSESSMENT

I-1 DATA COLLECTION AND ASSESSMENT \$ 12,000.00

- I-1.1 Highway**
Perform crash data analysis, traffic volume counts, and parking inventories as needed.
- I-1.2 Other Modes**
Update and maintain bicycle, pedestrian, and trail facility data; attend county-level transit system TAB meeting; gather and assess freight data; gather data for submission of projects into Prioritization., PART collaboration
- I-1.3 Socioeconomic**
Update socioeconomic and demographic data for all counties; participate in regional CommunityViz meetings.
- I-1.4 Title VI**
Ensure NWRPO is compliant with Title VI requirement; update Environmental Justice and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Assessment.

II. TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

II-1 COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (CTP) DEVELOPMENT \$ 8,000.00

- II-1.1 Develop CTP Vision**
- II-1.2 Conduct CTP Needs Assessment**
Conduct public workshop(s)
- II-1.3 Analyze Alternatives and Environmental Screening**
Assist with alternatives and environmental screenings for CTP.
- II-1.4 Develop Final Plan**
Assist with development of maps for CTP; assist with Draft CTP report
- II-1.5 Adopt Plan**
Final CTP draft; prepare adoption resolutions for Regional CTP; attend presentation of CTPs to County and Municipal boards.

II-2 PRIORITIZATION \$ 18,225.00

- II-2.1 Project Prioritization**
Prepare and present to TCC/TAC Committed, Carryover, Holding Tank, and Deleted projects; hold meeting in each county to solicit new projects; obtain TCC/TAC approval of projects; gather data for highway projects and enter highway and non-highway projects into SPOT Online; discuss Alternative Criteria rates with other RPO/MPOs and Divisions; attend SPOT training; update Local Input Methodology; carry out steps of Methodology; post information on website as required by Methodology.

II-3 PROGRAM AND PROJECT DEVELOPMENT \$ 2,000.00

- II-3.1 STIP Participation**
Review status of projects in STIP, report to TCC/TAC.
- II-3.2 Merger / Project Development**
Attend merger meetings. Attend project officials and public meetings.

II-4 GENERAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING \$ 19,000.00

- II-4.1 Regional and Statewide Planning**
Attend NCARPO quarterly meetings, MPO conference, RPO America conference, NC APA conference; NC Rural Center trainings, GIS conferences, NC Safe Routes to School conferences, NC Moves 2050 activities, WSMPO TCC and CTP/MTP steering committee, NC Complete Streets conferences and workshops, and other conferences as necessary; participate in NCARPO subcommittee meetings; participate in state workgroup meetings; stay up-to-date on Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee meetings and report to Executive Committee and TCC/TAC as needed; assist municipalities and counties on transportation related projects; participate in Integrated Mobility workshops and development; serve as member of WSMPO pedestrian plan steering committee and Davie County bike/ped plan steering committee; Land Use Plan updates
- II-4.2 Special Studies, Projects and Other Trainings**

Provide planning and support for Piedmont Legacy Trails and other bicycle and pedestrian programs and projects; aid in CMAQ and other air quality outreach and education grants, trainings or programs; attend trainings including facilitation and GIS training; Piedmont Transportation Professionals meetings and trainings. TOD assessment; Piedmont Legacy Trails support; Clean fuels and technology support; SPR grant admin; EV charging station admin

III. ADMINISTRATION OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AND POLICIES

III-1 ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES \$ 16,000.00

- III-1.1 Administrative Documents**
Prepare, obtain approval, and submit PWP and needed amendments; prepare and submit Quarterly Reports and Final Yearly Narrative; update MOU and PIP as needed.
- III-1.2 TCC / TAC Work Facilitation; Ethics Compliance**
Prepare minutes, agendas, materials, speakers, etc. for and hold TCC and TAC meetings; inform TAC of ethics information and deadlines; assist TAC members with ethics forms.
- III-1.3 Program Administration**
Providing transportation information and data; contact NCDOT staff concerning questions from, officials, citizens and TAC /TCC members; update website; perform daily tasks including phone calls, emails, etc.

IV. DIRECT COSTS

IV-1 PROGRAMMATIC DIRECT CHARGES \$ 15,000.00

- IV-1.1 Program-wide Direct Costs**

Direct costs include telephone, occupancy, dues and subscriptions, supplies and computer equipment and services including a new plotter and ArcGIS and Adobe Cloud license.

IV-2 ADVERTISING		\$ 1,250.00
IV-2.1 News Media Ads	Advertising costs for Public Hearings, workshops etc; targeted paid advertisements on social media sites.	
IV-3 LODGING, MEALS, INCIDENTALS		\$ 2,500.00
IV-3.1 Hotel Costs	Hotel costs associated with attending conferences, meetings, workshops and trainings hosted outside the 12 counties covered by the Piedmont Triad Regional Council including: NCARPO quarterly meetings, MPO conference, RPO America conference, NC APA conference; NADO Conference, NC Rural Center trainings, GIS conferences, NC Safe Routes to School conferences, NC Complete Streets conferences and workshops, facilitation training, GIS training, and other conferences and trainings as necessary.	
IV-3.2 Meal Costs	Meal costs while on overnight or extended travel.	
IV-3.3 Incidentals	Hotel parking, tips, etc.	
IV-4 POSTAGE		\$ -
IV-4.1 Mailings		
IV-5 REGISTRATION / TRAINING		\$ 1,250.00
IV-5.1 Conference Registration	MPO conference, RPO America conference, NC APA conference; NC Rural Center trainings, NADO, GIS conferences, NC Safe Routes to School conferences, NC Complete Streets conferences and workshops, and other conferences as necessary;	
IV-5.2 Meeting / Workshop / Training Fees	GIS and facilitation training	
IV-6 TRAVEL		\$ 4,500.00
IV-6.1 Mileage Reimbursement	Reimbursement for total miles traveled at the federal reimbursement rate.	
IV-6.2 Car Rental Costs	Reimbursement for rental car usage.	
IV-6.3 Other Travel Expenses	Parking fees, air fare, other.	
V. INDIRECT COSTS		
V-1 INDIRECT COSTS APPROVED BY COGNIZANT AGENCY FY 18-19		\$ 33,243.00
V-1.1 Incurred Indirect Costs	Indirect costs incurred for the RPO program	
TOTAL		\$ 132,968.00



NORTHWEST PIEDMONT
RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

AGENDA ITEM

Agenda Item 6

FY 2021-2022 Local Match Amounts

Background

NWPRPO Proposed Dues, FY 2021-2022			
Local Government	cost per person	Population Estimate (2019)	2021-2022 RPO Dues
*based on 0.15815 per person			
Town of Cooleemee	0.15815	971	\$ 154
Town of Mocksville	0.15815	5,486	\$ 868
Davie County without municipal Population*	0.15815	24,481	\$ 3,872
Town of Danbury		186	\$ 100
Town of Walnut Cove	0.15815	1,385	\$ 219
Stokes County without municipal Population*	0.15815	25,268	\$ 3,996
Town of Dobson	0.15815	1,579	\$ 250
Town of Elkin	0.15815	4,103	\$ 649
City of Mount Airy	0.15815	10,286	\$ 1,627
Town of Pilot Mountain	0.15815	1,508	\$ 238
Surry County without municipal Population	0.15815	56,013	\$ 8,858
Town of Boonville	0.15815	1,222	\$ 193
Town of East Bend		591	\$ 100
Town of Jonesville	0.15815	2,244	\$ 355
Town of Yadkinville	0.15815	2,987	\$ 472
Yadkin County without municipal Population	0.15815	31,086	\$ 4,916
Totals		169,396	\$ 26,867
Dues based on estimates posted on the NC Office of Budget and Management			
*Methodology for Stokes and Davie County Estimates			
Using 2010 Decennial Census Block Level population data, PTRC calculated the percentage of each county population within the RPO boundary. That percentage was applied to the 2019 NC State Demographer Population Estimate to find the RPO population for each county. Municipal populations were then subtracted out (Danbury and Walnut Cove for Stokes; Mocksville and Cooleemee for Davie) to calculate the population counts used in calculating dues for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.			

Attachment(s)

None.

Actions Requested

Approval.



NORTHWEST PIEDMONT
RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

AGENDA ITEM

Agenda Item 7

Yadkin Valley Bicycle Plan Adoption

Background

The Piedmont Triad Regional Council (PTRC) was awarded grant funds from the North Carolina Department of Transportation Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation to develop a regional comprehensive bicycle transportation plan.

The PTRC provides technical assistance to local governments and facilitates partnerships toward regional goals.

The overall goal of the Yadkin Valley Regional Bike Plan is to provide a framework for NCDOT and local governments to enhance bicycling as a mode of transportation for residents and visitors alike, improving access, connectivity, and safety.

Additional goals include promoting healthy active lifestyles, diversifying the regional economy, developing tourism resources, and promoting the region as a destination. The project identifies key routes, connections, opportunities, and obstacles, and prioritizes areas for future implementation.

The plan was guided by a Steering Committee representing a range of perspectives, and drew upon a large group of stakeholders for input throughout the process, including, but not limited to:

- Piedmont Triad Regional Council
- NCDOT Divisions 9, 11, and 12
- NCDOT Division of Bicycle & Pedestrian Transportation
- City and county representatives from a variety of planning, transportation, and parks agencies
- Community representatives & advocates
- Chamber of Commerce, tourism, community health, & school representatives

The planning process included input from the public, participation and direction from project stakeholders, and public presentations of draft and final plans. The time frame for these and other steps ran from early 2019 through mid-2020.

Attachment(s)

None.

Actions Requested

Formal adoption



NORTHWEST PIEDMONT
RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

AGENDA ITEM

Agenda Item 10

2021 NCDOT Planning Grant Initiative, RAISE Grants

Background

The NCDOT Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation and the Transportation Planning Branch created an annual matching grant program – the Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant Initiative – to encourage municipalities to develop comprehensive bicycle plans and pedestrian plans. This program was initiated in January 2004 and is currently administered through NCDOT-DBPT.

The Planning Grant Initiative has been successful in its seventeen years - since 2004, 232 planning grants have been awarded. To date, a total of approximately \$7 million has been allocated to 226 municipalities and 6 counties through this grant program.

The application deadline is Wednesday, June 30, 2021. For more information visit:

<https://connect.ncdot.gov/municipalities/PlanningGrants/Pages/Planning-Grant-Initiative.aspx>

Attachment(s)

2021 Planning Grant Memo, Raise Grant information

Actions Requested

None.



To: NWRPO TAC & TCC Members
From: Carter Spradling
CC:
Date: April 14, 2021
Re: 2021 Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant Initiative

NCDOT is accepting applications from communities for the 2021 Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant Initiative. The program provides funding for municipalities across the state to develop comprehensive bicycle or pedestrian plans. There are several plan options available to meet specific community needs.

All North Carolina municipalities are eligible to apply for a standard bike or pedestrian plan (application). Additionally, the following options are available: Counties with population of less than 50,000 may apply for a bicycle or pedestrian plan; Smaller municipalities with populations of less than 10,000 can apply to develop combined bicycle and pedestrian plans; Municipalities of less than 5,000 population may apply for a project acceleration plan (application) – an abbreviated plan primarily focusing on priority project identification and implementation; Municipalities (and counties with populations of less than 50,000) who currently have bicycle plans and/or pedestrian plans, either through this grant program or otherwise, may apply for a plan update (application) provided the existing plan is at least five years old.

The deadline for application, to be submitted electronically, is Wednesday June 30 at 5 p.m. Award recipients will be notified by September 2021.

This program is sponsored by the department's Integrated Mobility Division (IMD) and the Transportation Planning Division. Since 2004, over \$7 million have been awarded through this program to 226 municipalities and 6 counties across the state.

Proposals are divided and judged in geographical groups to help establish equitable distribution of funding across the state. The selected awardees commonly incorporate a diverse mix of municipalities from large cities to small towns.

A webinar will be scheduled for May 12, 2021 to describe the grant program and to respond to any questions from potential applicants.

For more information on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant Initiative, contact Bryan Lopez at (919) 707-2606 or balopez@ncdot.gov.

Piedmont Triad Regional Council, Lead Planning Agency

1398 Carrolton Crossing Drive - Kernersville, NC 27284-3480 - Phone (336) 904-0300 - Fax (336) 904-0309

RAISE Discretionary Grants

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg Announces Availability of \$1 Billion to Modernize and Create New American Infrastructure

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) today published a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to apply for \$1 billion in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 discretionary grant funding through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grants. RAISE, formerly known as BUILD and TIGER, has awarded over \$8.935 billion in grants to projects in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico since 2009.

“In communities across the country, there is tremendous need for transportation projects that create high-quality jobs, improve safety, protect our environment, and generate equitable economic opportunity for all Americans,” said U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg. “With RAISE grants, we are making those needed investments in our communities' future.”

Projects for RAISE funding will be evaluated based on merit criteria that include safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, economic competitiveness, state of good repair, innovation, and partnership. Within these criteria, the Department will prioritize projects that can demonstrate improvements to racial equity, reduce impacts of climate change and create good-paying jobs.

For this round of RAISE grants, the maximum grant award is \$25 million, and no more than \$100 million can be awarded to a single State, as specified in the appropriations act. Up to \$30 million will be awarded to planning grants, including at least \$10 million to Areas of Persistent Poverty.

To ensure that the benefits of infrastructure investments benefit communities large and small the Department will award an equitable amount, not to exceed half of funding, to projects located in urban and rural areas respectively.

The program is highly competitive with 680 projects funded out of over 9700 applications. It is one of the few DOT discretionary programs for which regional and local governments can directly compete for multimodal transportation funding.

To provide technical assistance to prospective applicants, DOT is hosting a series of webinars during the FY 2021 RAISE grant application process. To register for the webinars visit www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants/outreach. The deadline to submit an application is July 12, 2021 at 5pm Eastern.

About RAISE Grants

The Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity, or RAISE Discretionary Grant program, provides a unique opportunity for the DOT to invest in road, rail, transit and port projects that promise to achieve national objectives. Previously known as the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) and Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grants, Congress has dedicated nearly

\$8.9 billion for twelve rounds of National Infrastructure Investments to fund projects that have a significant local or regional impact.

In each competition, DOT receives hundreds of applications to build and repair critical pieces of our freight and passenger transportation networks. The RAISE program enables DOT to examine these projects on their merits to help ensure that taxpayers are getting the highest value for every dollar invested.

The eligibility requirements of RAISE allow project sponsors at the State and local levels to obtain funding for multi-modal, multi-jurisdictional projects that are more difficult to support through traditional DOT programs. RAISE can fund port and freight rail projects, for example, which play a critical role in our ability to move freight, but have limited sources of Federal funds. RAISE can provide capital funding directly to any public entity, including municipalities, counties, port authorities, tribal governments, MPOs, or others in contrast to traditional Federal programs which provide funding to very specific groups of applicants (mostly State DOTs and transit agencies). This flexibility allows RAISE and our traditional partners at the State and local levels to work directly with a host of entities that own, operate, and maintain much of our transportation infrastructure, but otherwise cannot turn to the Federal government for support.

Program Background

Since 2009, the Program has provided a combined \$9 billion to 678 projects in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands: \$1.5 billion for TIGER I, \$600 million for TIGER II, \$527 million for TIGER III, \$500 million for TIGER IV, \$474 million for TIGER V, \$600 million for TIGER VI, \$500 million for TIGER VII, \$500 million for TIGER VIII, \$500 million for TIGER IX, \$1.5 billion for BUILD FY 2018, \$900 million for BUILD FY 2019, and \$1 billion for BUILD 2020.

This opportunity has allowed DOT to fund 51 innovative capital projects in TIGER I and an additional 42 capital projects in TIGER II. TIGER II also featured a new Planning Grant category through which 33 planning projects were also funded. In TIGER III, DOT awarded 46 capital projects in 33 states and Puerto Rico. In TIGER IV, DOT awarded 47 capital projects in 34 states and the District of Columbia. TIGER V saw 52 capital projects in 37 states, while TIGER VI awarded 41 capital projects and 31 planning projects in 46 states and the District of Columbia. TIGER VII awarded 39 capital projects in 33 states and TIGER VIII awarded 40 capital projects to 32 states and two U.S. territories. TIGER IX awarded 41 capital projects across 43 states. In 2018, BUILD awarded 91 capital projects across 49 states and the District of Columbia. In 2019, BUILD funded 55 capital projects across 35 states. In 2020, BUILD awarded 70 projects across 44 states.

Since 2009, the Program has awarded nearly \$3.4 billion in Federal funding to 299 projects to support rural [\[i\]](#) and tribal communities across the nation, leveraging an estimated \$6.2 billion in non-BUILD/TIGER funding.

Overall, the Department of Transportation has received more than 9,700 applications requesting more than \$175 billion for transportation projects across the country.

The RAISE program enables DOT to use a rigorous merit-based process to select projects with exceptional benefits, explore ways to deliver projects faster and save on construction costs, and make needed investments in our Nation's infrastructure.

How to Apply

UPDATED ALERT from SAM.gov: For your SAM.gov registration/renewal, you must submit a [notarized letter](#) appointing the authorized Entity Administrator. The review process changed on June 11, 2018. Read [SAM.gov FAQs](#) to learn more.

Project Information Form Instructions

Instructions for completing a Project Information Form are posted at <http://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants/raise-info>. Please read the instructions thoroughly to ensure your Project Information Form is successfully completed.

Project Information Forms must be submitted through Grants.gov *with all other application materials* **by 5:00 PM E.D.T. on July 12, 2021.**

Final Application Instructions

Final Applications must be submitted through Grants.gov. The Grants.gov “Apply” function is now open. **Please be aware that you must complete the Grants.gov registration process before submitting the Final Application, and that this process usually takes 2-4 weeks to complete.** Applicants are encouraged to start the Grants.gov registration process now.

Final Applications must be submitted by 5:00 PM E.D.T. on July 12, 2021. Applicants are strongly encouraged to make submissions in advance of the deadline.

To register on Grants.gov, applicants must:

1. Obtain a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number;
2. Register with the System for Award Management (SAM) at www.SAM.gov;
3. Create a Grants.gov username and password; and

4. The E-Business Point of Contact (POC) at your organization must respond to the registration email from Grants.gov and login at Grants.gov to authorize you as an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR). Please note that there can be more than one AOR for an organization.

For information and instructions on each of these processes, please see instructions at <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/applicant-faqs.html>

Additional Information on Applying Through Grants.gov

Final Applications for RAISE Transportation Discretionary Grants must be submitted through [Grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). To apply for funding through Grants.gov, applicants must be properly registered. Complete instructions on how to register and apply can be found at www.grants.gov. If interested parties experience difficulties at any point during registration or application process, please call the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at 1-800-518-4726.

Registering with Grants.gov is a one-time process; however, processing delays may occur and it can take up to several weeks for first-time registrants to receive confirmation and a user password. It is highly recommended that applicants start the registration process as early as possible to prevent delays that may preclude submitting an application by the deadlines specified. Applications will not be accepted after the due date of July 12, 2021; delayed registration is not an acceptable reason for late submission. In order to apply for RAISE Transportation Discretionary Grant funding under this announcement, all applicants are expected to be registered as an organization with Grants.gov. To learn more about registering as an organization with Grants.gov, please see the "Organization Registration Checklist" provided by Grants.gov at the following location:

<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration.html>

A complete list of Grants.gov applicant resources can be found here:

<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants.html>

Note: When uploading attachments at Grants.gov please use generally accepted formats such as .pdf, .doc, and .xls. While you may imbed picture files such as .jpg, .gif, .bmp, in your files, please do not save and submit the attachment in these formats. Additionally, the following formats will not be accepted: .com, .bat, .exe, .vbs, .cfg, .dat, .db, .dbf, .dll, .ini, .log, .ora, .sys, and .zip.

The following parameters can be used to locate the RAISE 2021 Funding Opportunity on Grants.gov:

Funding Opportunity Parameters	
<i>Funding Opportunity Number:</i>	DTOS59-21-RA-RAISE
<i>Funding Opportunity Title:</i>	FY 2020 National Infrastructure Investments
<i>CFDA Number(s):</i>	20.933 -- National Infrastructure Investments

Late Application Policy

Final applications received after the deadline will not be considered except in the case of unforeseen technical difficulties outlined below. Late final applications that are the result of failure to register or comply with Grants.gov applicant requirements in a timely manner will not be considered.

Applicants experiencing technical issues with Grants.gov that are beyond the applicant's control must contact RAISEgrants@dot.gov or Howard Hill at 202-366-0301 prior to the corresponding deadline with the user name of the registrant and details of the technical issue experienced. The applicant must provide:

1. Details of the technical issue experienced
2. Screen capture(s) of the technical issue experienced along corresponding "Grant tracking number" (Grants.gov)
3. The "Legal Business Name" for the applicant that was provided in the SF-424
4. The AOR name submitted in the SF-424 (Grants.gov)
5. The DUNS number associated with the Final Application
6. The Grants.gov Help Desk Tracking Number

To ensure a fair competition for limited discretionary funds, the following conditions are not valid reasons to permit late submissions: (1) failure to complete the registration process before the deadline date; (2) failure to follow Grants.gov instructions on how to register and apply as posted on its website; (3) failure to follow all of the instructions in this notice of funding availability; and (4) technical issues experienced with the applicant's computer or information technology (IT) environment. After DOT staff review all the information submitted and contact the Grants.gov Help Desk to validate the technical issues you reported, DOT staff will contact you to either approve or deny your request to submit a late application through Grants.gov. If the technical issues you reported cannot be validated, your application will be rejected as untimely.