# FTA's Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development Planning Discretionary Grant

April McLean-McCoy TOD Program Manager

June 5, 2024



The contents of this webinar do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This webinar is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies. Grantees and subgrantees should refer to FTA's statutes and regulations for applicable requirements of the TOD Pilot Program.



# **Agenda**

- Overview of the Program
- 2. Introduction to Grants.gov
- 3. Common Questions
- 4. Q & A

## **TOD Pilot Program**

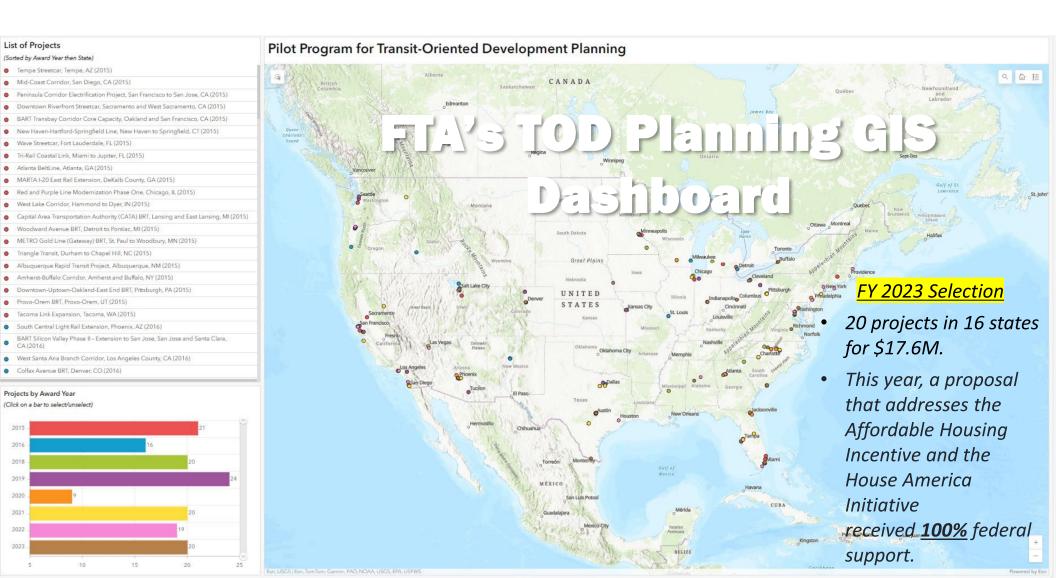
- In 2012, the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) established a Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development Planning program (TOD Pilot Program).
- Grants for comprehensive or site-specific planning in new fixed guideway and core capacity improvement transit project corridors
- Since 2014, FTA has awarded 149 TOD Pilot Program grants totaling \$121M to transit agencies and other entities.
- On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, FTA released its 9<sup>th</sup> NOFO, making \$10.4M available for TOD funding.
- Applications are due on <u>July 22, 2024</u>

#### **Six Grant Objectives (MAP-21)**

- Enhances economic development, ridership, and other goals established during the project development and engineering processes
- 2. Facilitates multimodal connectivity and accessibility
- 3. Increases access to transit hubs for pedestrian and bicycle traffic
- 4. Enables mixed-use development
- 5. Identifies infrastructure needs associated with the eligible project
- 6. Includes private sector participation

Recipients for Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented

Development (TOD) Planning Awards | FTA (dot.gov)



## **Goals for the Program**

- Encourage comprehensive or site-specific TOD planning at transit station areas in corridors containing eligible projects
- Support TOD planning work that goes beyond what local agencies would usually fund themselves
- Encourage partnerships to maximize chances for successful TOD implementations



#### **Work Plans**

Address <u>all</u> six aspects in NOFO section (C)(3)(ii)

- A. Enhances economic development and ridership
- B. Facilitate multimodal connectivity and accessibility
- C. Increase non-motorized access to transit hubs
- D. Enable mixed-use development
- E. Identify infrastructure needs associated with the transit project
- F. Include private sector participation

Identify final deliverables

See NOFO section (C)(3)(ii) for examples



# **Transit Project Requirements**

TOD planning work must be associated with a new fixed guideway or core capacity improvement project as defined in the NOFO

- Does not need to be a candidate for or recent recipient of Capital Investment Grants Program funding (or candidate for or recent recipient of any FTA/DOT funding)
- Fixed guideway projects under construction or recently opened can be considered "new"
- Core capacity improvement projects are also "new"

# **Eligible Applicants**

- Existing FTA grantees that meet one of the following:
  - Sponsor of an eligible transit project and partnering with an entity in the project corridor that has land use authority
  - An entity in an eligible transit project corridor that has land use authority and is partnering with the transit project sponsor
  - Sponsor of an eligible transit project and has land use authority
- Only one application per transit project corridor
- Multiple corridors allowed (but separate application needed for each)

## **Ineligible Activities**

- Transit project development activities that would be reimbursable under an FTA capital grant
- Must be an FTA grant recipient
- Capital projects
  - See NOFO section (C)(3)(iii) for examples



#### **Grant Conditions**

- Maximum 80 percent Federal funding share
- In-kind contributions permitted; transportation development credits (toll revenue credits) do not count towards the local match requirement
- Pre-award authority guidance with notice of award selections
- Section 5303 Metropolitan Planning Program requirements apply

# **Initial Application Screening Criteria**

- Eligible applicant and transit project
- Evidence of partnership
- Complete application including:
  - Overview of comprehensive or site-specific TOD planning study
  - Work plan by task, including substantial deliverables
  - Schedule in terms of milestones
  - Project budget and identification of matching funds
  - Performance measures for the planning work
  - o Potential impediments and how the work plan will address it

## **Formal Application Evaluation Criteria**

Based on the information provided in the Applicant and Proposal Profile supplemental form and other attachments

- Demonstrated need for TOD planning funds
- Strength of the work plan, schedule, and process
- Funding commitments for TOD planning work
- OAdherence to the MAP-21 requirements



#### **Additional Considerations**

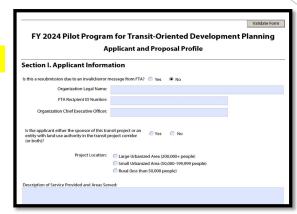
#### FTA's Strategic Goals and Objectives:

- Address affordable housing needs and mixed-income, or provide equitable housing choices
- Avoids displacement of low-income households via anti-displacement plan or policy
- Address homelessness
- Geographic diversity
- Diversity in the size of the grantees receiving funding
- Applicant's receipt of other competitive awards
- oTIFIA/RRIF

# **Affordable Housing**

#### **New** section geared at incentivizing affordable housing planning:

- 100% federal share for proposals that address 3+ activities related to affordable housing
- Affordable housing policies may focus on, among other things:
  - Strategic policies that reduce regulatory barriers to the development of affordable housing or infill development (e.g., inclusionary zoning that specifies a percentage of new units are affordable for targeted incomes, the provision of density bonuses for the creation of affordable housing units or a partnership with a community development corporation to accelerate affordable housing plans);
  - Policies that support affordable rental opportunities;
  - Policies that relax parking standards and reduce parking minimums;
  - Policies that support permanent affordable housing for disadvantaged groups in areas with high incidence rates of homelessness; and
  - Policies that encourage streamlined permitting for affordable housing units.





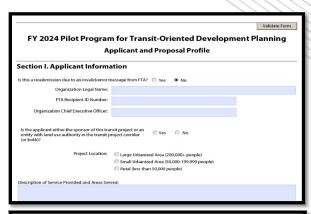
## **Affordable Housing Cont'**

#### **House America Initiative-**

- USDOT supports the federal initiative to address the crisis of homelessness by leveraging federal resources through a Housing First approach.
- Encourages applications to create an affordable plan that addresses homelessness

#### Additional Affordable Housing Methods-

- Encourage the inclusion of anti-displacement policies or plans
- Additionally, encourage the implementation of innovative financing methods in planning documents, such as
  - Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC)
  - Rehabilitation Credit (Historic Preservation)





# **Build America Bureau, TIFIA/RRIF Incentive**

- Additional Departmental Objective:
  - Supports projects that would qualify for TIFIA/RIFF after the completion of a planning study
  - Planning study leads to TOD implementation
  - Build America Bureau (transportation.gov)



## **Additional Planning Considerations:**

#### New Focus on Suburban/Rural Development:

- Planning activities that are part of an urbanized area or rural area with lower population density or lower average income levels compared to the adjacent area
  - March 21, 2023, Dear Colleague Letter
- FTA may provide a federal funding share of no less than 90 percent
  - Applicants may request a share up to 100%.



## **Environmental Justice**

- Environmental justice populations include low-income and minority population(s) as defined in Executive Order 12898 "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations" and FTA's Environmental Justice Circular 4703.1.
- Applicants are encouraged to identify any EJ populations within the proposed service area and describe anticipated benefits to that population(s).
- The geographic unit should be appropriate to the scope of the project.

A formal EJ analysis is not requested.

# **Equity**

Executive Order 13985: Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government

- Pursue a government-wide approach to advancing equity for all, including people of color and others who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality
- Activities identified in the proposal must align with the Executive
   Order

# **Climate Change**

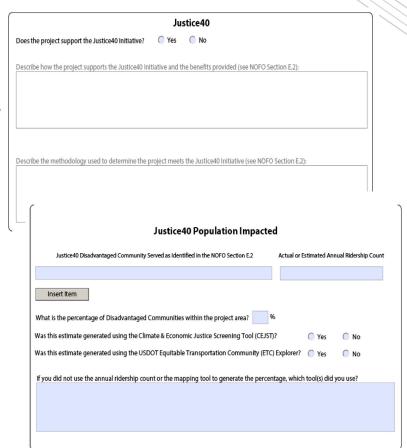
#### Executive Orders (14008 & 13900)

- EO 14008: Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad
  - ➤ An approach to achieve net-zero emissions by no later than 2050
  - Addressing the disproportionately high and adverse human health, environmental, climaterelated, and other cumulative impacts on disadvantaged communities.
- EO 13900: Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle Climate Crisis
  - ➤ Our commitment to empower our workers and communities; promote and protect our public health and the environment; and conserve our national treasures and monuments, places that secure our national memory.

# <u>Justice40, Historically Disadvantaged</u> <u>Communities</u>

#### Mapping Tool:

- To assist applicants in identifying whether a project is in a Historically Disadvantaged Community.
- Addresses how the project is related to housing or land use reforms.
- Describe specific and direct ways the project will mitigate or reduce climate change impacts.
  - Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool |
     U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit







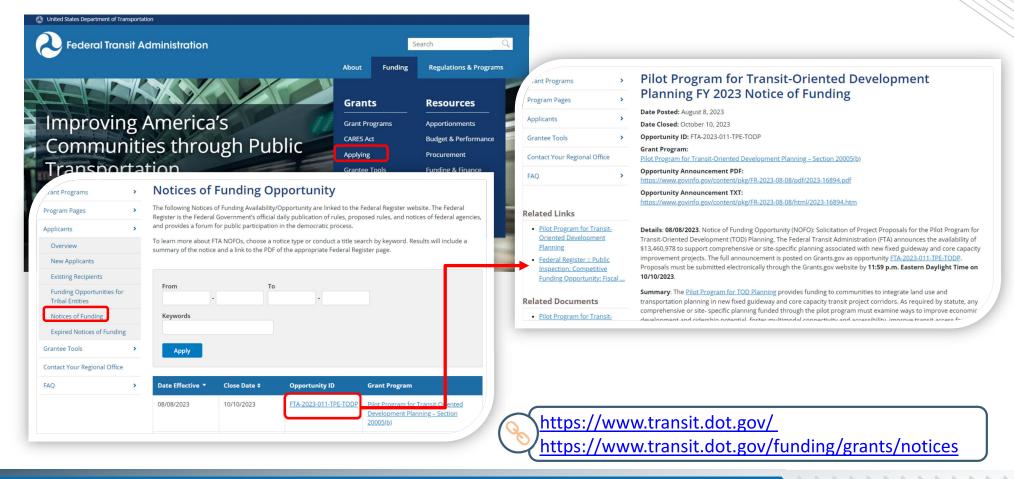
# Applying for FTA Grant Opportunities in Grants.gov





U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration

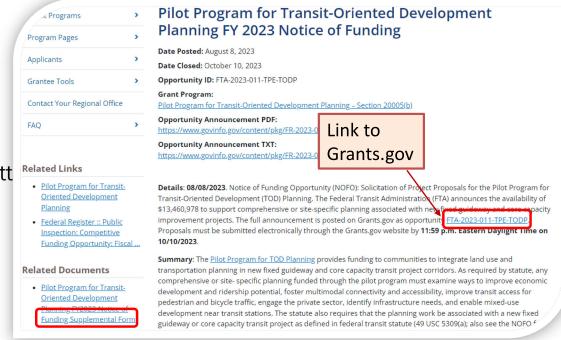
#### **FTA Notice of Funding Opportunity**



#### **FTA Notice of Funding Opportunity**

#### FTA NOFO Page contains:

- Summary Description
  - Application requirements
  - Eligibility
- Supplemental Form
  - Applicants should complete and att submission
- Links to Grants.gov
- Links to Program Information
- Other references and links





https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/notices

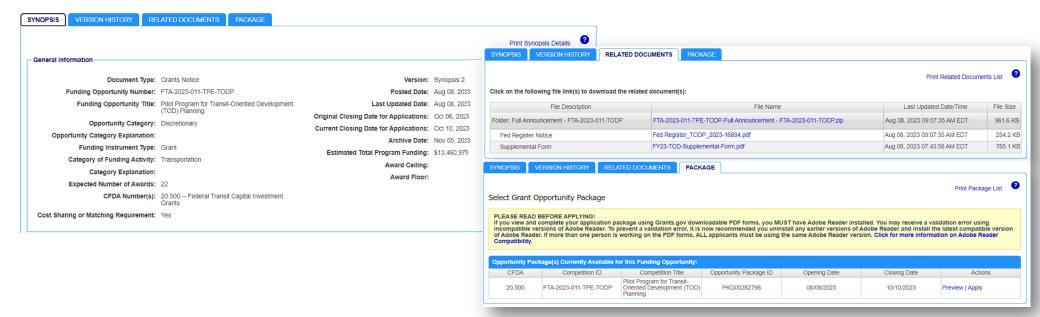
FTA NOFO provides hyperlinks to Grants.gov opportunity notice, related documents, and application package.



#### **Download Application**

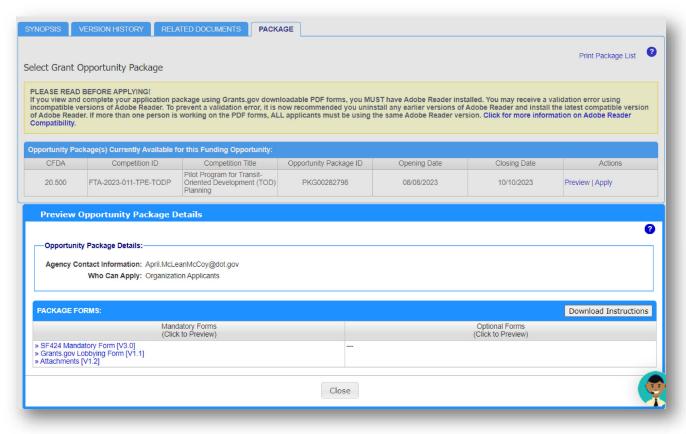


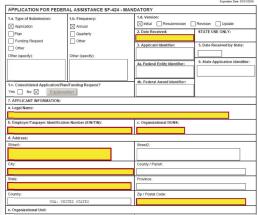
NOTE: Anyone can download the application package from Grants.gov. However, only "authorized organizational representatives" can submit applications in Grants.gov.

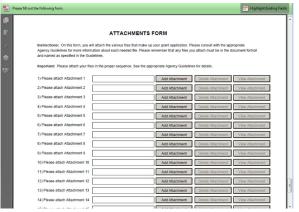




## **Application Package**

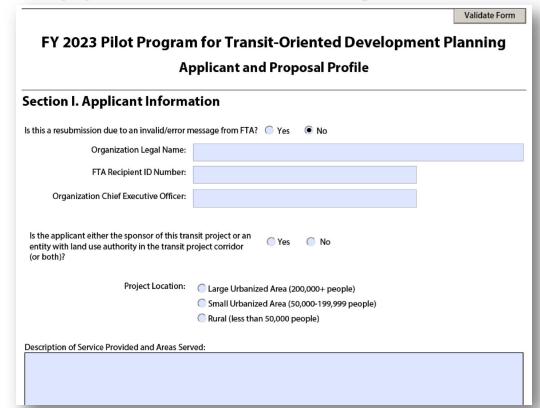






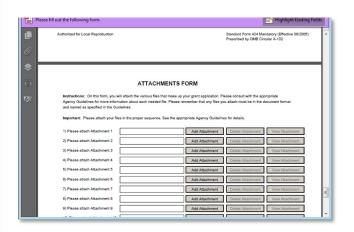


#### **Application Package**



The "Attachment Form" shown below is included in the SF-424 Grant Application Package in Grants.gov.

Please attach the **FTA Supplemental Form** to the **Attachment Form** shown below when submitting in Grants.gov.



**CAUTION:** Do not use "**Supplemental Form**" from prior years or create your own form. Please use the file provided on the FTA website.

#### **Applications on Grants.gov**





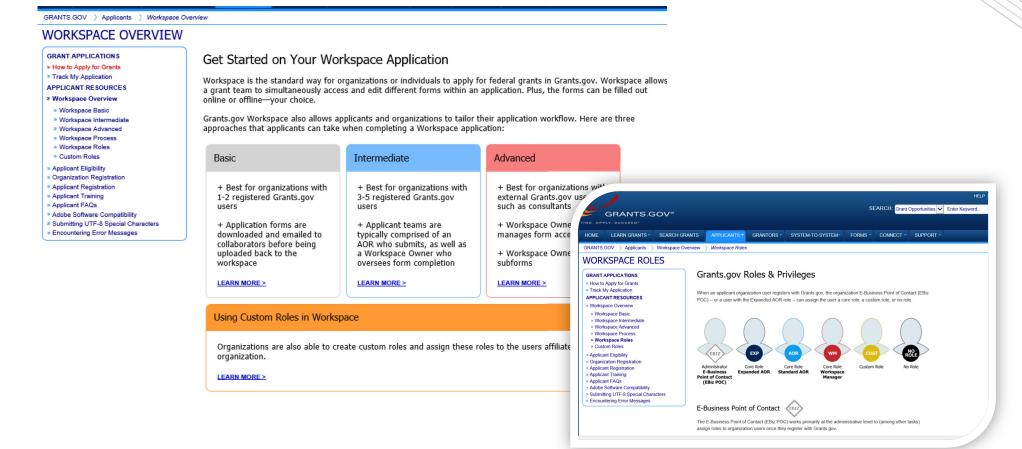
https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants.html

# **Applicant – Organization Registration**



Organizations must register in Grants.gov in order to submit applications

#### Workspace in Grants.gov



#### **Web Addresses**

#### FTA Funding Opportunities:



https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/notices

#### Grants.gov:



http://www.grants.gov/

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

**GRANTS.GOV Applicant Support** 1-800-518-4726

support@grants.gov



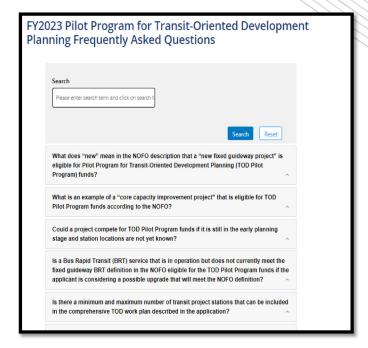
TRANSIT.DOT.GOV

# **Common Questions**



# **Common Questions**

- If we get a TOD planning award, does this mean we must eventually pursue a Capital Investment Grants application?
- We have a BRT service in operation that does not meet the fixed guideway BRT definition in the NOFO, but are considering a possible upgrade that will meet this definition, would this project be eligible?
- My agency received TOD Pilot Program funds under a previous funding opportunity. Are we eligible for consideration of another award?



FY2023 Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development Planning Frequently Asked Questions | FTA (dot.gov)

# **Questions & Answers**







# Thank you!

For more information about the program, visit <a href="http://www.transit.dot.gov/TODPilot">http://www.transit.dot.gov/TODPilot</a>

April McLean-McCoy,

FTA Office of Planning and Environment

**April.McLeanMcCoy@dot.gov** 

(202) 366-7429