

SAN JOAQUIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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October 30, 2023

MEMORANDUM

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Diane Lazard

VICE-CHAIR

Diane Nguyen

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Member Agencies

CITIES OF

ESCALON,

LATHROP,

LODI,

MANTECA,

RIPON,

STOCKTON,

TRACY,

AND

THE COUNTY OF SAN
JOAQUIN

TO:

SJCOG Member Agencies

SUBJECT:

2024 San Joaquin One Voice® Call for Projects

The San Joaquin Council of Governments is soliciting a request for projects for the 2024 San Joaquin One Voice® program. Interested parties must submit all application packets to SJCOG by **November 27, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.**

The One Voice® program is SJCOG's legislative advocacy approach for San Joaquin County that promotes issues of regional significance to federal legislators and agencies through an annual advocacy trip to Washington, D.C. The purpose of the program is to advocate for increased funding and/or promotion of legislation for issues and projects of regional significance to the San Joaquin region.

2024 Call for Projects

The intent of the call for projects is to receive applications that are regionally significant, locally approved, and ready for implementation. Furthermore, projects must be eligible for federal funding with a NEPA document, a schedule for completion of NEPA, or a qualified waiver. Additionally, a project should support the legislative priorities (attached). Details on the submission process, forms, and more information is available on our website at: <https://www.sjcog.org/onevoice>.

SJCOG wants all member agencies to be represented on the 2024 One Voice® program with a project. For assistance with identifying a project or for general program questions please contact onevoice@sjcog.org.

Thank you,

DIANE NGUYEN
Executive Director

Attachments:

- A. 2024 SJCOG Federal Legislative Platform
- B. 2024 One Voice® Final Guidelines
- C. 2024 One Voice® Application

2024 SJCOG FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Overview

Created in 1968, the San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG) is a joint-powers authority comprising the County of San Joaquin and the cities of Stockton, Lodi, Manteca, Tracy, Ripon, Escalon, and Lathrop. The role of SJCOG is to foster intergovernmental coordination within San Joaquin County and with neighboring jurisdictions, other regional agencies in the San Joaquin Valley, the state of California, and various Federal agencies.

SJCOG is overseen by a Board of Directors which makes allocations of funding to build transportation improvements. The board also establishes regional transportation policies and programs. Citizens, special or community interest groups, and other agencies are involved in the planning and approval process. The mission of SJCOG is to partner with local governments, the private sector, and community groups as the forum, facilitator, and administrator of regional programs, and to advocate for regional and inter-regional issues in the development of a comprehensive strategy to achieve resolutions.

This 2023 Federal Legislative Platform provides direction to our Congressional Delegation and Agency officials with respect to the transportation, infrastructure and policy needs of San Joaquin County. The platform is organized by policy themes under which major projects and programs fall. These themes are **Equity and Accessibility, Transportation Sustainability and Resiliency, Innovation and Mobility and Economic Growth.**

Equity and Accessibility

The San Joaquin Council of Governments and its member communities are committed to developing and implementing strategies that improve transportation infrastructure and access, particularly in underserved and disadvantaged communities. SJCOG has included a Sustainable Community Strategy in its Regional Transportation Plan effort, and will foster coordinated planning with neighboring cities, counties, and other governmental entities to agree upon regional strategies and policies for dealing with the regional impacts of growth on transportation, housing, and the environment. SJCOG supports policies that will:

- Support economic development incentives and jobs training for economically hard-hit areas
- Develop and deploy strategies to improve infrastructure for non-motorized travel, public transportation access, and increased public transportation service in underserved communities. SJCOG will prioritize measures to increase road safety for all users and reduce single-occupancy vehicle travel and the associated air pollution, particularly in environmental justice-impacted communities
- Support local government authority to determine the types of development eligible for Opportunity Zone or similar investments in any regulations implementing the program
- Advocate for additional resources to improve the quality of life for residents.

Transportation Sustainability and Resiliency

San Joaquin County is part of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. Our district is one of the two areas of the United States with the most significant air quality challenges. To address our air quality challenges, SJCOG is tasked with examining programs and policies to reduce transportation emissions while at the same time improving transportation mobility options for our citizens. SJCOG and its member communities will undertake actions to prepare for and adapt to the impacts of climate change and continue to improve infrastructure networks that work for all users. SJCOG is taking steps to identify the barriers to, and opportunities for, clean energy deployment throughout the region.

As transportation agencies implement the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, SJCOG would encourage the adoption of policies and the promotion of programs and projects that would:

- Continue implementation of programs such as the Clean School Bus Program, Low- and No-Emission Transit Bus Program, and the Intelligent Transportation Systems Program for low and no emission vehicles (truck, bus, car, off-road) to spur adoption by government and private sector alike
- Ensure electric vehicle charging programs such as the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure program and the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant Program applies to urban, suburban, and rural areas for the increased utilization of both private vehicles and public transit fleets

- Prioritize the efficient and effective movement of people through alternative fuel vehicle mobility programs (bus, autonomous vehicle (AVs), bike, scooter) that would improve first and last mile connectivity while also reducing emissions
- Continue implementing federal grant programs (at DOT, EPA, and DOE) for reducing emissions in on-road and off-road vehicles
- Support the introduction of air quality empowerment zone legislation
- Support Buy America requirements under FHWA that continue to promote domestic content and manufacturing and that reduce unintended consequences with respect to the procurement of energy efficient and emission reducing technologies/component parts in vehicles

Innovation and Mobility

San Joaquin Council of Governments supports the development of innovative technology in transit. SJCOG actively promotes forward-thinking approaches to improve transit financing, planning, system design and service, and supports innovative approaches to advance strategies that promote accessibility, including equitable and equivalent accessibility for all travelers.

SJCOG is working to foster innovative transit technologies, practices and solutions that advance the state of practice for public transportation in the region and leverage private sector investments in mobility for the benefit of transit.

- Support local authority over the integration of AVs and connected vehicles into the nation's transportation system. Regional organizations (such as Councils of Governments) should have the opportunity to guide the testing and adoption of AVs that makes the most sense for their community and region
- Expand opportunities for programs such as the Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) grants program and the Advanced Transportation Technology and Innovation (ATTAIN) program to provide research projects on issues related to transit technology/clean corridor tracking/new technology/platooning
- As with Environmental Sustainability, continue to implement and improve mobility technology programs (for AVs, bikes, scooters, etc.), as well as test beds for new technologies that provide access and reduce congestion.

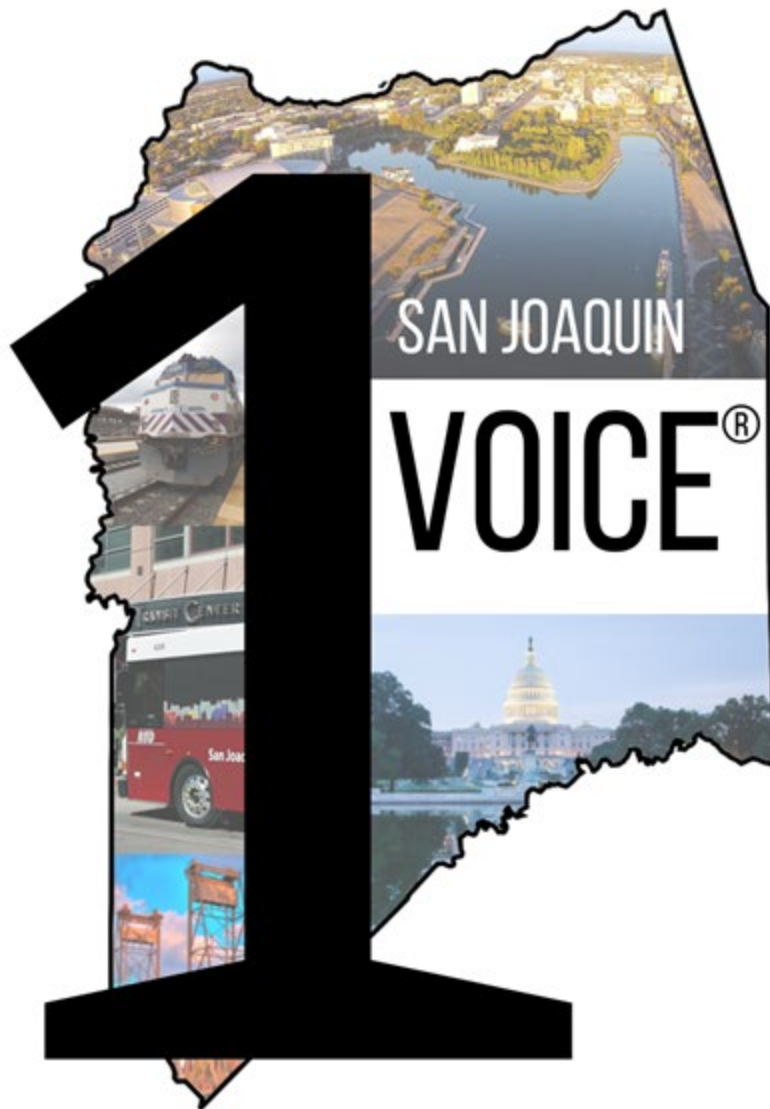
Economic Growth

San Joaquin County is an economic gateway for goods and services and is home to many people who provide support to economic activity in neighboring counties and the United States as a whole. SJCOG believes that commercial hubs and affordable housing infrastructure can be the tools to improve economic activity inside and outside San Joaquin County.

SJCOG supports the adoption of policies and the promotion of programs and projects that would:

- Support the implementation and expand eligibility of programs at DOT and HUD - such as the Thriving Communities program - that incentivize the development of commercial hubs that integrate transportation and housing in one central location
- Support strategic investments to improve goods movement for the agricultural supply chain and manufacturing logistics throughout San Joaquin County
- Support grant applications for the construction of managed lanes, particularly in corridors that serve as gateways between regions
- Promote grant applications for the rehabilitation or operational improvements to STAA routes
- Through programs such as the Bridge Investment Program and the Bridge Formula Program, support projects specific to off-system bridge preventative maintenance, rehabilitation, and replacement including, but not limited to, those within trade corridors
- Ensure that broadband programs providing reliable and affordable internet is accessible for all communities in the San Joaquin Valley, including proper mapping of areas that have little to no service
- Through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act, support communities that want to update regional plans to build community resilience and green workforce development

FY 2024 One Voice® Guidelines



SAN JOAQUIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

San Joaquin Council of Governments

FY 2024 One Voice® Program Guidelines

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A. Introduction

Background

San Joaquin One Voice® is SJCOG's federal advocacy program for San Joaquin County that promotes projects, programs, and issues of regional significance to federal legislators and agencies typically through an annual trip to Washington, D.C.

With the return of federal earmarks, continued availability of funding opportunities from transportation and infrastructure legislation, the San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG) is focusing the One Voice® initiative on elevating regional projects and maximizing funding success. As a result, projects being submitted to SJCOG for One Voice® support will need to ensure they're clearly aligned with SJCOG's legislative priorities and eligibility requirements for the discretionary and federal earmark programs.

B. Project Evaluation Procedures

To increase competitiveness of the region's projects, SJCOG has developed a process to review and evaluate project applications. The process includes determining project eligibility based on established criteria and an ad-hoc committee to review the applications. The committee will offer suggestions to improve applications to successfully receive federal funding assistance. Outlined below are the project eligibility criteria, the roles, and responsibilities of the ad-hoc committee, and a description of the funding opportunities.

Project Criteria

To align with infrastructure legislation, SJCOG will publish a list of federal funding opportunities to be released in the current and near future fiscal years. Any public agency, the Port of Stockton, and all airports are eligible to submit one regional project application. Each application will specify which federal funding program(s) to which the sponsor is applying.

Below are the criteria by which the projects will be evaluated. Sponsors will be notified if a project application does not meet the criteria so that it can be modified.

- Be regional in nature and have a federal nexus.
- Must be at or near completion of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) clearance, or qualified waiver, for projects seeking ROW or construction funding. If not already cleared, the project sponsor will be asked to provide the anticipated clearance date and explain how the project status can be competitive for the federal programs (see application form for list).
- Be sufficiently developed to leverage federal assistance (shovel ready).

- Explain whether the sponsor is utilizing any formula funding for the project elements and detail how formula funds are being applied. If not utilizing formula funds, explain why formula funds are not being applied to the project.
- Projects should be targeted for appropriations in the Federal Fiscal Year 2024 budget or an upcoming notice of agency funding opportunity
- Demonstrated community support
- Identify if project can be submitted as an “earmark” if a congressional call for projects is announced
- All narrative shall be in Word for ease in cut and pasting to project sheets.

Each jurisdiction will be limited to one regionally significant project. SJCOG, as it has done in the past, will also be limiting its submittal to one project.

One Voice® Project Ad-Hoc Committee

The committee’s purpose is not to eliminate projects, but to review the submittals and identify framing strengths and weaknesses. Feedback will be forwarded to the sponsor. The sponsors will be asked to elaborate on the details of that part of the project. The process is designed to ensure the projects are presented to decision makers and legislative representatives in the most effective format that gives them the best chance for success in receiving federal funds.

Ad-Hoc Committee Membership:

- 1 member of the business community
- 1 SJCOG staff
- 1 CJ Lake
- 1 from San Joaquin County
- 1 each from San Joaquin Regional Transit District and San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission
- All cities can participate on the committee

This committee will review applications. Suggestions to improve applications will be offered to project sponsors. This may be an iterative process to achieve the final application. The final project list is planned for either the February or March 2024 SJCOG Board meeting.

Funding Opportunities

Funding opportunities from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law continue to be noticed. It is important that the projects SJCOG puts forward are regional in scope, have been vetted, and have a pathway through the funding opportunities available. The federal program sheets (Attachment B.) provide descriptions of each federal funding opportunity listed in the One Voice® Project Application Form.

C.Program Schedule

The tentative program schedule has been changed to align with the One Voice® Trip in May 2024. The schedule allows for the ad-hoc committee to meet prior to taking the final project list to the SJCOG Board. The schedule also allows for time to refine the project descriptions prior to the trip. Table 1 lists the program schedule through the February 2024 SJCOG Board meeting.

| Action | Deadline |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Call For Projects | 10/27/2023 |
| Projects Due | 11/27/2023 |
| Ad hoc Committee Review Due | 1/10/2024 |
| Ad hoc Committee Meeting | 1/17/2024 |
| Jan. Board w/ Draft Project List | 1/25/2024 |
| Feb. Board Mailout | 2/15/2024 |
| Feb. Board Meeting | 2/22/2024 |

Table 1. Tentative Program Schedule

2024 SJCOG One Voice® Application Form

Project Application Checklist

The San Joaquin Council of Governments Board approved the following project criteria:

- Be regional in nature and have a federal nexus.
- Must be at or near completion of (NEPA) clearance, or qualified waiver, for projects seeking ROW or construction funding.
- Be sufficiently developed to suggest federal assistance is warranted (shovel ready)
- Explain whether the sponsor is utilizing any formula funding for the project elements and detail how formula funds are being applied. If not utilizing formula funds, explain why formula funds are not being applied to the project.
- Projects should be targeted for appropriations in the Federal Fiscal Year 2024 budget or an upcoming notice of agency funding opportunity.
- Demonstrated community support.
- Identify if a project can be submitted as an “earmark” if a congressional call for projects is announced.
- All narrative shall be written in Microsoft Word for ease in cutting and pasting to project sheets.

The following contents are required to be submitted by SJCOG member agencies:

1. Signed cover letter (electronic signature is accepted)
2. Completed One Voice® Application Form
3. Complete Appendix – in order
 - a. A **high-resolution JPEG or PNG photo, graphic, map or diagram** of your project to be included on the project fact sheet.
 - b. **Project talking points** Talking points are limited to ten (10) bullet points, no more than 2-3 sentences each. (These highlights and benefits will be included in the participant binder and used during meetings in Washington, DC).
 - c. In 200 words or less describe the project’s benefit to the region and the scope of the project.
 - d. Attach a copy of the environmental clearance resolution or other signed documentation approving or adopting the environmental document (if completed).
 - e. Projects must be approved by your respective city councils or boards prior to submission to SJCOG. Please provide a copy of the minutes or resolution detailing approval. If the project has not secured this at the time of application submittal, indicate the date when this will be secured.
4. Letters of community support (Minimum 2 / Maximum 5)

One (1) electronic copy must be submitted via email/file sharing site of the complete application packet no later than **4:00 p.m. on November 27, 2023** to:

ATTN: SJCOG 2024 One Voice® Project Submittal
San Joaquin Council of Governments
555 E. Weber Avenue
Stockton, CA 95202
onevoice@sjcog.org

2024 SJCOG One Voice® Application Form

1. Project Title: _____

2. Applicant Agency: _____

3. Agency Address: _____

4. Staff-level Point of Contact/Title: _____

Email: _____ **Phone Number:** _____

5. Executive-Point of Contact/Title:

Email: _____ **Phone Number:** _____

6. Project Information:

6.a Provide project talking points. Talking points are limited to ten (10) bullet points, no more than 2-3 sentences each. (These highlights and benefits will be included in the participant binder and used during meetings in Washington, DC).

6.b. Provide a description of the project (project limits, overall scope of work), and federal nexus and provide a high-resolution map, site plan, or diagram. Include description how the project is significantly developed to warrant federal funding.

6.c Provide a description of how the project provides or improves regional connectivity across a variety of existing or planned developments, resources, facilities, job centers, etc. within the region.

6.d Provide a description of how the project supports and/or logically extends existing local and countywide or regional plans, strategies, or programs.

6.e. Describe safety, economic, mobility, equity and environmental and other benefits which are expected upon project completion

2024 SJCOG One Voice® Application Form

7. Project Readiness:

Attach detailed information on any completed project milestones or phases, and the project schedule. Describe whether the project can be split into clear and distinct phases.

| Project Milestone | | | Proposed (Month/Year) |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|--|--------------------------|
| Begin Environmental (PA&ED) Phase | | | |
| Circulate Draft Environmental Document | Document Type | | |
| End Environmental Phase (PA&ED Milestone) | | | |
| Begin Design (PS&E) Phase | | | |
| End Design Phase (Ready to List for Advertisement Milestone) | | | |
| Begin Right of Way Phase | | | |
| End Right of Way Phase (Right of Way Certification Milestone) | | | |
| Begin Construction Phase (Contract Award Milestone) | | | |
| End Construction Phase (Construction Contract Acceptance Milestone) | | | |

7.b If your project is being delivered in phases, indicate the phases that are NOT a part of the project application to provide show the project is part of a larger/ “ultimate” project. Please answer the following questions:

- Describe how the specific stage, segment, phase, or activity fits into a larger project.
- Describe the larger project and additional benefits (not described earlier) of the larger project.

8. Funding Plan for the project being nominated.

This section shows all the funds in each phase of the project. Please copy/paste tables if there is more than one funding source. Indicate in the comments section under “FUNDING AGENCY” whether the funds have been secured/committed or whether the funds are still being sought/not committed. Identify the name of the FUNDING AGENCY.

Feel free to change the names of the phases if they’re not applicable (i.e. substitute capital procurement for “construction” phase).

8a. Project Funding Plan

| Total Project Cost (\$1,000s) | | | | | | | | | Implementing Agency |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|---------------------|
| Component | Prior | 20-21 | 21-22 | 22-23 | 23-24 | 24-25 | 25-26+ | Total | |
| E&P (PA&ED) | | | | | | | | | |
| PS&E | | | | | | | | | |
| R/W SUP (CT) | | | | | | | | | |
| CON SUP (CT) | | | | | | | | | |
| R/W | | | | | | | | | |
| CON | | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | | | | | | | | | |

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Fund No. 1: | One Voice® Project Funding “Ask” | |
| | Funding (\$1,000s) | |

2024 SJCOG One Voice® Application Form

| Component | Prior | 20-21 | 21-22 | 22-23 | 23-24 | 24-25 | 25-26+ | Total | Funding Agency |
|--------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|----------------|
| E&P (PA&ED) | | | | | | | | | |
| PS&E | | | | | | | | | |
| R/W SUP (CT) | | | | | | | | | |
| CON SUP (CT) | | | | | | | | | |
| R/W | | | | | | | | | |
| CON | | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | | | | | | | | | |

| Fund No. 2: | Funding (\$1,000s) | | | | | | | | Program Code |
|--------------|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|----------------|
| Component | Prior | 20-21 | 21-22 | 22-23 | 23-24 | 24-25 | 25-26+ | Total | Funding Agency |
| E&P (PA&ED) | | | | | | | | | |
| PS&E | | | | | | | | | |
| R/W SUP (CT) | | | | | | | | | |
| CON SUP (CT) | | | | | | | | | |
| R/W | | | | | | | | | |
| CON | | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | | | | | | | | | |

| Fund No. 3: | Funding (\$1,000s) | | | | | | | | Program Code |
|--------------|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|----------------|
| Component | Prior | 20-21 | 21-22 | 22-23 | 23-24 | 24-25 | 25-26+ | Total | Funding Agency |
| E&P (PA&ED) | | | | | | | | | |
| PS&E | | | | | | | | | |
| R/W SUP (CT) | | | | | | | | | |
| CON SUP (CT) | | | | | | | | | |
| R/W | | | | | | | | | |
| CON | | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | | | | | | | | | |

| Fund No. 4: | Funding (\$1,000s) | | | | | | | | Program Code |
|--------------|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|----------------|
| Component | Prior | 20-21 | 21-22 | 22-23 | 23-24 | 24-25 | 25-26+ | Total | Funding Agency |
| E&P (PA&ED) | | | | | | | | | |
| PS&E | | | | | | | | | |
| R/W SUP (CT) | | | | | | | | | |
| CON SUP (CT) | | | | | | | | | |
| R/W | | | | | | | | | |
| CON | | | | | | | | | |

2024 SJCOG One Voice® Application Form

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| TOTAL | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

8b. Explain whether the sponsor is utilizing any formula funding for the project elements and detail how formula funds are being applied. If not utilizing formula funds, explain why formula funds are not being applied to the project.

8c. Provide a Funding Summary:

Line 1: One Voice® Request: \$

Line 2: Funds already secured: \$

Total Project (add lines 1, 2, and 3 above): \$

9. Letters of Community Support (or other information that show the project's history in community engagement/support).

Attach letters of support from interested parties including community groups and other agencies.

2024 SJCOG One Voice® Application Form

10. Prospective federal funding opportunities that this project will apply to (check all that apply):

- ☐ Advanced Transportation Technology and Innovation (ATTAIN) program
- ☐ Bridge Investment Program
- ☐ Bus and Bus Facilities Competitive Grants
- ☐ Capital Investment Grants
- ☐ Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grants (Community Charging)
- ☐ Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grants (Corridor Charging)
- ☐ Congestion Relief Program
- ☐ Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement Grants
- ☐ Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE)
- ☐ Low or No Emission (Bus) Grants
- ☐ National Culvert Removal, Replacement, & Restoration Grant
- ☐ National Infrastructure Project Assistance (Megaprojects)
- ☐ Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects (INFRA)
- ☐ Pilot Program for Enhanced Mobility
- ☐ Pilot Program for Transit Oriented Development
- ☐ Port Infrastructure Development Program Grants
- ☐ Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost Saving Transportation (PROTECT) - Discretionary
- ☐ Railroad Crossing Elimination Grants
- ☐ Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program
- ☐ Reduction of Truck Emissions at Port Facilities
- ☐ Safe Streets and Roads for All
- ☐ Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grants
- ☐ Thriving Communities Program
- ☐ Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program
- ☐ Other: _____