



# BI-L Grant Prioritization, Local experiences and Resources

## 2023 MCEA

Jason P. Spilak, PE, FHWA MN Division – Local/Grants Program Manager

6/23/23



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration

# Discretionary Grant Stages



# Legislation Stage — BIL-IIJA Discretionary Grants


- On November 15th, 2021, President Biden signed the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law \(BIL\)](#) – a.k.a. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) both formula and discretionary grants

## BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW



- Discretionary Grants identified [Bipartisan Infrastructure Guidebook](#) – January 2022 --intended as a “roadmap” to the funding available

## A GUIDEBOOK TO THE BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW

 BUILD.GOV

- GRANT PROGRAMS --- mostly new COMPETITIVE programs, only a few existing programs

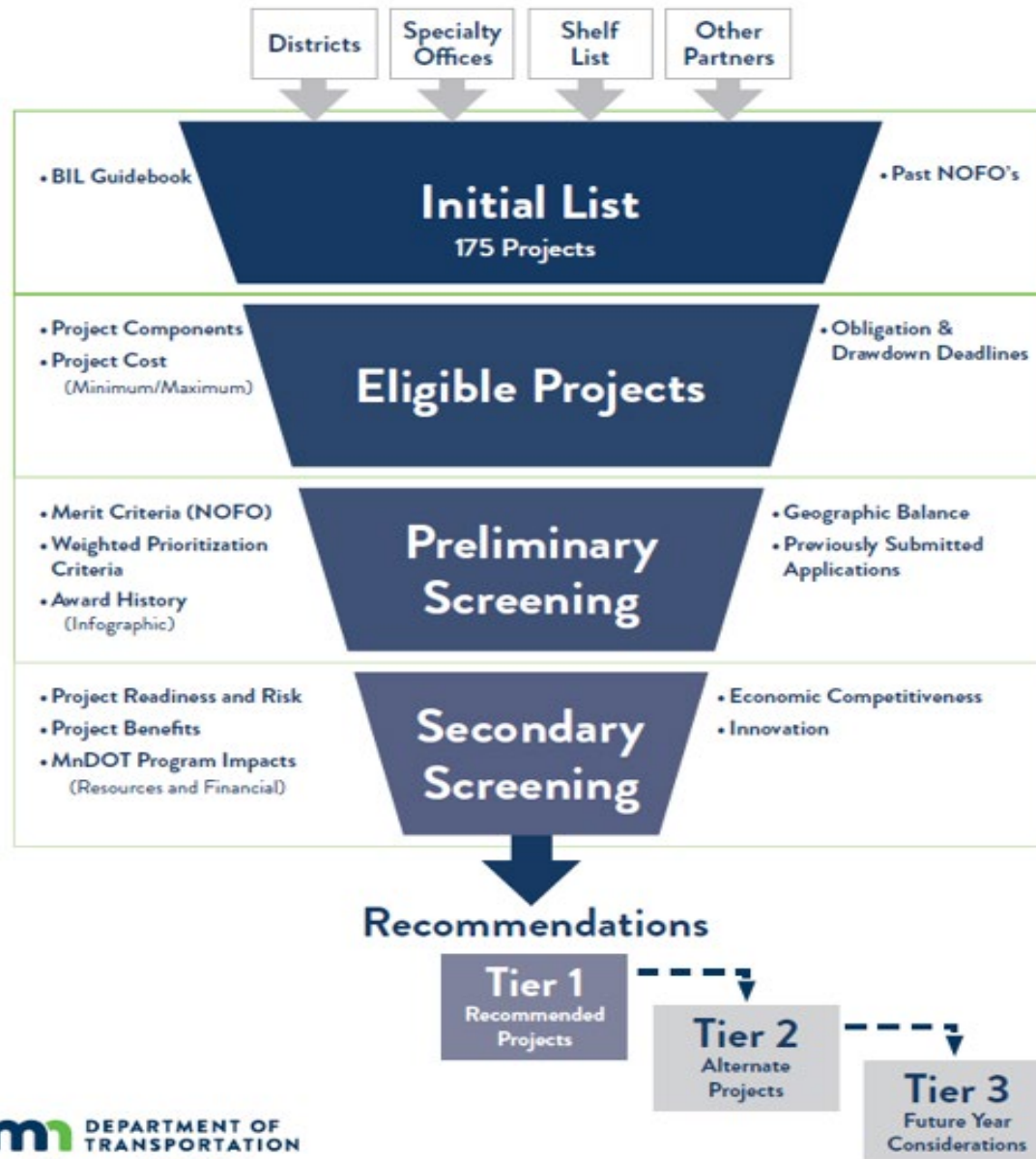
# Pre-Award Stage — solicitations and applications

- Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFO's)
- Amended NOFO's
- Questions/contacts; HQ and Division Office
- Application Due Dates
  - Keep current with Grants.gov

The screenshot displays the Grants.gov search page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Grants.gov logo and the tagline "FIND. APPLY. SUCCEED.™". A search bar is located in the top right corner, with a dropdown menu set to "Grant Opportunities" and a "GO" button. Below the navigation bar, there is a horizontal menu with options: HOME, LEARN GRANTS, SEARCH GRANTS (highlighted), APPLICANTS, GRANTORS, SYSTEM-TO-SYSTEM, FORMS, CONNECT, and SUPPORT. The main content area is titled "SEARCH GRANTS" and includes a "BASIC SEARCH CRITERIA" section with input fields for "Keyword(s)", "Opportunity Number", and "CFDA", each with a clear button. A "SEARCH" button is positioned below these fields. To the right of the search criteria, there are options for "SORT BY" (set to "Posted Date (Descending)") and "DATE RANGE" (set to "All Available"), both with "Update" buttons. A "Save Search" button is also present. Below the search criteria, a blue banner indicates "1 - 25 OF 3029 MATCHING RESULTS:" and includes pagination controls: "« Previous 1 2 3 4 5 6 ... 122 Next »". The bottom of the screenshot shows the beginning of a table with columns for "Opportunity Number", "Opportunity Title", "Agency", "Opportunity", "Posted Date", and "Close Date".



# MnDOT FFY 2022 - 2026 BIL Grant Prioritization Process



# Pre-Award Stage: MnDOT Leadership Approvals, Hiring Consultant, Application

NOFO issued

Prioritized Project List

CORE Team - recommendation

TP&IC – initial consideration

SLT – red flag review

ELT – red flag review

TP&IC recommendation to Commissioner for approval of projects

District/Office hires consultant

Consultant prepares application

District/Office and consultant present application at CORE Team

Application turned into Grants.gov

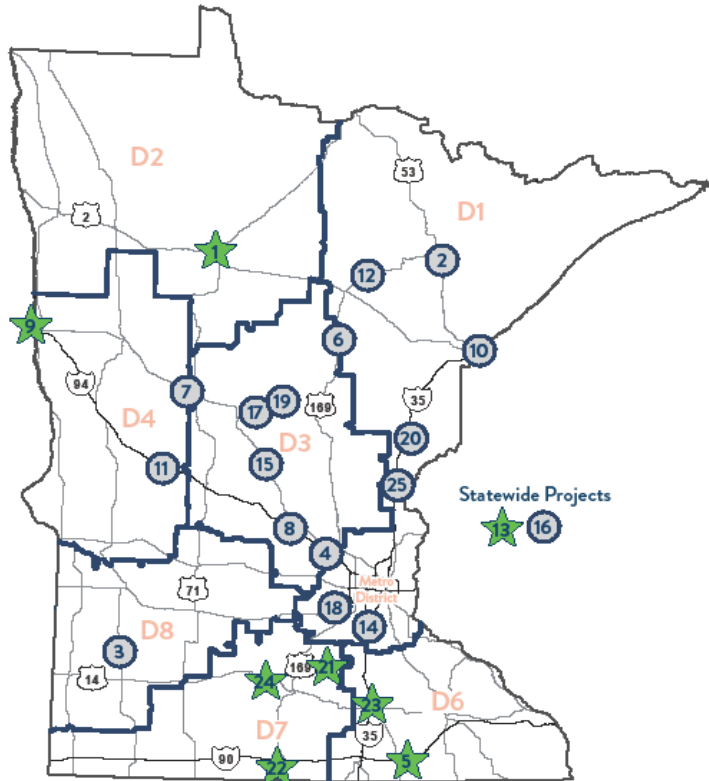
PROCESS

# MnDOT's Discretionary Grants Submitted & Awarded

## FFY 2022 - 2026

MnDOT BIL Grant Submitted and Awarded Projects

as of April 25, 2023



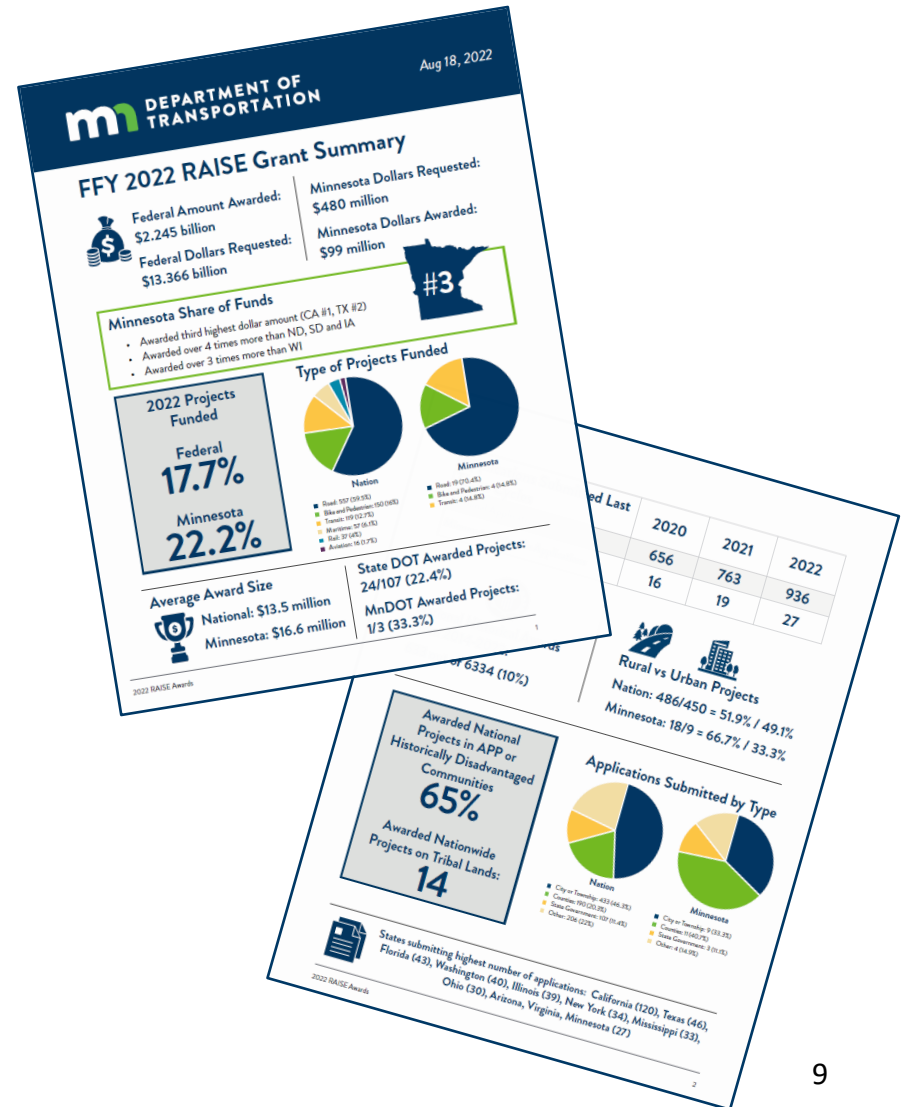
#	Project Description	Congr Dist	FFY	Grant	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
1	TH 197/Paul Buryan Drive in Bemidji	4	2022	RAISE	\$18 M	\$18 million
2	TH 53 Improvements at Rock Ridge Public Schools	8	2022, 2023	RAISE	\$25 M	-, pending
			2022	INFRA	\$24 M	-
3	Marshall Minnesota Highway 19 Reconstruction Project	4	2022	RAISE	\$13 M	-
			2023		\$15.39 M	pending
4	I-94 Gap Monticello to Albertville	6	2022	INFRA		
				Mega	\$60 M	-
5	I-90 Bridge Replacement in Austin	1	2022	INFRA		
				BIP Bridge	\$25 M	\$25 million (INFRA)
6	US 169 from Mississippi River to TH 200 in Hill City (Shoulder Widening)	8	2022	Rural	\$19 M	-
7	TH 10 Gap near Wadena (2 to 4 lane expansion)	8	2022	Rural	\$11.81 M	-
8	I-94/TH 24 Interchange Reconstruction in Clearwater	6	2022	Rural	\$19 M	-
9	Downtown Moorhead Safety, Mobility and Livability Railgrade Separation Project (City Submittal)	4	2022	RAISE	\$33.5 M	\$26.3 million (Rural)
				INFRA		
				Rural		
				Mega		
				RCE (MnDOT Submittal)		
10	I-535 Blatnik Bridge	8	2022	BIP Large	\$895 M	-
11	I-94 Bridge Bundle in Alexandria	4	2022	BIP Bridge	\$5.7 M	-
12	goMARTI-Minnesota's Autonomous Rural Transit Initiative (Letter of Support Only)	8	2022	ATTAIN	\$9.3 M	pending
13	CDOT ATMA Work Zone Safety (Colorado DOT Joint Application)	N/A	2022	SMART	\$1.89 M	\$1.89 million
14	MAC Automated People Movers (APMs) (Letter of Support Only)	2	2022	SMART	\$1.8 M	-
15	TH 27 Mississippi River Bridge Grade Separation (City of Little Falls Submittal)	7	2022	CRISI	\$2.5 M	pending
16	Council of State Governments and Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission - Invest Midwest (Letter of Support Only)	N/A	2022	CRISI	\$4 M	pending
17	Brainerd Hwy 371/Hwy 210/BNSF Railroad Grade Separation Project	8	2022	CRISI	\$2 M	pending
18	Twin Cities and Western Railroad - Continuous Rail Conversion (Letter of Support Only)	3	2022	CRISI	\$2.5 M	pending
19	Washington Street Reconstruction in Brainerd	4	2023	RAISE	\$24.98 M	pending
20	MnDOT Hinkley Corridor Crossing Elimination and Improvement Study	8	2022	RCE Planning	\$480 K	pending
21	Minnesota River Valley Transit	1/2				
22	Prairie Lake Transit					
23	Southern Minnesota Area Rural Transit	1	2022	Low or No Emission	\$3.4 M	\$3.4 million
24	Heartland Express					
25	Northern Lights Express	3/6/8	2022	Corridor ID	\$500 K	pending
			2022	Fed-State Partnership	\$474 M	pending



# Pre-Award — solicitations and applications--- Consulting Firm perspective

## Lessons learned

- Be proactive – do your homework
- Prioritize your projects
- Develop a plan
- Use existing resources
- Consult your experts



# Pre-Award — solicitations and applications---

## Consulting Firm perspective

### Tips and Tricks

- Time is precious - start early
- Partnerships – leverage your relationships
- Have a clear understanding of eligibility
- How much money do you need
- Versions of databases, tools



# Award Stage — Evaluation and Selection

- Criteria specific to the grant being applied for
  - Federal Agency team evaluation process
    - Specific to NOFO requirements
  - Selection and award notifications
- 
- Debrief meetings on non-successful candidate projects



# Award Stage — Evaluation and Selection – State Aid Office

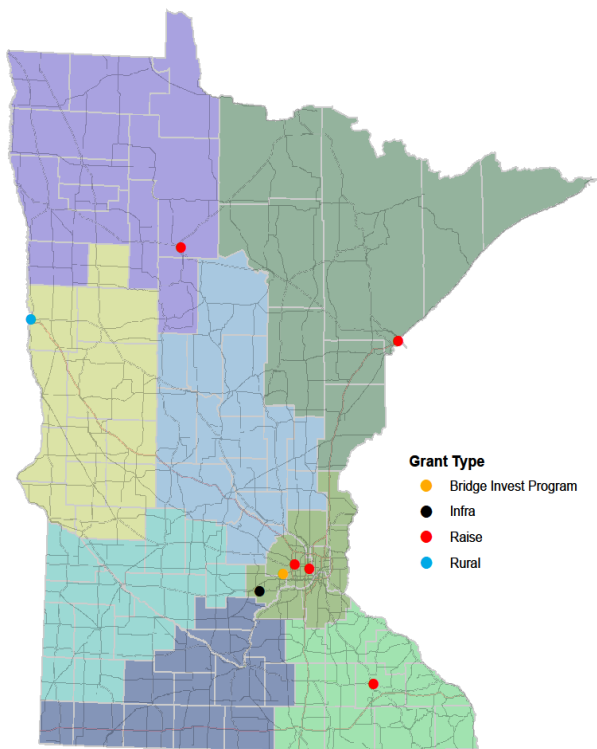
- Award will have Federal Funds capped.
- Do not spend any money or do any work for which you want to be reimbursed until agreement and authorization are complete
- Understand Federal Requirements
  - Buy America
  - Davis Bacon
  - Competitive Bidding
  - Brooks Act (for consultant selection)
  - Civil Rights
  - Suspension and Debarment
- Letters of Support requests from MnDOT
- [Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill - Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act - State Aid - MNDOT](#)



U.S. Department of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

# Award Stage — Discretionary Grant Awards (RAISE, INFRA, BIP, RURAL)

IIJA Discretionary Grant Awards 2022

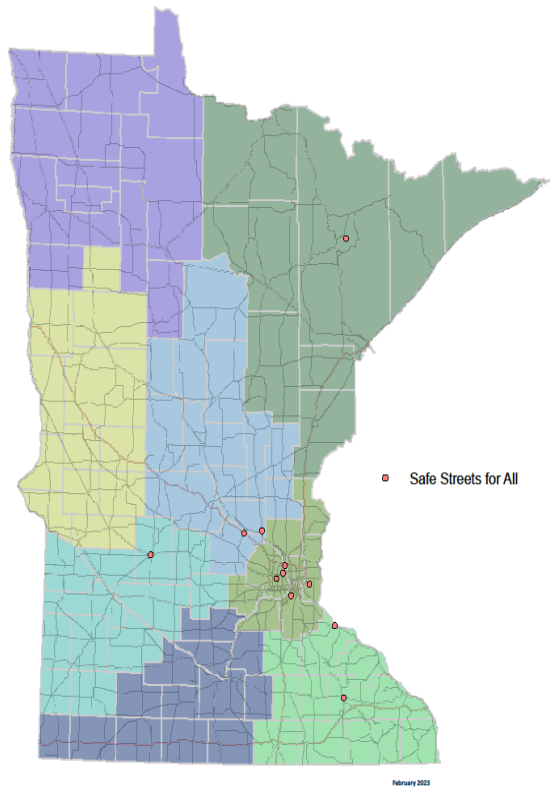


November 2022

Applicant	Description	Amount
City of Rochester	6 <sup>th</sup> Street Bridge RAISE	\$19,000,000
Hennepin County	Lake Street Multimodal BRT RAISE	\$12,000,000
City of Plymouth	Station 73 Transit and Regional Improvements- RAISE	\$15,000,000
City of Duluth	West Superior Street Active Transportation Corridor- RAISE	\$24,999,160
City of Bemidji/MnDOT	Hwy 197 RAISE	\$18,000,000
Carver County	US 212 Freight and Mobility INFRA	\$10,000,000
City of Excelsior	Minnetonka Blvd Bridge, St. Albans Bay Bridge Investment Program- Design	\$269,900
City of Moorhead	Moorhead Downtown Grade Separation Rural	\$26,309,600

# Award Stage — Discretionary Grant Awards FFY2022 (SS4A)

IIJA Discretionary Grant Awards 2022



mn DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
STATE OF MINNESOTA

MINN  
MINNESOTA  
SAFE STREETS FOR ALL

Applicant	Description	Amount
City of Columbia Heights	City of Columbia Heights Safety Action Plan	\$ 200,000.00
City of Eagan	City of Eagan SS4A Discretionary Grant Action Plan	\$ 80,000.00
City of Elk River	City of Elk River Comprehensive Community Safety Assessment	\$ 198,480.00
City of Monticello	City of Monticello Comp. Safety Action Plan	\$ 200,000.00
City of Red Wing	City of Red Wing Comp. Safety Action Plan	\$ 195,760.00
City of St. Louis Park	City of St. Louis Park SS4A Action Plan	\$ 160,000.00
City of Willmar	City of Willmar Safety Action Plan	\$ 200,000.00
City of Woodbury	City of Woodbury SS4A	\$ 300,000.00
Hennepin County	Hennepin County Toward Zero Deaths Action Plan	\$ 240,000.00
Roch-Olmsted Council of Gov.	Roch.-Olmsted MPO SS4A Action Plan	\$ 276,800.00
St. Louis County Dept. of Public Works	St. Louis Co. SS4A Action Plan	\$ 200,000.00

# Post Award Stage — Agreement Execution and Monitoring

- So, you got an award, now what???
- Award announcements – how, from who? To who?
- Grant agreement writing:
  - Kick off meeting
  - Template
  - Timing
  - Reporting requirements
    - Timing of requirements
  - Close-out of agreement



# Post Award Stage — Agreement Execution and Monitoring— County perspective

- Grant Agreement Template experience
- Budget (eligible costs)
- Reporting requirements





- Acronyms/terminology – lists are provided within each NOFO
- [BIL overview website](#) – FHWA
- [Competitive Grant Programs website](#) - summary chart of discretionary grants and who is eligible.
- [Guidebook](#) – one pager for each IIJA formula program and discretionary grants
- [Discretionary Grant Fact Sheets](#) – one pager + of known details, prior to NOFO issuance.
- [KEY NOFO website](#) -- planned dates of issuing NOFOs
- [State Aid Office website](#) – for MnDOT Letters of Support requests by locals, MPO's, tribal govts
- [MnDOT Government Affairs website](#) – MnDOT contacts for federal affairs
- [MnDOT Tribes and Transportation website](#) – MnDOT contacts for tribal governments

- [Technical Assistance/Local Support website](#) – FHWA's offices, tech support and training
  - [DOT Navigator](#)
  - [Funding](#)
  - [Webinars](#)
  - [Federal Aid Essentials for Local Public Agencies](#)
  - [Transportation Funding Opportunities for Tribal Nations](#)
  - [Tribal Technical Assistance Program](#)

# Closing Remarks and Q & A



**THANK YOU!!!**