

# Transportation Access Pilot Program (APP)

BIL\* §13010

Program Launch Webinar

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Office of Planning, Environment, and Realty

May 16, 2024



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

\*Enacted as the [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act](#) Pub. L. 117-58 (Nov 15, 2021)

# Webinar Information

## Audio

- To listen via computer: Select “Computer Audio”
- To listen via phone:
  - Call: +1 669 254 5252
  - Webinar ID: 161 645 8595
  - Passcode: 158978
- All participants automatically join on mute, with cameras off
- This webinar is being recorded and will be posted on the APP website

## Technical Support

- Email: [corey.martin.ctr@dot.gov](mailto:corey.martin.ctr@dot.gov)

## Questions for Presenters

- Please type your questions in the Q&A box
- Cannot take application-specific questions
- Question may not be addressed, but will inform our FAQ's

# Disclaimers

Except for any statutes and regulations cited, the contents of this presentation do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind participating agencies or the public in any way. This presentation is intended only to provide information and clarity on existing requirements under the law or agency policies.

Unless otherwise noted, FHWA is the source for all images in this presentation.

# Agenda

- Welcome
- Opening Remarks
- APP Overview and Eligibility Information
- Application Process
- Merit Criteria Evaluation and Selection
- How to Apply
- Resources
- Q&A

# Presenter Introductions

## **Today's Presenters**

Ken Petty | Director of the Office of Planning | FHWA

Brian Gardner | Leader, Systems Planning & Analysis Team | FHWA

Gary Greening | Transportation Specialist | FHWA

## **Additional APP Support**

Supin Yoder | Travel Demand Forecasting and GIS Specialist | FHWA

Birat Pandey | Freight Analysis and Data Program Manager | FHWA

Kevin McCoy | Community Planner | USDOT Volpe Center

Archana Sharma | AAAS Fellow | FHWA

# Poll

- **What Type of Organization do you Represent?**

## Poll

- **What Geographic Area are you from?**

# APP OVERVIEW AND ELIGIBILITY

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# What is the Transportation Access Pilot Program?

New pilot program created by Section 13010 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

**Purpose:** Improve transportation planning by measuring the level of access by surface transportations modes to important destinations

- Disaggregated by geographic and demographic groups
- Enable assessment of changes in accessibility that would result from new transportation investments

## **Goals:**

- Develop and refine data and methods for measuring transportation accessibility to a variety of destinations
- Promote accessibility analysis methods with the potential for broad-scale application
- Evaluate the potential for possible future national transportation accessibility datasets, measures, and analysis standards

# What is the Transportation Access Pilot Program?

## **Participants/Eligible Entities:**

- States, MPOs, and RTPOs (see 23 USC 135(m)) §13010(d)

## **Important Destinations:**

- Jobs, health care facilities, childcare facilities, educational and workforce training, housing, food sources, freight supply chain nodes, domestic or international market access points, intermodal connectors §13010(c)(1)(A)

## **Surface Transportation Modes:**

- Highways, public transportation, walking, cycling, multi-modal trip combinations §13010(c)(1)(B)

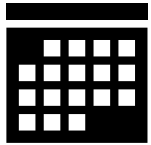
## **Population Categories for Analysis:**

- Low-income, minority, age, disability, or geographical locations §13010(c)(1)(B)(i)

## **Freight Commodities:**

- Agricultural, raw materials, finished products, energy commodities §13010(c)(1)(B)(ii)

## APP Application Period Is Now Open!



Application Period is now **OPEN**



**Apply** by June 7, 2024 by 5:00 pm ET

Submit at: [TransportAccessPilot@dot.gov](mailto:TransportAccessPilot@dot.gov)



Additional resources can be found at  
<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/app/>

## Meaning of “Accessibility”

- In the context of the Pilot Program, "access" or "accessibility" refers to analyzing destinations that can be accessed from a given location via a given mode.
- USDOT considers access to be the ability for anyone to conduct activities of daily living throughout the community. This includes the [Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility](#)'s (CCAM) definition of access, which complements BIL Section 13010.
- Access is enabled by transportation that brings the individual to everyday destinations (e.g. place of employment, school, housing) and the community (e.g. recreational facilities, parks, social supports) or brings the essential to the individual (e.g. medical care, groceries, prescriptions, technology). CCAM 2023-2026 Strategic Plan

## Poll

- What type of accessibility analysis experience do you or your organization have, either independently or as part of a larger study?

## Benefits of Participation

**The Transportation Access Pilot Program provides a unique opportunity for transportation agencies to work together, and with FHWA, to advance measures, methods, and data to better communicate transportation accessibility information.**

### **Benefits of the pilot include:**

- Joining a cohort of agencies working on accessibility measurement and modeling
- Receiving technical assistance from subject matter experts
- Engaging in peer reviews and critiques, case studies, and peer exchanges
- Informing the development of possible future national transportation accessibility datasets, measures, and analysis standards

## Technical Assistance

**The Transportation Access Pilot Program is focused on compiling data providing technical assistance. FHWA does not anticipate providing monetary awards to pilot program participants.**

**FHWA will offer technical assistance such as:**

- Review and refinement of analysis plans
- Compilation of USDOT and public datasets
- Data preparation and cleaning
- Model refinement and execution
- Peer review and critique

## Responsibilities of Pilot Program Participants and FHWA

### **Pilot Program Participants will:**

- Join a cohort of agencies working on accessibility measurement and modeling.
- Receive technical assistance from subject matter experts.
- Engage in peer reviews and critiques.
- Have their methodologies and results published by FHWA.
- Inform the development of possible future national transportation accessibility datasets, measures, and analysis practices.

### **FHWA will:**

- Publish information about the pilot on the program website
- Promote accessibility analysis methods with the potential for broad-scale application
- Provide technical assistance and host webinars or peer exchanges
- Participate in conferences or other information sharing to promote pilot results
- Report results to Congress every two years



# APPLICATION PROCESS

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# Application Process for Round One

**Submit a Letter of Interest by June 7, 2024 by 5:00 pm ET**

## **Two Stage Selection Process**

- **Stage One: Eligibility Review**
  - Evaluation based on two merit criteria and alignment with FHWA's Priority Considerations.
  - Finalist Selection
- **Stage Two: Finalist Pilot Project Applications**
  - Selection considerations: Previous experience; Data resources and needs; Agency's intended approach; Types of destinations, modes, populations, or freight commodities to be studied; Data disaggregation approach; Overall methodology; Available pilot program resources; Alignment with DOT Strategic Plan Goals: Safety, Climate Change and Sustainability, and Equity

## Application Process for Round One (cont.)

**FHWA will work with finalists to develop a more detailed pilot project application to assist in Stage Two of the evaluation process. This may include:**

- Lead agency interest in pursuing the pilot and desired outcomes
- How the pilot will help to address a specific transportation planning need
- Commitments from supporting agencies
- Identifying the location and limits of the study
- The access measures and methods of interest
- Data requirements to successfully complete the pilot
- Data resources available from the lead agency and supporting agencies
- The use of new or innovative datasets, measures, and methods
- Availability of staff from participating agencies to assist with transfer of supporting data; receiving and reviewing results; and reviewing the draft report

# APP LOI MERIT CRITERIA EVALUATION AND SELECTION

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# Evaluation Criteria

- **Criteria 1: Demonstrated Experience**
  - FHWA will evaluate the extent to which the eligible entity's experience includes demonstrated work relevant to BIL § 13010(c)(1) and would be suitable for one or more studies, the work informs enhancing transportation planning and use of accessibility measures, and the discussion includes alignment of previous work with of the USDOT Strategic Goals of Safety, Climate Change and Sustainability, and Equity.
- **Criteria 2: Future Interest and Work**
  - Evaluate the extent to which the eligible entity's LOI describes a commitment to future work in the field of accessibility and an interest in participating in the pilot program. The evaluation will consider their demonstrated commitment to collaboration with other participants and FHWA for mutual success in advancing accessibility, through case studies, peer exchanges, data sharing, etc.

## FHWA Priority Considerations

- In addition to rating the Evaluation Criteria the Technical Review Team will prioritize applications that align with one or more of the Administration Goals of:
  - Safety
  - Climate Change and Sustainability
  - Equity

## Finalist Application Selection Process

The Review Team will review and evaluate all finalist pilot project applications based on the selection process and evaluation criteria described below.

1. Pilot project applications will be grouped by applicant type:
  - State DOTs
  - MPOs that serve an area with a population of 200,000 people or fewer,
  - MPOs that serve an area with a population of over 200,000 people, and
  - RTPOs.
2. Within each applicant type, applications in this round will be further categorized based on experience with measuring transportation access. In this round, agencies with experience and data will be given additional weight.
3. Applications will be grouped based on each agency's interest in the destinations, modes, population categories, and commodities as outlined in BIL § 13010(b-c). The grouping in this step will inform the current and potential coverage of the pilot program as required in BIL.
4. FHWA will assess each pilot project application, as specified in the Evaluation Criteria, on demonstrated experience and future interest and work, and alignment with the Administration priorities and USDOT Strategic Plan goals: Safety, Climate Change and Sustainability, and Equity.

# HOW TO APPLY

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## Letter of Interest

To express interest and participate in the Transportation Access Pilot Program, submit a letter of interest to [TransportAccessPilot@dot.gov](mailto:TransportAccessPilot@dot.gov) on or before 5:00 pm ET June 7, 2024.

The letter of interest template is available on the pilot program website:

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/app/>

FHWA → Planning

### Transportation Access Pilot Program



Section 13010 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), directs the Secretary of Transportation to establish the Transportation Access Pilot Program to assist States, MPOs and RTPOs in addressing transportation accessibility for important destinations.

Apply to join the pilot

Please submit a [Letter of Interest PDF](#) to initiate a conversation with FHWA about joining a diverse cohort of transportation agencies working to expand and innovate accessibility measurement and modeling techniques. For more information, see the [Program Overview](#) page.

Apply Now! 

# RESOURCES

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## Resources

- [APP](#) Website
  - Program Overview
  - Webinars
  - Resources
  - Accessibility Literature
- HEPGIS Accessibility Data Sources
  - <https://hepgis-usdot.hub.arcgis.com/>

## Poll

- Do you plan on applying to join the Transportation Access Pilot Program?

## Q & A

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## Q & A

- As a reminder, please stay muted but use the Q&A function to ask questions.
- If we cannot address your question in this webinar, we will use it to inform our FAQ or you can follow up via email at [TransportAccessPilot@dot.gov](mailto:TransportAccessPilot@dot.gov).

# Thank You!

## **APP Program Website**

- Website: <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/app/>
- We will post a recording and slides on the website soon.

**Contact us** at [TransportAccessPilot@dot.gov](mailto:TransportAccessPilot@dot.gov) for questions on the program.