

# Equity, Climate & Transportation: New programs and opportunities

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# goals for equity and climate

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- Transportation electrification
  - Reduces vehicle emissions
  - Improves Air Quality
- Safe, reliable mobility choices and goods movement choices
  - Reduces travel emissions
  - Expands affordable access to opportunities
  - Improves sustainability of supply chains
- Opportunities for community engagement and planning

# transportation equity and climate work

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- Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (11/2021)
- Inflation Reduction Act (8/2022)
- Biden Administration work

# Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

*(aka the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law)*

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Funding to over 350 distinct programs across more than a dozen federal departments and agencies.

Includes programs for broadband, roadways, transit, rail, school buses, ferries, drinking water, lead service lines, ports, energy infrastructure, EV charging, resilience/natural infrastructure

Eligibility for States, MPOs, cities, counties, tribes

Majority of funding is “advance appropriated” or funded through trust funds – not contingent on annual appropriations.

# IIJA – transportation equity discretionary grant programs

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- **Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program**

- \$1 billion - Grants to remove, retrofit, or mitigate transportation facilities that create barriers to community connectivity. Includes planning and capital grants.

- **RAISE Grant Program**

- \$7.5 billion – Grants for projects to modernize roads, bridges, transit, rail, ports, and intermodal transportation and make our transportation systems safer, more accessible, affordable, and sustainable.

# IIJA – transportation equity discretionary grant programs con't

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- **Charging and Fueling Infrastructure grants**
  - \$2.5 billion in grants for the deployment of EV/alt fuel infrastructure along designated highways and in communities.
- **Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program**
  - Funding to build active transportation networks and spines.
  - Omnibus included \$45 million for FY23
- **Safe Streets and Roads for All**
  - \$5 billion - Planning grants to support local initiatives to prevent traffic fatalities and serious injuries.

# IJJA –other transportation discretionary grant programs

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- **The Bridge Investment Program**

- \$12.5 billion - grants to for projects to replace or repair bridges and culverts.

- **PROTECT discretionary grants**

- \$1.4 billion –grants to improve the resilience of highway infrastructure, evacuation routes, and at-risk coastal infrastructure.

- **Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program**

- \$350 million for projects to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions and improve habitat connectivity.

# IIJA –other transportation discretionary grant programs con't

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- **Rural Grant Program**

- \$2 billion for transportation projects in rural areas (areas with population of less than 200k)

- **Mega Grant Program**

- \$7.5 billion for large, complex projects that are difficult to fund by other means and likely to generate national or regional economic, mobility, or safety benefits.

- **INFRA Grant program**

- \$8 billion for multimodal freight and highway projects of national or regional significance.



# IIJA – Formula Dollars

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## Expanded Key Existing Programs

- Surface Transportation Block Grant - \$ 59.5 million for DE in FY23
  - Transportation Alternatives Program: 10% set-aside from STBG
- Highway Safety Improvement Program \$12.6 million for DE in FY23

## New Programs

- PROTECT formula dollars \$6 million for DE in FY23
- Carbon Reduction Program \$5.3 million for DE in FY23
- NEVI EV Charging program \$2.6 million for DE in FY23

# Inflation Reduction Act

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## **Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant Program (USDOT)**

- \$3.2 billion for competitive grants
- States, local governments, Tribal governments, Territories and MPOs
- Projects to improve transportation equity and accessibility and mitigate environmental impacts from transportation facilities.
- Set-aside for disadvantaged communities

## **Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund/ “Climate Bank” (EPA)**

- \$29 billion in funding to help nonprofits, states and other institutions use federal dollars to leverage private investments in projects that combat climate change.
- 40 % set-aside for clean energy financing in low income and disadvantaged communities

# Inflation Reduction Act con't

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## **Environmental and Climate Justice Block Grants (EPA)**

- \$3 billion in competitive 3-year grants to states, tribes and municipalities and a community-based nonprofit organization
- Funds for financial and technical assistances to address clean air and climate pollution in disadvantaged communities.

## **Reducing Air Pollution in Fenceline Communities (EPA)**

- \$3 billion for the purchase or installation of zero-emissions port equipment and technology and the development of climate action plans to reduce air pollutants at ports.
- \$1 billion for grants and rebates to help replace polluting heavy-duty vehicles with zero-emitting ones.

## **Clean Air and Climate Grants (EPA)**

- \$389 million in funding for grants to update our aging air pollution monitoring network,
- Includes \$50 million for low-income and disadvantaged schools to reduce air pollution at the schools.

# Biden Administration

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## **Justice40 Initiative**

Executive Order 14008 created the Justice40 Initiative to confront and address decades of underinvestment in disadvantaged communities.

Creates a goal that goal that 40 percent of the overall benefits of federal investments in climate and clean energy flow to disadvantaged communities

Interim guidance released July 2021.

## **FHWA policy memo** on using BIL resources to build a better America

identifies several goals, including promoting equity in transportation investments, reconnecting communities and including disadvantaged and under-represented groups in the planning, project selection and design process

# Resources

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White House Guide Book for all new IIJA programs:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/BUILDING-A-BETTER-AMERICA-V2.pdf>

White House Guide Book for IRA programs:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Inflation-Reduction-Act-Guidebook.pdf>

FHWA and FTA BIL dashboard: Fact sheets, Info on upcoming grant opportunities, webinars

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/>

<https://www.transit.dot.gov/BIL>

Justice40 Interim guidance: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/M-21-28.pdf>