

An aerial photograph of a coastal road. The road is a two-lane asphalt road with a white center line, running vertically through the center of the image. A small red car is driving on the road, positioned in the lower half. To the left of the road is a rocky coastline with waves crashing against the shore. The water is a vibrant turquoise color. To the right of the road is a steep, rocky hillside covered in dense green vegetation. The overall scene is a scenic coastal drive.

# Is finding funding a problem?

**RESOURCES AND SOLUTIONS TO MAXIMIZE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

**Alison Boan, Q-Free**

ITS Heartland 2023

May 3, 2023

# Alison Boan

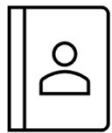
ABOUT ME



## Skills

Finding funds

Dog whisperer



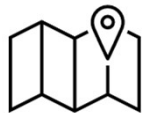
## Contact

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*Join me on  
the socials!*



## Location

Chicago, IL



# What we'll cover



## Where the money comes from

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)



## Resources to find grants

Info and resources to locate grants and two popular grants



## Past winners

Learn from grant-winning projects



## Funding priorities and criteria

Major funding themes and matching your projects to them



## Align with funding themes

Think outside the box to meet new priorities in funding criteria



## Tips

Tips to get started, apply, and compete



# Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)

PRIMARY FUNDING SOURCE

Common nickname for the  
Infrastructure Investment and Jobs  
Act (IIJA)

## \$1.2 trillion

Authorized for a wide variety of  
infrastructure, including about half for  
transportation.

## 5 years

Allocates funds for FY 2022 - 2026

## 400+ grants

Competitive program with more than 400  
programs, over half of which will be awarded  
through nationwide competitive process

[HTTPS://WWW.FHWA.DOT.GOV/BIPARTISAN-INFRASTRUCTURE-LAW/](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/)  
[HTTPS://WWW.TRANSPORTATION.GOV/BRIEFING-ROOM/USDOT-RELEASES-STATE-STATE-FACT-SHEETS-HIGHLIGHTING-BENEFITS-BIPARTISAN](https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/usdot-releases-state-state-fact-sheets-highlighting-benefits-bipartisan)

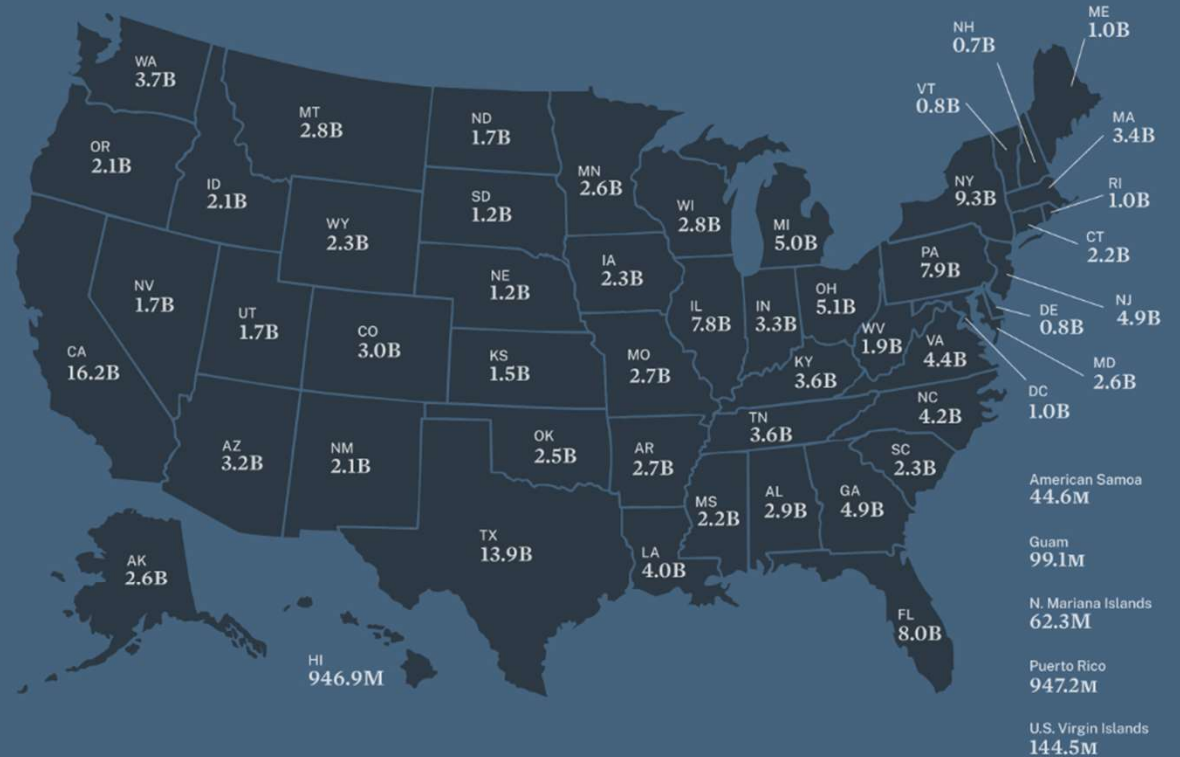


# BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW

ONE YEAR OF IMPACT

ANNOUNCED  
FUNDING TO DATE:

OVER  
**\$185B**



FUNDING PRIORITIES

# Common themes across all programs

## Safety

Safe transportation, especially where it can make the largest community impact

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## Modernization

New solutions and technology driving large improvements to transportation systems

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## Equity

Improve community connectivity and access to provide services where they are needed most

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## Climate & sustainability

Efficient projects that reduce congestion, emissions, or use sustainable energy solutions

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# How ITS ties into these themes

HOW YOUR EVERYDAY SYSTEMS RELATE

## Traffic solutions

- Traffic signal timing
- Adaptive signal control
- Connected vehicles
- Transit signal priority
- EV preemption
- Bike/ped detection
- Street lighting



## Benefits

- Reduce congestion/stop-and-go traffic
- Improve accessibility for all
- Connect underserved communities with job opportunities
- Protect vulnerable road users
- Improve quality of life
- Reduce noise & emissions
- Improve travel times
- Reduce fuel consumption

# Where can I find these grants?

WE'RE GLAD YOU ASKED

## [USDOT BIL grant program list](#)

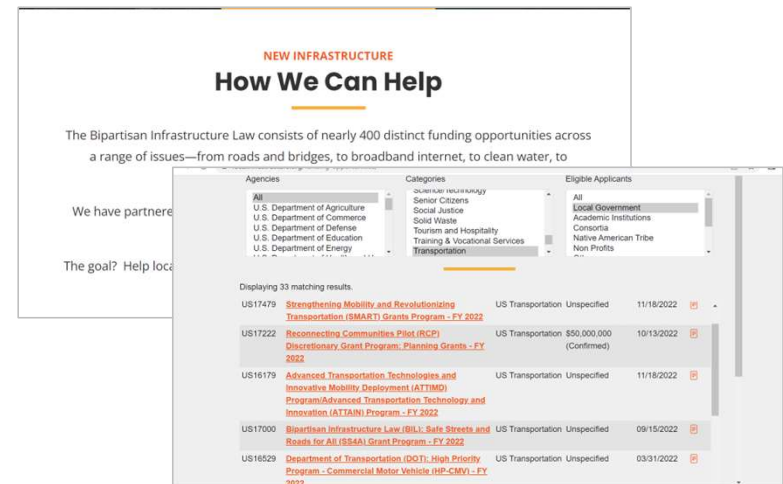
Complete list of BIL grants by category with 5-year grant total

## [Grants.gov](#)

Interactive online database for any grants with known opportunity numbers and titles

## [Local Infrastructure Hub](#)

Searchable online database, also offers boot camps to help small(er) agencies compete for grants



▲ **Local Infrastructure Hub**

Check it out at <https://localinfrastructure.org/funding-opportunities>





# Q-Free's Federal Grant Quick Reference Guide

Our top pics for traffic signal related grant opportunities.

» Download at Q-Free.com

**Federal Grant Quick Reference**

Project	Opening Date	Total Available	Term	Eligible Recipients	Eligible Projects
<a href="#">Transportation Alternatives to Supplemental, Shared and Low-Cost Long-Distance Transportation (2022-2024)</a>	Winter/Summer 2023	\$1.4B/none	FY 2022-2024	States, MPOs, local governments, and transit agencies	Alternative modes through support of parking, walking, bicycling, wheelchair accessibility, carpooling, telework and telepresence, transit agencies, transit-on-demand, mobility, micro-mobility, shared mobility, ride-sharing, and other services that support mobility and accessibility of transit services.
<a href="#">Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS)</a>	April 2023	\$100M	FY 2022-2024	MPOs, local governments, transit agencies, transit-on-demand, mobility, micro-mobility, shared mobility, ride-sharing, and other services that support mobility and accessibility of transit services.	Walking, bicycling, and other modes of transit that support mobility and accessibility of transit services.
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<a href="#">Reconnecting Communities and Jobs Program</a>	Summer 2023	\$200M/none	FY 2022-2024	States, MPOs, local governments, and transit agencies	States, MPOs, local governments, transit agencies, transit-on-demand, mobility, micro-mobility, shared mobility, ride-sharing, and other services that support mobility and accessibility of transit services.
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Based on publicly available information and subject to change. Updated: 1/17/2023

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▲ **Q-Free Federal Grant Quick Reference**  
Available at <https://www.q-free.com/funding/>  
or the Whova conference app





## Two upcoming grants to keep an eye on

- ✓ Applications open early fall
- ✓ Mid-November due dates
- ✓ It is never too early to prepare

### **SMART Grants Program**

Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation

- \$100M in grants annually for 5 years
- Fund projects that use data and technology to solve community challenges

### **ATTAIN Program**

Advanced Transportation Technology and Innovation

- \$60M annually for 5 years
- Fund projects to improve safety and reduce travel times for drivers and transit riders

# 4 practical considerations to align with common themes

Tips for picking and aligning projects to increase your chances to win





Priority given to...

## **Projects near hospitals or medical centers**

### **Ask yourself...**

- Equitable, safe access to medical care for all users, e.g., vehicles, transit, peds
- Is there a Level 1 hospital/trauma center located within the city? Does it serve a larger region?

### **Potential solutions**

- Transit signal priority
- Traffic flow/coordination
- Emergency vehicle preempt
- ADA accessibility
- Streetlights



Priority given to...

## **Projects that assist with emergency preparedness or rebuilding**

### **Ask yourself**

- Have there been any major events in the last 10 years such as floods, earthquakes, or hurricanes?
- Are there any key evacuation corridors?
- What makes your city different in relation to safety or response?
- Could you reduce EV response times, especially in congested areas?

### **Potential solutions**

- Central traffic management system
- Congestion mitigation – e.g., adaptive, traffic responsive
- Signs and sign control
- Video



Priority given to...

## **Safety initiatives that reduce accidents and injuries**

### **Ask yourself**

- Do we have any accident-prone areas or crossings?
- Are there intersections with common knockdowns?
- What are our highly congested areas that translate to incidents?

### **Potential solutions**

- Traffic signal controller or software updates
- Adaptive signal control
- CV/SPaT solutions



Priority given to...

## **Complete streets solutions with bike & ped focus**

### **Ask yourself**

- Are there areas where cyclists/peds share space on high-volume roads?
- Would improved street safety help people access more jobs?

### **Potential solutions**

- Smart bike sensors
- Bike lanes
- Cycle signs/tracking
- Improved signal timing



## **Bonus tip:**

Consider American made products and services that meet Build America, Buy America requirements





# Tools & tips

Resources to help you gain an edge



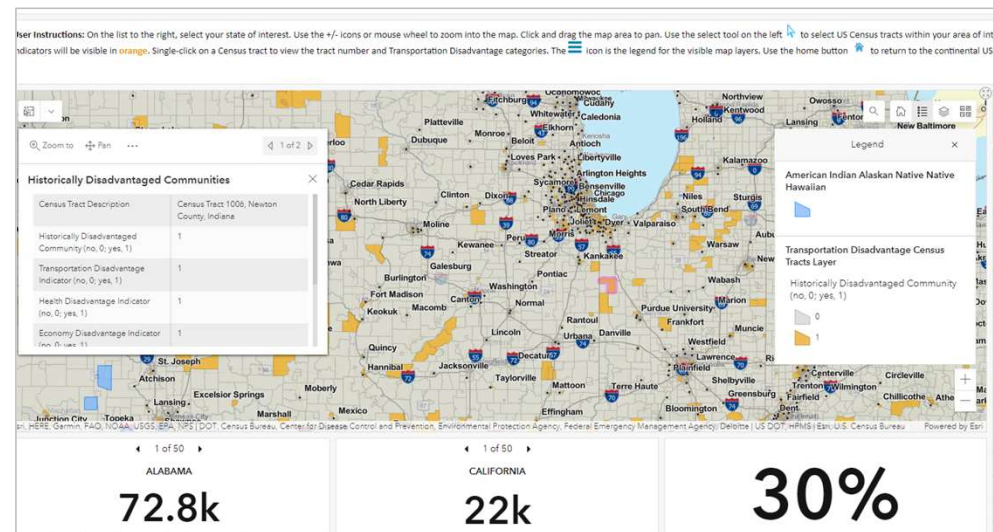
# Identifying disadvantaged areas

Projects in Areas of Persistent Poverty have increased odds of being funded.

These areas are defined as:

- County with  $\geq 20\%$  of the population living in poverty over last 30 years, OR
- Census Tract with a poverty rate of  $\geq 20\%$ , AND
- Located in the US

» Transportation disadvantaged census track



Source: <https://usdot.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/d6f90dfcc8b44525b04c7ce748a3674a>

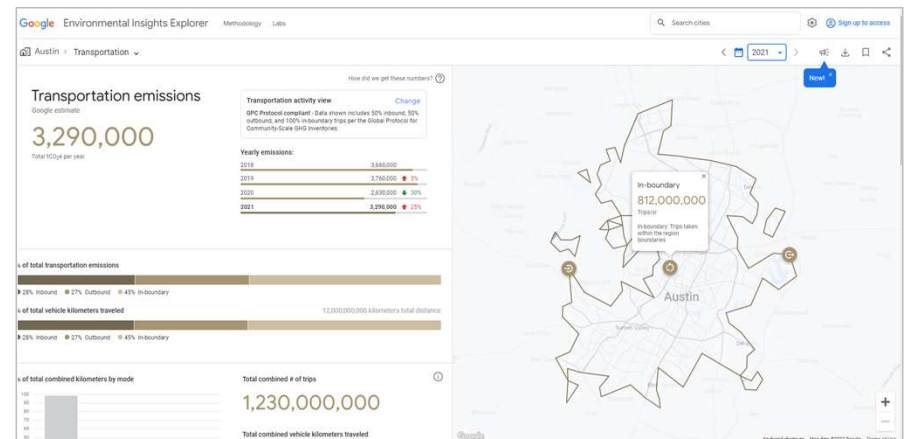


# Identifying heavily polluted areas

Projects in areas of increased Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions have better odds of being funded.

Check out the Google's **free** tool for assessing transportation-specific emissions.

» Environmental Insights Explorer



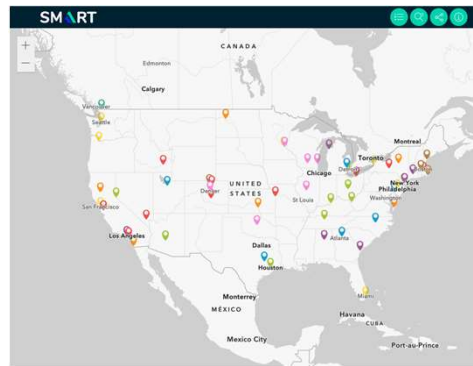
Source: <https://insights.sustainability.google/places/ChIJLwPMoJm1RIYRetVp1EtGm10/transportation>





## Pro Tip: Learn from past winners

Gain inspiration by seeing what projects have been awarded grants.



» 2022 SMART Grant Awards



» 2022 RAISE Grant Awards



# East Marginal Way Corridor Improvement Project

SEATTLE DOT

RAISE GRANT RECIPIENT

Improve mobility and safety along Seattle's most important freight corridor, boost the regional and state economy. Funds will help people who drive, walk and bike travel safely to industrial and maritime jobs as well as employment sites in Downtown Seattle.

- Adaptive/SCOOT
- ATMS
- Signal timing
- Bike detection



SAFETY



EQUITY



CLIMATE





CHICAGO

# \$3.9 million to improve traffic signal technologies that prioritize buses

CITY OF CHICAGO

ATCMTD GRANT RECIPIENT

Improve mobility and safety and provide multimodal transportation to decrease travel time for riders, increase system reliability and allow the city to create hundreds more signal priority intersections over the next several years.

- Adaptive
- Transit signal priority
- EV Preempt
- Traffic calming



SAFETY



EQUITY



CLIMATE



# Putting together a winning application

Getting started & applying



# Start early!

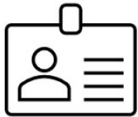
TIPS TO APPLY



## Register at SAM.gov & Grants.gov

Can take 2-4 weeks

[More information](#)



## Obtain a Unique Entity ID (UEI)

The old ID number, DUNS, is obsolete as of April 2022



## Add an AOR

An AOR is an Authorized Organization Representative





## 5 steps for a better process

1. Decide on a strategy before you decide to apply
2. Assume the proposal will take longer than you think, plan accordingly
3. Record everything, communicate with everyone
4. Store everything in one central location
5. Define the roles and responsibilities of every team member

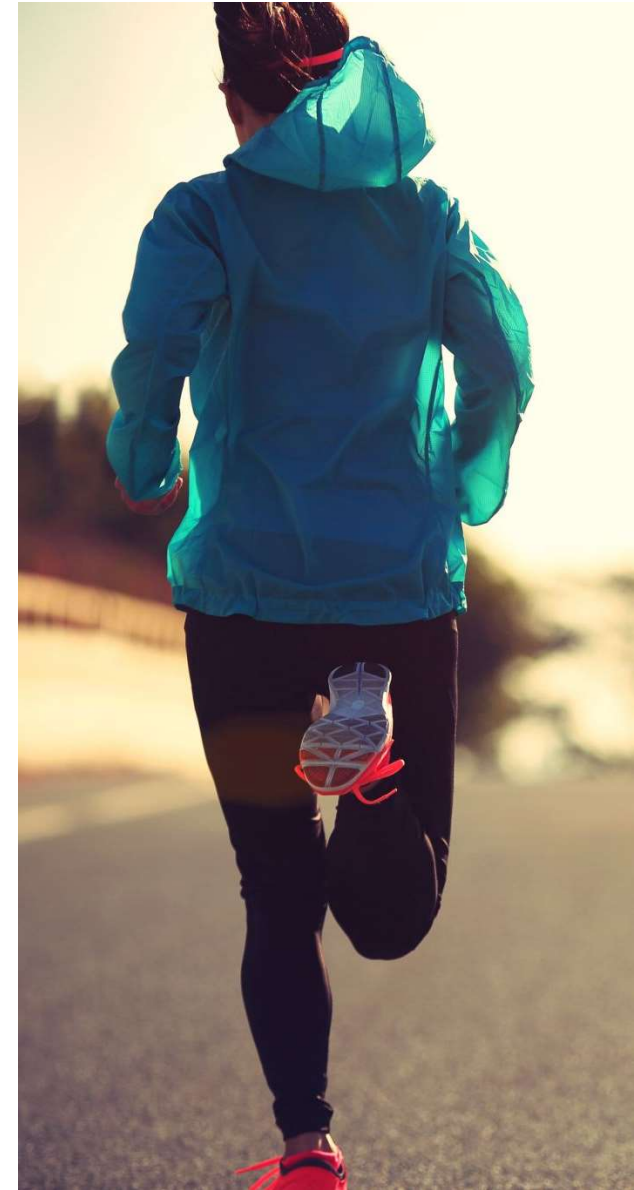
Source: <https://peakproposals.com/blog/best-practices-for-working-with-a-team-on-a-grant-proposal>



# How to compete

## Tips to take you over the finish line

- Don't do it alone – create a winning team
- Tell a story
- Align your project with merit criteria
- Include data-driven, reasonable and justifiable outcomes
- Demonstrate a reasonable schedule and timeline



## 3 key takeaways



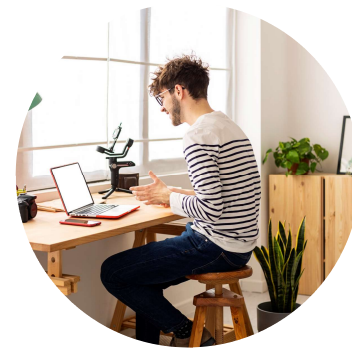
**Lots of money & opportunities**

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**Partnerships are key**

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**Start early**

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ABO



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## Slide 28

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**AB0** [Trisha Tunilla] [Derek Zydanowicz] Adding in my social links here like how we discussed (unless you think it should be on slide 2 instead). Can you turn it into a LinkedIn / Twitter hyperlink with the info displaying as well?  
Are sending this presentation out to attendees after?

Alison Boan, 2023-02-10T00:47:03.881

**AB0 0** [Derek Zydanowicz] [Trisha Tunilla] Can we add our Q-Free LinkedIn, Twitter and Instagram links here as well? Perhaps just with the social media icon for each with the hyperlink attached to it so when they click it it goes there? This should be sufficient if we're sending the presentation out afterwards.

Alison Boan, 2023-02-10T18:53:35.037