

# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

## INFORMATION COLLECTION SUPPORTING STATEMENT

**[Local and Regional Project Assistance Program or “RAISE Transportation Discretionary Grants”]**

**[OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 2105-0563]**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This is to request the Office of Management and Budget’s (OMB) renewed three-year approved clearance for the information collection entitled, “Local and Regional Project Assistance Program or “RAISE Transportation Discretionary Grants””.

The Office of the Secretary (OST) within the Department of Transportation (DOT) provides financial assistance to States and the District of Columbia, any territory or possession of the United States; a unit of local government; a public agency or publicly chartered authority established by 1 or more States; a special purpose district or public authority with a transportation function, including a port authority; a federally recognized Indian Tribe or a consortium of such Indian Tribes; a transit agency; and a multi-State or multijurisdictional group of entities through the Local and Regional Project Assistance Program, which was established in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (Pub. L. 117-58) “Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)”, and referred by the DOT to as the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity, or RAISE Discretionary Grant program. This program was previously funded under the National Infrastructure Investments program through annual appropriations by Congress, and formerly referred to by the DOT as the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) and Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grants Programs, depending on the year of award. The purpose of the program is to provide capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure that will have a significant local or regional impact.

This is a request to reinstate the information collection activities that expired on July 31, 2022 under OMB Control Number: 2105-0563 which was published in the Federal Register Notice on February 28, 2019.

### **Part A. Justification**

#### **1. Circumstances that make the collection of information necessary.**

The collection of information is necessary for this program to solicit applications for grant funds, and monitor project financial conditions and project progress.

The RAISE program provides a unique opportunity for the DOT to invest in road, rail, transit and port projects that promise to achieve national objectives, and align with the Departments Strategic Goals of promoting Safety, Economic Strength and Global Competitiveness, Equity, and Climate and Sustainability. These are directly tied to a few of the RAISE program’s merit criteria on Safety, Economic Competitiveness and Tourism, and Environmental Sustainability. These criteria are evaluated based on the information submitted in applicant’s applications and which play a part in project selections.

OST requests information from applicants in three stages of program activity: 1) the application stage, 2) the funding agreement stage, 3) and the project monitoring stage. OST proposes information collection to enter funding agreements for outstanding FY 2019, FY 2020, FY 2021, and FY2022 awards, and to monitor obligated projects from all cycles. OST seeks a three-year clearance for information collection under the Local and Regional Project Assistance Program Program for the FY2023-FY2025 cycles, which would have similar application and management processes. Based on current and expected funding levels, OST estimates that a 3-year clearance will cover an additional 3,000 applications and 450 grants.

The relevant statutory authorization attached hereto as Exhibit A. A summary of the application requirements as they appear in the fiscal year 2022 Notice of Funding Opportunity for RAISE is attached as Exhibit B, as well as General Reporting Requirements outlined in Exhibit C.

### Application Stage

To be considered to receive a RAISE grant, a project sponsor must submit an application to DOT containing a project narrative, as detailed in the Notice of Funding Opportunity. The project narrative should include the information necessary for the Department to determine that the project satisfies statutory eligibility requirements.

### Funding Agreement Stage

DOT enters a funding agreement with each recipient. In that agreement, the recipient describes the project that DOT agreed to fund, which is typically the project that was described in the BUILD/RAISE application or a reduced-scope version of that project. The agreement also includes a project schedule, budget, and project related climate change and equity planning and policies.

### Project Monitoring Stage

OST requires each recipient to submit quarterly reports during the project to ensure the proper and timely expenditure of Federal funds under the grant.

The requirements comply with the 2 C.F.R. Part 200 and are restated in the funding agreement. During the project monitoring stage, the grantee will complete Quarterly Progress Reports to allow DOT to monitor the project budget and schedule.

Additionally, OST requires each recipient to submit annual performance reports for up to five years after project completion.

A more detailed description of the reporting requirements in standard BUILD/RAISE terms and conditions is attached hereto as Exhibit C.

**2. How, by whom, and for what purpose is the information to be used.**

The information collected will be used by OST and the DOT Operating Administrations that administer the grants.

OST will use the information collected in the application phase to evaluate proposals, make award decisions, and debriefs for unsuccessful applicants.

OST will use the information collected in the project monitoring phase to monitor the project budget and schedule. Much of the information will be produced and collected through standard project management practices implemented by recipients, so the burden of Government information collection for project monitoring is minimal.

**3. Extent of automated information collection.**

The Department will receive applications electronically via grants.gov from applicants and monitoring reports electronically via email or websites from awardees. OST has found that delivery of reports electronically is the most reliable way to collect information, and intends to use the existing grant administration systems to collect the information covered under this request. In order to minimize the burden on applicants, OMB approved standard forms are being used to collect information where possible. Such standard forms include the Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424), available online at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/sf-424-family.html>, and the post-award Federal Financial Reports form (SF-425), available online at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/post-award-reporting-forms.html>.

**4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.**

The information collected from grantees is project specific and the information is not available other than from the grantees. The information will be used to solicit projects for award and monitor projects on a quarterly basis.

**5. Efforts to minimize the burden on small businesses.**

Grantees include States and the District of Columbia, any territory or possession of the United States; a unit of local government; a public agency or publicly chartered authority established by 1 or more States; a special purpose district or public authority with a transportation function, including a port authority; a federally recognized Indian Tribe or a consortium of such Indian Tribes; a transit agency; and a multi-State or multijurisdictional group of entities.

No grantees are business organizations, small or otherwise.

**6. Impact of less frequent collection of information.**

The information collected from grantees is project specific and the information is not available other than from the grantees. The information will be used to solicit projects for award and monitor projects on a quarterly basis.

**7. Special Circumstances.**

If approved, all information collection will be consistent with the guidelines in 5 CFR 1320.6.

**8. Compliance with 5 CFR 1320.8(d). IF APPLICABLE, PROVIDE A COPY AND IDENTIFY THE DATE AND PAGE NUMBER OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER OF THE AGENCY'S NOTICE, REQUIRED BY 5 CFR 1320.8(d), SOLICITING COMMENTS ON THE INFORMATION COLLECTION PRIOR TO SUBMISSION TO OMB. SUMMARIZE PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED IN RESPONSE TO THAT NOTICE AND DESCRIBE ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE AGENCY IN RESPONSE TO THOSE COMMENTS. SPECIFICALLY ADDRESS COMMENTS RECEIVED ON COST AND HOUR BURDEN.**

**DESCRIBE EFFORTS TO CONSULT WITH PERSONS OUTSIDE THE AGENCY TO OBTAIN THEIR VIEWS ON THE AVAILABILITY OF DATA, FREQUENCY OF COLLECTION, THE CLARITY OF INSTRUCTIONS AND RECORDKEEPING, DISCLOSURE, OR REPORTING FORMAT (IF ANY), AND ON THE DATA ELEMENTS TO BE RECORDED, DISCLOSED, OR REPORTED.**

**CONSULTATION WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THOSE FROM WHOM INFORMATION IS TO BE OBTAINED OR THOSE WHO MUST COMPILE RECORDS SHOULD OCCUR AT LEAST ONCE EVERY 3 YEARS--EVEN IF THE COLLECTION OF INFORMATION ACTIVITY IS THE SAME AS IN PRIOR PERIODS. THERE MAY BE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT MAY PRECLUDE CONSULTATION IN A SPECIFIC SITUATION. THESE CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD BE EXPLAINED.**

**Include the publication date, volume number, and page number of the Federal Register notice that solicited public comments for a 60-day period. Include an electronic copy of this notice as an attachment. Summarize and address your office's position on the comments received. Describe any additional efforts to consult with outside persons on any aspect of the information collection. Attached a copy of the summary in ROCIS.**

**9. Payment or gifts to respondents.**

No payment is made to respondents, other than remuneration to successful RAISE or BUILD/TIGER grantees. The remuneration to grantees are in the form of reimbursements up to the amount of the RAISE/BUILD/TIGER award as negotiated in the funding agreement.

**10. Assurance of confidentiality.**

The Section H of the program’s annual notice of funding opportunity provides instructions to applicants who seek to protect confidential business information from disclosure under FOIA. Except as described in those notices, the program does not provide assurances of confidentiality for the information collected.

**11. Justification for collection of sensitive information.**

None of the information is of a sensitive nature.

**12. Estimate of burden hours for information requested.**

All burden hour estimates are based on: a comprehensive review of all the requirements associated with OST Discretionary Grant programs, discussions with appropriate operating administration staff, and analysis of other Department programs. The estimate of the cost to respondents by stage of the program follows:

Although various personnel are involved in the application, funding agreement and project monitoring activities, the average salary of the individuals involved is estimated to be \$42.76 per hour for all stages, based on a generalized grant application, agreement, and monitoring hourly work plan.

	<u># of Annual Requirements</u>	<u>Burden Hours Per Submission/Award</u>	<u>Total Burden Hours</u>
<b><u>NEW APPLICANTS/AWARDEES</u></b>			
Applications	1,000	100	10,000
Funding Agreement Stage	150	6	900
<b>New Applicant Total Annual Burden</b>	<b>1,150</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>10,900</b>
<b><u>AWARD RECIPIENTS</u></b>			
Quarterly Progress Reports	1600	5	8,000
Annual Performance Measure Report	150	5	750
<b>Award Recipient Total Annual Burden</b>	<b>1,750</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8,750</b>

	<u># of Annual Requirements</u>	<u>Burden Hours Per Submission/Award</u>	<u>Total Burden Hours</u>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2,900</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>19,650</b>

### Application Stage

OST estimates that it takes approximately 100 person-hours to compile an application package for a RAISE (BUILD/TIGER) application. Since OST expects to receive 1,000 applications per funding round, the total hours required are estimated to be 100,000 hours (100 hours x 1,000 applications = 100,000 hours) on a one-time basis, per funding round. . Therefore, the cost to the respondents is computed at **\$4,276,000** (100,000 hours x \$42.76 = \$4,276,000).

### Funding Agreement Stage:

OST estimates that it takes approximately 6 person-hours to provide the information necessary for funding agreements. Based on previous rounds of RAISE (BUILD/TIGER) awards, OST estimates that there will likely be 150 funding agreements per additional funding round. The total hours required are estimated to be 900 (6 hours x 150 agreements = 900 hours) on a one-time basis, per funding round. The cost to the respondents is computed at **\$38,484** (900 hours x \$42.76= \$38,484).

### Project Monitoring Stage

#### Quarterly Progress Reports:

OST estimates that it takes approximately 5 person-hours to develop and submit a quarterly progress report. Since OST expects to receive 1600 quarterly project progress reports annually, (approximately 400 active previously awarded projects), the total hours are estimated to be 8,000 (5 hours x 1600 reports).

#### Annual Performance Measure Report

OST estimates that it takes approximately 5 person-hours to develop and submit an annual performance measure report. Since OST expects to receive 150 performance measure report annually, the total hours are estimated to be 750 (5 hours x 150 reports).

The cost to the respondents is computed at **\$374,150** (8,000 hours x \$42.76 = \$342,080 for quarterly progress reports and 750 hours x \$42.76 = \$32,070 for annual performance measures).

The grand total annual cost to respondents for the application, funding agreement, and project monitoring sages is **\$4,688,634** (\$4,276,000 + \$38,484 + \$374,150).

The average cost of a respondent awardee in the year of application and award is **\$4,532.56** (106 hours x \$42.76= \$4,532.56).

**13. Estimate of the total annual costs burden.**

There is no additional cost beyond that shown in items 12 and 14.

**14. Estimates of costs to the Federal Government. THIS COLLECTION OF INFORMATION.**

	<u># of Annual Requirements</u>	<u>Burden Hours Per Submission/Award</u>	<u>Total Burden Hours</u>
Applications	1,000	10	10,000
Funding Agreement	150	3	450
Quarterly Progress Reports	1600	1	1600
Annual Performance Reports	150	1	150
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2,900</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>12,200</b>

Application Stage:

OST will review the applications to assess project eligibility and merit and to provide information for the discretionary decision-making process prior to the award of any future RAISE grants.

OST estimates that the average grade level of the reviewers is GS-13/Step 1, paid at \$49.85 per hour. Up to five teams will review each application for an average of 2 hours each in total, for a total of ten. Since we expect to evaluate 1,000 applications, the cost to the federal Government is **\$498,500** (10 hours x 1,000 applications = 10,000 hours. 10,000 hours x \$49.85 = \$498,500 per funding round).

Funding Agreement Stage:

Information will be requested from recipients to enter funding agreements under which the RAISE funds will be distributed.

OST estimates that the average grade level of the reviewers is GS-13/step 1, paid at \$49.85 per hour. Since we expect to negotiate 150 grant agreements and for one employee to spend about three hours requesting the information and using it to draft the grant agreements, the

cost to the federal Government is **\$22,432.50** (3 hours x 150 applications = 450 hours x \$49.85 = \$22,432.50), per funding round.

#### Project Monitoring Stage

##### Quarterly Progress Reports:

Individuals managing projects throughout OST and the DOT Operating Administrations vary from GS-9 to GS-15; however, in looking at the averages it can take a GS-13/step 1 (average salary, \$49.85 per hour) about 1 hour per report to review it. OST expects 400 previously awarded projects to submit 4 quarterly progress reports per year, or 1,600 submissions, annually. The cost to the federal Government is **\$119,640** (1 hour x 1,600 reports x \$49.85 = \$79,760), annually.

##### Annual Performance Measure Report:

OST expects 150 previously awarded projects to submit 1 annual performance measure reports per year, or 150 submissions, annually. The cost to the federal Government is **\$7,477.50** (1 hour x 150 reports x \$49.85 = \$7,477.50), annually.

**The grand total annual cost to the Federal Government is \$608,170 (12,200 hours x \$49.85/hour= \$608,170).**

#### **15. Explanation of the program change or adjustments.**

The Department has received increased funding for the program and has awarded more grants per year in recent rounds, which results in more burdened hours.

#### **16. Publication of results of data collection.**

None.

#### **17. Approval for not displaying the expiration date of OMB approval.**

OST anticipates displaying the expiration date for OMB approval.

#### **18. Exceptions to the certification statement.**

No exceptions are stated.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

**Provide any legal or other supporting documentation electronically. Attachments should include**

copies of the published 60-day and 30-day Federal Register Notices, and any forms, regulations, statutes, etc., associated with the collection.

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**Part B. Collections of Information Employing Statistical Methods.**

Complete Part B of the supporting statement only if the IC contains statistical methods. The following five questions must be answered if the IC involves statistical methods. You must also request a review and concurrence from the Bureau of Transportation Statistics before sending it forward to OMB.

1. Describe potential respondent universe and any sampling selection method to be used.
2. Describe procedures for collecting information, including statistical methodology for stratification and sample selection, estimation procedures, degree of accuracy needed, and less than annual periodic data cycles.
3. Describe methods to maximize response rate.
4. Describe tests of procedures or methods.
5. Provide name and telephone number of individuals who were consulted on statistical aspects of the IC and who will actually collect and/or analyze the information.

**EXHIBIT A: FY 2022 Local and Regional Project Assistance Program Text**  
 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act 2021 (Pub. L. 117-58,"Bipartisan Infrastructure Law," or "BIL")

SEC. 21202. LOCAL AND REGIONAL PROJECT ASSISTANCE.

(a) In General.--Chapter 67 of subtitle III of title 49, United States Code (as added by section 21201), is amended by adding at the end the following:

Sec. 6702. Local and regional project assistance

(a) Definitions.--In this section:

- (1) Area of persistent poverty.--The term 'area of persistent poverty' means--
  - (A) any county (or equivalent jurisdiction) in which, during the 30-year period ending on the date of enactment of this chapter, 20 percent or more of the population continually lived in poverty, as measured by--
    - (i) the 1990 decennial census;
    - (ii) the 2000 decennial census; and
    - (iii) the most recent annual small area income and poverty estimate of the Bureau of the Census;
  - (B) any census tract with a poverty rate of not less than 20 percent, as measured by the 5-year data series available from the American Community Survey of the Bureau of the Census for the period of 2014 through 2018; and
  - (C) any territory or possession of the United States.
- (2) Eligible entity.--The term 'eligible entity' means--
  - (A) a State;
  - (B) the District of Columbia;
  - (C) any territory or possession of the United States;
  - (D) a unit of local government;
  - (E) a public agency or publicly chartered authority established by 1 or more States;
  - (F) a special purpose district or public authority with a transportation function, including a port authority;
  - (G) a federally recognized Indian Tribe or a consortium of such Indian Tribes;
  - (H) a transit agency; and
  - (I) a multi-State or multijurisdictional group of entities described in any of subparagraphs (A) through (H).
- (3) Eligible project.--The term 'eligible project' means--
  - (A) a highway or bridge project eligible for assistance under title 23;
  - (B) a public transportation project eligible for assistance under chapter 53;
  - (C) a passenger rail or freight rail transportation project eligible for assistance under this title;
  - (D) a port infrastructure investment, including--
    - (i) inland port infrastructure; and
    - (ii) a land port-of-entry;
  - (E) the surface transportation components of an airport project eligible for assistance under part B of subtitle VII;
  - (F) a project for investment in a surface transportation facility located on Tribal land, the title or maintenance responsibility of which is vested in the Federal Government;
  - (G) a project to replace or rehabilitate a culvert or prevent stormwater runoff for the purpose of improving habitat for aquatic species that will advance the goal of the program described in subsection (b)(2); and
  - (H) any other surface transportation infrastructure project that the Secretary considers to be necessary to advance the goal of the program.
- (4) Program.--The term 'program' means the Local and Regional Project Assistance Program established under subsection (b)(1).
- (5) Rural area.--The term 'rural area' means an area that is located outside of an urbanized area.
- (6) Secretary.--The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of Transportation.

- (7) Urbanized area.--The term 'urbanized area' means an area with a population of more than 200,000 residents, based on the most recent decennial census.
- (b) Establishment.--
- (1) In general.--The Secretary shall establish and carry out a program, to be known as the 'Local and Regional Project Assistance Program', to provide for capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure.
  - (2) Goal.--The goal of the program shall be to fund eligible projects that will have a significant local or regional impact and improve transportation infrastructure.
- (c) Grants.--
- (1) In general.--In carrying out the program, the Secretary may make grants to eligible entities, on a competitive basis, in accordance with this section.
  - (2) Amount.--Except as otherwise provided in this section, each grant made under the program shall be in an amount equal to--
    - (A) not less than \$5,000,000 for an urbanized area;
    - (B) not less than \$1,000,000 for a rural area; and
    - (C) not more than \$25,000,000.
  - (3) Limitation.--Not more than 15 percent of the funds made available to carry out the program for a fiscal year may be awarded to eligible projects in a single State during that fiscal year.
- (d) Selection of Eligible Projects.--
- (1) Notice of funding opportunity.--Not later than 60 days after the date on which funds are made available to carry out the program, the Secretary shall publish a notice of funding opportunity for the funds.
  - (2) Applications.--To be eligible to receive a grant under the program, an eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary an application--
    - (A) in such form and containing such information as the Secretary considers to be appropriate; and
    - (B) by such date as the Secretary may establish, subject to the condition that the date shall be not later than 90 days after the date on which the Secretary issues the solicitation under paragraph (1).
  - (3) Primary selection criteria.--In awarding grants under the program, the Secretary shall evaluate the extent to which a project--
    - (A) improves safety;
    - (B) improves environmental sustainability;
    - (C) improves the quality of life of rural areas or urbanized areas;
    - (D) increases economic competitiveness and opportunity, including increasing tourism opportunities;
    - (E) contributes to a state of good repair; and
    - (F) improves mobility and community connectivity.
  - (4) Additional selection criteria.--In selecting projects to receive grants under the program, the Secretary shall take into consideration the extent to which--
    - (A) the project sponsors collaborated with other public and private entities;
    - (B) the project adopts innovative technologies or techniques, including--
      - (i) innovative technology;
      - (ii) innovative project delivery techniques; and
      - (iii) innovative project financing;
    - (C) the project has demonstrated readiness; and
    - (D) the project is cost effective.
  - (5) Transparency.--
    - (A) In general.--The Secretary, shall evaluate, through a methodology that is discernible and transparent to the public, the means by which each application submitted under paragraph (2) addresses the criteria under paragraphs (3) and (4) or otherwise established by the Secretary.
    - (B) Publication.--The methodology under subparagraph (A) shall be published by the Secretary as part of the notice of funding opportunity under the program.

- (6) Awards.--Not later than 270 days after the date on which amounts are made available to provide grants under the program for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall announce the selection by the Secretary of eligible projects to receive the grants in accordance with this section.
- (7) Technical assistance.--
- (A) In general.--On request of an eligible entity that submitted an application under paragraph (2) for a project that is not selected to receive a grant under the program, the Secretary shall provide to the eligible entity technical assistance and briefings relating to the project.
- (B) Treatment.--Technical assistance provided under this paragraph shall not be considered a guarantee of future selection of the applicable project under the program.
- (e) Federal Share.--
- (1) In general.--Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Federal share of the cost of an eligible project carried out using a grant provided under the program shall not exceed 80 percent.
- (2) Exception.--The Federal share of the cost of an eligible project carried out in a rural area, a historically disadvantaged community, or an area of persistent poverty using a grant under this subsection may exceed 80 percent, at the discretion of the Secretary.
- (3) Treatment of other federal funds.--Amounts provided under any of the following programs shall be considered to be a part of the non-Federal share for purposes of this subsection:
- (A) The tribal transportation program under section 202 of title 23.
- (B) The Federal lands transportation program under section 203 of title 23.
- (C) The TIFIA program (as defined in section (a) of title 23).
- (D) The Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing Program under chapter 224.
- (f) Other Considerations.--
- (1) In general.--Of the total amount made available to carry out the program for each fiscal year--
- (A) not more than 50 percent shall be allocated for eligible projects located in rural areas; and
- (B) not more than 50 percent shall be allocated for eligible projects located in urbanized areas.
- (2) Historically disadvantaged communities and areas of persistent poverty.--Of the total amount made available to carry out the program for each fiscal year, not less than 1 percent shall be awarded for projects in historically disadvantaged communities or areas of persistent poverty.
- (3) Multimodal and geographical considerations.--In selecting projects to receive grants under the program, the Secretary shall take into consideration geographical and modal diversity.
- (g) Project Planning.--Of the amounts made available to carry out the program for each fiscal year, not less than 5 percent shall be made available for the planning, preparation, or design of eligible projects.
- (h) Transfer of Authority.--Of the amounts made available to carry out the program for each fiscal year, the Secretary may transfer not more than 2 percent for a fiscal year to the Administrator of any of the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, the Federal Railroad Administration, or the Maritime Administration to award and oversee grants and credit assistance in accordance with this section.
- (i) Credit Program Costs.--
- (1) In general.--Subject to paragraph (2), at the request of an eligible entity, the Secretary may use a grant provided to the eligible entity under the program to pay the subsidy or credit risk premium, and the administrative costs, of an eligible project that is eligible for Federal credit assistance under--
- (A) chapter 224; or
- (B) chapter 6 of title 23.
- (2) Limitation.--Not more than 20 percent of the funds made available to carry out the program for a fiscal year may be used to carry out paragraph (1).
- (j) Authorization of Appropriations.--There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$1,500,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026, to remain available for a period of 3 fiscal years following the fiscal year for which the amounts are appropriated.
- (k) Reports.--
- (1) Annual report.--The Secretary shall make available on the website of the Department of Transportation at the end of each fiscal year an annual report that describes each eligible project for which a grant was provided under the program during that fiscal year.

(2) Comptroller general.--Not later than 1 year after the date on which the initial grants are awarded for eligible projects under the program, the Comptroller General of the United States shall--

(A) review the administration of the program, including--

(i) the solicitation process; and

(ii) the selection process, including--

(I) the adequacy and fairness of the process; and

(II) the selection criteria; and

(B) submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report describing the findings of the review under subparagraph (A), including recommendations for improving the administration of the program, if any.

(b) Study.--Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct, and submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report describing the results of, a study of how changes to Federal share matching requirements and selection criteria, such as using State population data in Department discretionary programs, may impact the allocations made to States.

(c) Clerical Amendment.--The analysis for subtitle III of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

CHAPTER 67--Multimodal Infrastructure Investments

6701. National infrastructure project assistance.

6702. Local and regional project assistance.

EXHIBIT B: Summary of Application Information Requirements

The following is a summary of instructions provided to applicants found in Section D: Application and Submission Information, in the FY2022 Notice of Funding Opportunity:

**General:** Applications must be submitted through [www.Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov). Instructions for submitting applications can be found at <https://www.transportation.gov/raisegrants>. The application must include the Standard Form 424 (Application for Federal Assistance), cover page, and the Project Narrative. Applicants are encouraged to complete the SF-424C and attach to their application the “RAISE 2022 Project Information Form” available at [www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants/raise-info](http://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants/raise-info).

In addition to a detailed statement of work, detailed project schedule, and detailed project budget, the project narrative should include a table of contents, maps and graphics, as appropriate, to make the information easier to review. DOT recommends that the project narrative be prepared with standard formatting preferences (a single-spaced document, using a standard 12-point font such as Times New Roman, with 1-inch margins). The project narrative may not exceed 30 pages in length, excluding cover pages and table of contents. The only substantive portions that may exceed the 30-page limit are documents supporting assertions or conclusions made in the 30-page project narrative, but evaluators are not required to review supporting documents as part of the merit review described in Section E. If possible, website links to supporting documentation should be provided rather than copies of these supporting materials. If supporting documents are submitted, applicants should clearly reference these in the respective section of the project narrative. DOT recommends using appropriately descriptive file names (e.g., “Project Narrative,” “Maps,” “Memoranda of Understanding and Letters of Support,”) for all attachments..

**Basic Project Information:** The applicant should include the project information form, shown below:

Field Name	Instructions
<b>Project Name</b>	Enter a <b>concise</b> , descriptive <b>title</b> for the project. This should be the same title used in the Grants.gov SF-424 submission and the application narrative.

<b>Project Description</b>	<p>Describe the project in plain English terms, using <b><u>no more than 100 words</u></b>. For example, "The project will fund construction activities for streetcar service from location X to location Y" or " the RAISE grant will replace the existing bridge over the W river on Interstate-X between the cities of Y and Z."</p> <p>Please <b><u>do not</u></b> describe the project's benefits, background, or alignment with the selection criteria in this description field.</p>
<b>Urban/Rural</b>	<p>Identify whether the project is <b><u>located in a rural or urban area</u></b>, using the drop-down menu. For RAISE 2022, a project is designated as urban if it is located within (or on the boundary of) a Census-designated urbanized area that had a population greater than 200,000 in the 2010 Census. If a project is located outside a Census-designated urbanized area with a population greater than 200,000, it is designated as a rural project.</p>
<b>Urbanized Area</b>	<p>If you have identified the project as "urban," please select the <b><u>associated 2010 Census-designated urbanized area (UA)</u></b> from the drop-down. If you identified the project as "rural" but it is located in an UA with a population under 200,000, please select the UA from the drop-down. If you have identified the project as "rural" and it is located outside an urbanized area, please select "Not located in an urbanized area" from the drop-down.</p>
<b>Capital or Planning</b>	<p>Identify the project as <b><u>capital</u></b> or <b><u>planning</u></b>.</p> <p>The "<b><u>capital</u></b>" designation is for projects that requesting funding for the construction of surface transportation capital infrastructure.</p> <p>The "<b><u>planning</u></b>" designation is for projects that are requesting funding primarily for planning, preparation, or design of eligible surface transportation capital projects.</p>
<b>Amount Requested</b>	<p>Enter the <b><u>total amount of RAISE funds requested</u></b> for this project in this application.  <i>[See Section B.2 for minimum and maximum award size]</i></p>

<b>Project Location County</b>	<b>Identify the county</b> where the project is located in using the drop-down. If the project is located in more than one county, please identify the county in which the majority of the project is located.
<b>Additional Project Counties</b>	<b>Identify additional counties separated by a comma.</b> For instance, if the project additionally runs through Middlesex County and Suffolk County, please enter 'Middlesex County, Suffolk County' in the cell.
<b>Project Location Census Tract</b>	<a href="#">Identify the census tract number of the project. Please visit USDOT's RAISE webpage to review a full list of census tracts by state and county or refer to the Census Bureau's TIGER Web map to identify. For example, if the most central tract is Census Tract 93.30, please enter '93.30' into the cell. The last zero may be missing from your response (e.g., 93.30 may display as 93.3). If the project is located in more than one census tract please identify the census tract in which the majority of the project is located.</a>
<b>Other Project Census Tracts</b>	<b>Identify other census tracts in which the project is located, seperated by a comma.</b> For example, if the project is located in Census Tract 93.31, Census Tract 93.32, and Census Tract 94.03, please enter '93.31, 93.32, 94.03' into the cell.
<b>Project Located in an Area of Persistent Poverty?</b>	<a href="#">Identify if the project is located in an area of persistent poverty based on the critieria outlined in the NOFO. The list of counties and census tracts that meet this definition can be found on USDOT's RAISE webpage.</a>
<b>Project Located in a Historically Disadvantaged Community?</b>	<a href="#">Identify if the project is located in a Historically Disadvantage Community based on the information outlined in the NOFO. The list of census tracts that meet this definition can be found on USDOT's RAISE website.</a>
<b>Project Location Zip Code</b>	<b>Identify the 5-digit zip code of the project location.</b> If the project is located in more than one zip codes, please identify the zip code in which the majority of the project is located.

<b>Project Location Latitude</b>	<u>Please provide the project's latitude coordinates. For projects that are not located at a single set of coordinates, please provide a centralized set of coordinates. Please use the US Census Bureau's Geocoder Tool to identify the project's coordinates.</u>
<b>Project Location Longitude</b>	<u>Please provide the project's longitude coordinates. For projects that are not located at a single set of coordinates, please provide a centralized set of coordinates. Please use the US Census Bureau's Geocoder Tool to identify the project's coordinates.</u>
<b>Project Located in a Federally-Designated Community Zone?</b>	<u>Identify if the project is located in one of four Federally designated community development zones (Opportunity Zones, Empowerment Zones, Promise Zones, or Choice Neighborhoods) If yes, please describe which of the four Federally designated community development zones in which your project is located.</u> <u>Opportunity Zones: (<a href="https://opportunityzones.hud.gov/">https://opportunityzones.hud.gov/</a>)</u> <u>Empowerment Zones: (<a href="https://www.hud.gov/hudprograms/empowerment_zones">https://www.hud.gov/hudprograms/empowerment_zones</a>)</u> <u>Promise Zones: (<a href="https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/field_policy_mgt/fieldpolicymgtpz">https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/field_policy_mgt/fieldpolicymgtpz</a>)</u> <u>Choice Neighborhoods: (<a href="https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/ph/cn">https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/ph/cn</a>)</u>
<b>Project Type</b>	Identify the Primary and Secondary project type combination that most closely aligns with your project from the choices in the drop-down menu. See the "Project Types" tab in this file for further information and project type definitions.
<b>US DOT FY22 Discretionary Application?</b>	If the applicant intends to submit this project to another FY 2022 USDOT discretionary grant program, please list the name of the program(s).
<b>Other Federal Agency Assistance?</b>	If this project has applied for another Federal (non-USDOT) financial assistance or capacity-building program, please list the name of the program(s).
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	Enter the <b>total cost of the project</b> . This should equal the sum of Total Federal Funding and Total Non-Federal Funding. <i>This value may not be less than the amount requested.</i>

<b>Total Federal Funding</b>	Enter the <b><u>amount of funds committed to the project from ALL Federal sources including the proposed RAISE amount.</u></b> <i>This value may not be less than the amount requested.</i>
<b>Total Non-Federal Funding</b>	Enter the <b><u>amount of funds committed to the project from non-Federal sources.</u></b> For <b>RAISE projects designated as urban</b> , the total non-Federal funding amount must be greater than or equal to 20% of the project cost unless the project is located in a rural area, a historically disadvantaged community, or an area of persistent poverty as defined in the RAISE NOFO.
<b>Tribal Government?</b>	Select “Yes” from the drop-down menu if the applicant is a <b><u>Federally recognized tribal government.</u></b>
<b>Tribal Benefits?</b>	<b><u>If the applicant is not a Federally recognized tribal government,</u></b> is the project located on tribal land? And if not, does it have direct tribal benefits? Answer using the drop-down menu.
<b>Private Corporation Involvement</b>	Does this project <b><u>involve (a) private entity(ies) that will receive a direct and predictable financial benefit</u></b> if the project is selected for award? This includes, but it not limited to, private owners of infrastructure facilities being improved and private freight shippers or carriers directly benefitting from completion of the proposed project.
<b>Private Corporation Name(s)</b>	<b><u>If this project directly involves or benefits a specific private corporation,</u></b> please list the corporation(s) separated by a comma.
<b>TIFIA/RRIF?</b>	Is the project currently, or does this project anticipate applying for Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act ( <b><u>TIFIA</u></b> ) or Railroad Rehabilitation & Improvement Financing ( <b><u>RRIF</u></b> ) <b>loans</b> ?

<b>Department Financing Program?</b>	If your application is unsuccessful, would you like to be contacted about the <b><u>Department's financing program?</u></b>
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**Project Narrative:** The project narrative should include the information necessary for DOT to determine that the project satisfies project requirements described in Sections B and C and to assess the selection criteria specified in Section E.1. To the extent practicable, applicants should provide supporting data and documentation in a form that is directly verifiable by DOT. DOT expects applications to be complete upon submission and will evaluate the application based on information submitted. DOT may ask any applicant to supplement data in its application but is not required to do so. Lack of supporting information provided with the application negatively affects competitiveness of the application, as described in Section E.2.

The DOT recommends that applicants provide relevant information in six sections:

- I. Project Description
- II. Project Location
- III. Grant Funds, Sources and Uses of all Project Funding
- IV. Merit Criteria
- V. Project Readiness- Environmental Risk
- VI. Benefit-Cost Analysis: A benefit-cost analysis (BCA) should be included for capital construction projects as an appendix to the Project Narrative, and guidance is included in the Notice of Funding Opportunity.

**Protection of Confidential Business Information:** All information submitted as part of or in support of any application shall use publicly available data or data that can be made public and methodologies that are accepted by industry practice and standards, to the extent possible. If the applicant submits information that the applicant considers to be a trade secret or confidential commercial or financial information, the applicant must provide that information in a separate document, which the applicant may cross-reference from the application narrative or other portions of the application. For the separate document containing confidential information, the applicant must do the following: (1) state on the cover of that document that it “Contains Confidential Business Information (CBI)”; (2) mark each page that contains confidential information with “CBI”; (3) highlight or otherwise denote the confidential content on each page; and (4) at the end of the document, explain how disclosure of the confidential information would cause substantial competitive harm. DOT will protect confidential information complying with these requirements to the extent required under applicable law. If DOT receives a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for the information that the applicant has marked in accordance with this section, DOT will follow the procedures described in its FOIA regulations at 49 C.F.R. § 7.29. Only information that is in the separate document, marked in accordance with this section, and ultimately determined to be confidential under § 7.29 will be exempt from disclosure under FOIA.

**Publication of Application Information:** Following the completion of the selection process and announcement of awards, DOT intends to publish a list of all applications received along with the names of the applicant organizations and funding amounts requested. Except for the information properly marked as described in Section H.1. of the NOFO, DOT may make application narratives publicly available or share application information within DOT or with other Federal agencies if DOT determines that sharing is relevant to the respective program's objectives.

EXHIBIT C: Reporting Requirements for Recipient (from FY2021 RAISE General Terms and Conditions)

**GENERAL REPORTING TERMS**

Report Submission.

The Recipient shall send all reports required by the grant agreement to all of the DOT contacts who are listed in the funding agreement.

Alternative Reporting Methods.

The Administering Operating Administration may establish processes for the Recipient to submit reports required by the funding agreement, including electronic submission processes. If the Recipient is notified of those processes in writing, the Recipient shall use the processes required by the Administering Operating Administration.

Paperwork Reduction Act Notice.

Under 5 C.F.R. 1320.6, the Recipient is not required to respond to a collection of information that does not display a currently valid control number issued by the Office of Management and Budget (the “OMB”).

**PROGRESS AND FINANCIAL REPORTING**

Quarterly Project Progress Reports and Recertifications.

On or before the 20th day of the first month of each calendar year quarter and until the end of the period of performance, the Recipient shall submit to the USDOT a Quarterly Project Progress Report and Recertification in the format and with the content described in Exhibit C of the grant agreements. If the date of this agreement is in the final month of a calendar year quarter, then the Recipient shall submit the first Quarterly Project Progress Report and Recertification in the second calendar year quarter that begins after the date of this agreement.

Final Progress Reports and Financial Information.

No later than 120 days after the end of the period of performance, the Recipient shall submit (1) a Final Project Progress Report and Recertification in the format and with the content described in Exhibit C for each Quarterly Project Progress Report and Recertification, including a final Federal Financial Report (SF-425); and (2) any other information required under the Administering Operating Administration’s award closeout procedures

**PERFORMANCE REPORTING**

Baseline Performance Measurement.

If the Capital-Planning Designation in section 2.5 of the grant agreement is “Capital,” then: (1) the Recipient shall collect data for each performance measure that is identified in the Performance Measure Table in Attachment C, accurate as of the Baseline Measurement Date that is identified in Attachment C; and (2) on or before the Baseline Report Date that is stated in Attachment C, the Recipient shall submit a Baseline Performance Measurement Report that contains the data collected under this section 15.1 and a detailed description of the data sources, assumptions, variability, and estimated levels of precision for each performance measure that is identified in the Performance Measure Table in Attachment C.

#### Post-construction Performance Measurement.

If the Capital-Planning Designation in section 2.5 is “Capital,” the

(1) for each performance measure that is identified in the Performance Measure Table in Attachment C with quarterly measurement frequency, for each of 12 consecutive calendar quarters, beginning with the first calendar quarter that begins after the Project substantial completion date, at least once during the quarter, the Recipient shall collect data for that performance measure;

(2) for each performance measure that is identified in the Performance Measure Table in Attachment C with annual measurement frequency, the Recipient shall collect data for that performance measure on at least three separate occasions:

- (i) once during the four consecutive calendar quarters that begin after the Project substantial completion date;
- (ii) once during the fourth calendar quarter after the first collection; and
- (iii) once during the eighth calendar quarter after the first collection; and

(3) not later than January 31 of each year that follows a calendar year during which data was collected under this section 15.2, the Recipient shall submit to the USDOT a Post-construction Performance Measurement Report containing the data collected under this section 15.2 in the previous calendar year and stating the dates when the data was collected.

If an external factor significantly affects the value of a performance measure collected under this section 15.2, then the Recipient shall identify that external factor in the Post-construction Performance Measurement Report and discuss its influence on the performance measure.

#### Project Outcomes Report.

If the Capital-Planning Designation in section 2.5 is “Capital,” then the Recipient shall submit to the USDOT, not later than January 31 of the year that follows the final calendar year during which data was collected under section 15.2, a Project Outcomes Report that contains:

- (1) a narrative discussion detailing project successes and the influence of external factors on project expectations;

- (2) all baseline and post-construction performance measurement data that the Recipient reported in the Baseline Performance Measurement Report and the Post-construction Performance Measurement Reports; and
- (3) an ex post examination of project effectiveness relative to the baseline data that the Recipient reported in the Baseline Performance Measurement Report.

Performance Reporting Survival.

The data collection and reporting requirements in this article 15 survive the termination of the grant agreement.