



**THRIVING  
COMMUNITIES**  
PROGRAM



# GUIDING TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS FROM CONCEPT TO COMPLETION

DOT Thriving Communities Program Overview for  
Prospective Technical Assistance Providers

October 19, 2022





# Today's Agenda



- Introduction to the Webinar
- About the Thriving Communities Program
- DOT Notice of Funding Opportunity
- Additional Resources
- Q&A



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## Audio

- To listen via computer: Select “Computer Audio”
- To listen via phone:
  - Call: 669-254-5252
  - Webinar ID: 161 982 3172
  - Passcode: 595547
- All participants will automatically join on mute with cameras off.
- This webinar is being recorded.

## Technical Support

- Email [Webconference@dot.gov](mailto:Webconference@dot.gov)

## Questions for Presenters

- Please type your questions in the Q&A box

## More Information

- <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/thriving-communities>



## Poll Question #1: What type of organization do you represent?

- Non-profit organization
- State government agency
- Local government agency
- Indian Tribe
- Philanthropic entity
- Academic institution
- Private firm
- Other technical assistance provider (please specify in the chat)



# Getting to Know Our Audience



## Poll Question #2: Do you plan to apply to be a Capacity Builder for DOT's Thriving Communities Program? (select only one)

- Yes, as lead applicant
- Yes, as partner organization
- No
- Not sure yet



## Getting to Know Our Audience



**Poll Question #3: If you plan to apply to be a Capacity Builder (lead or partner organization), which Community of Practice would you apply to support? (select all that apply if you plan to submit to more than one)**

- Main Streets
- Complete Neighborhoods
- Networked Communities
- Not sure yet
- I don't plan to apply to be a Capacity Builder



# Today's Speakers



**Mariia Zimmerman**  
DOT Strategic Advisor



**Victor Austin**  
FTA Community  
Planner



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# About the Thriving Communities Initiative



**Created by the Consolidated Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (PL-117-103)**  
**DOT = \$25 million**

## **Goals of the Initiative**

- Plan and develop a pipeline of community-driven transportation and community revitalization activities
- Increase mobility, reduce pollution from transportation sources, and expand affordable transportation options
- Facilitate efficient land use, preserve or expand jobs, and improve housing conditions
- Enhance connections to health care, education, and food security, or improve health outcomes
- Offer support to disadvantaged and under resourced communities





# DOT Thriving Communities NOFO



*"This program will help equip more local leaders with the resources, knowledge, and assistance they need to access federal funding, and modernize their infrastructure so that it serves the community well for decades to come."*

**~ U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg**



# DOT's Thriving Communities Program (TCP) Overview



- TCP will provide access to a diverse set of Capacity Builders available to work directly with communities as they build upon local assets to **co-design and advance infrastructure projects** that address critical social, economic, environmental, and mobility needs
- Supports the Administration's [Justice40 Policy](#) and the DOT [Equity Action Plan](#)
- Ensures implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) supports the greatest range of communities, especially those that have greatest need
- Designed to grow community capacity to take transformative projects from concept through to delivery
- Program was **designed using public input received in Request for Information (RFI)** and other stakeholder outreach conducted summer of 2022



# Funding Available through the DOT TCP NOFO



- Inaugural year will provide **\$21 million** in expert technical assistance, planning, and capacity building services
- Approximately **\$3.5 million - \$6 million per Capacity Builder** for 2-year period of performance.
- All program expenses are at 100% federal share; leverage welcomed
- At least 60% of budget for direct support to communities
  - Intermediary roles: e.g., sub-granting, staffing, data and management systems
- Utilizing **Cooperative Agreements** – expected selection by March 2023 and negotiate for summer launch
- At least **three (3) Capacity Builders will be selected** (each paired with a Community of Practice)
- Specific technical expertise may facilitate additional pairing by DOT



# Eligible Applicants for the DOT TCP NOFO



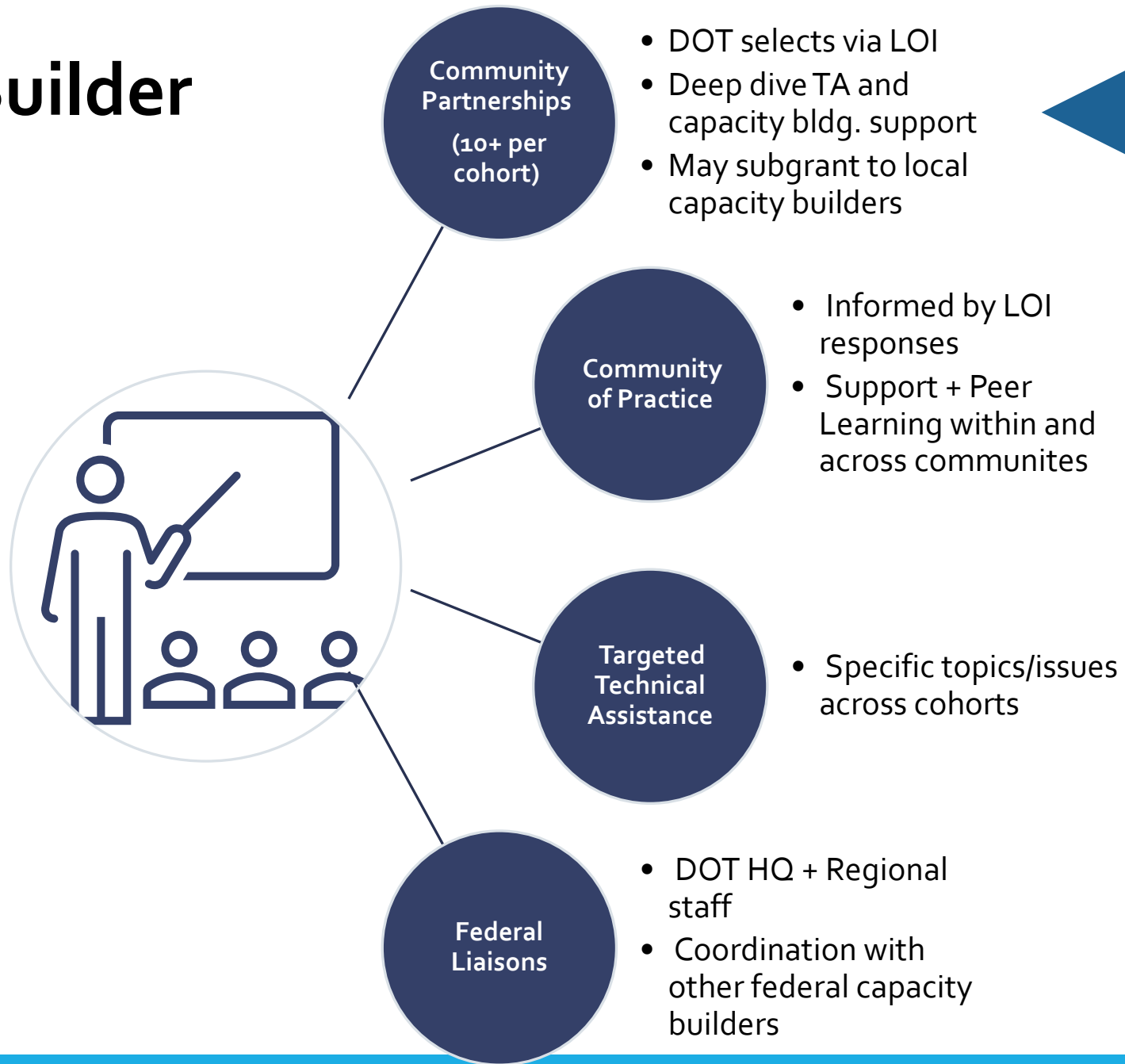
- **Organizations eligible to apply individually or as part** of a team for this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) include the following:
  - Non-profit organizations
  - State or local governments and their agencies
  - Indian Tribes
  - Philanthropic entities
  - Other technical assistance providers with a demonstrated capacity to develop and provide technical assistance, planning, and capacity building (i.e., private firms or consultants, private academic institutions, CDFIs)
- DOT encourages interested applicants to **partner** with other eligible organizations to form Capacity Builder teams whose members bring technical knowledge across a diverse set of issues and skills, including meaningful public involvement in transportation decision-making processes and project delivery.
- DOT will view applications favorably that demonstrate clear involvement of **small or disadvantaged business enterprises and/or community-based organizations.**



# Supporting a DOT TCP Community of Practice



# Capacity Builder Approach





# Demonstrated Technical Expertise



Evaluating and deploying **emerging transportation data and climate technology** systems and software

Equity practices to **support community visioning and inclusive engagement strategies**, including use of arts, culture, technology, and culturally competent practices.

**Environmental planning and analysis practices** including to support transportation decarbonization, climate resilience and adaptation.

Land use and regulatory practices **that improve alignment and efficiencies between transportation networks and service with housing and economic development** patterns.

Transportation planning practices to **advance transformative community and data driven projects** through state, metropolitan and federal transportation and community development planning processes.

Coalition building and collaboration practices that build and sustain **cross-sector partners and empower community stakeholders**, especially those from disadvantaged communities.

**Identifying and responding to funding opportunities** including federal discretionary grant applications

Conducting **project scoping, planning and pre-engineering studies, market, and other technical analysis**

Supplementing **local staffing and workforce development** capacity

Establishing **leadership, fellowship, pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeships programs**

Developing systems or structures that **improve compliance with federal grant management**, including but not limited to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and procurement requirements

Implementing **innovative public engagement strategies**, particularly to involve traditionally underrepresented voices in the project identification, planning, and prioritization process.



# DOT's TCP Comprehensive Partnership Approach



## Recipients of DOT's technical assistance must also form partnerships:

- Eligible lead applicants: Local, state, or Tribal governments including pueblos or villages, United States territories, metropolitan planning organizations/rural transportation planning organizations, transit agencies, other political subdivisions of state or local governments
- **PLUS** at least **two other** organizations that:
  - Are important implementation partners,
  - Can help to supplement local capacity, or
  - Can ensure that those who live in disadvantaged communities have a voice at the table.

A DOT Capacity Builder will offer technical assistance to individual communities and to all members of the Community of Practice (at least 10 communities) + potential for TA on specific issues





# Application Submission Content



## Program Design and Substance

- Executive Summary
- Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Approach
- Applicant Expertise, Staffing, and Project Management Plan
- Program Evaluation and Assessment Plan
- Budget Narrative and Cost Estimate
- Schedule of Milestones and Deliverables

See Section D of the [NOFO](#) for more detailed information on content and form for each element. Appendix A provides an application checklist.

## Forms and Supporting Documentation

- Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
- Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)
- Assurances for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424B)
- Certification Regarding Lobbying (CD-511)
- Organizational Documentation (if applicable, depending on your organization type)
- Indirect Cost Rate (ICR) Documentation (if applicable)
- Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)



# How Will DOT Make NOFO selections?



DOT will review complete and eligible applications and evaluate them based on

1. the applicant's proven success,
2. quality project management,
3. alignment with DOT priorities,
4. centering community,
5. flexibility and innovation, and
6. impact size and longevity.

See Section E of the [NOFO](#) for more detailed information about the review and evaluation process



## How You Can Participate in DOT's TCP



Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is available on DOT website and on Grants.gov [www.transportation.gov/grants/thriving-communities/nofo-fy22](http://www.transportation.gov/grants/thriving-communities/nofo-fy22)

Before you submit, you must be registered in Grants.gov **(this can take weeks)**:

- Obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number by registering with the System for Award Management (SAM) at [www.SAM.gov](http://www.SAM.gov);
- Create a Grants.gov username and password; and
- 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.

Proposals are due on **November 22, 2022** (11:59 PM EST)



## Additional Resources



### DOT Thriving Communities Website

[www.transportation.gov/grants/thriving-communities](http://www.transportation.gov/grants/thriving-communities)

### Apply to be a DOT TC TA Capacity Builder on [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov)

- Opportunity Number: DOT-TCP-FY22-01
- Assistance Listing: 20.942

### DOT TCP General Inquiries

[thrivingcommunities@dot.gov](mailto:thrivingcommunities@dot.gov)

### Other Webinar Recordings

[www.transportation.gov/grants/thriving-communities/webinars](http://www.transportation.gov/grants/thriving-communities/webinars)

### Other Resources and FAQs

<https://www.transportation.gov/grants/thriving-communities/resources>

Interested in becoming a **HUD Thriving Communities TA provider**? Attend HUD's Thriving Communities Technical Assistance program webinar on Tuesday, October 25, 2022, at 1pm EST by [clicking here](#). No registration is required.



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# Questions?

