

RAIL

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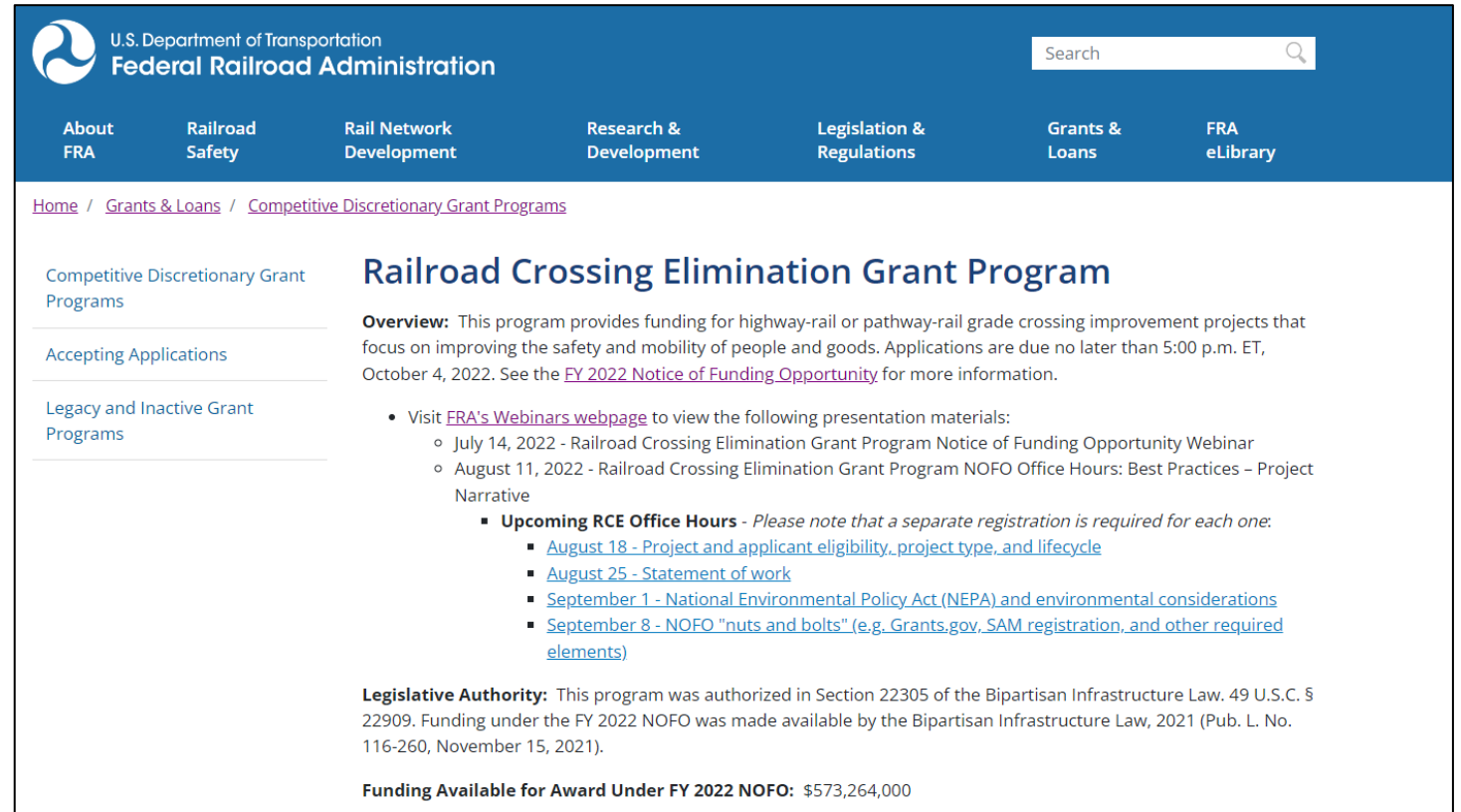


Best Practices – Applicant and Project Eligibility

Doug Gascon, Division Chief
Program and Policy Development Division

Upcoming Office Hours

- **Every following Thursday at 2pm!**
 - [August 25 - Statement of work](#)
 - [September 1 - National Environmental Policy Act \(NEPA\) and environmental considerations](#)
 - [September 8 - NOFO "nuts and bolts" \(e.g. Grants.gov, SAM registration, and other required elements\)](#)



The screenshot shows the Federal Railroad Administration website. The header includes the U.S. Department of Transportation logo and the text "U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Railroad Administration". A search bar is located in the top right. The navigation menu includes links for "About FRA", "Railroad Safety", "Rail Network Development", "Research & Development", "Legislation & Regulations", "Grants & Loans", and "FRA eLibrary". The main content area is titled "Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant Program" and includes an overview, a list of upcoming office hours, and legislative authority information.

U.S. Department of Transportation
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Competitive Discretionary Grant Programs

Accepting Applications

Legacy and Inactive Grant Programs

Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant Program

Overview: This program provides funding for highway-rail or pathway-rail grade crossing improvement projects that focus on improving the safety and mobility of people and goods. Applications are due no later than 5:00 p.m. ET, October 4, 2022. See the [FY 2022 Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) for more information.

- Visit [FRA's Webinars webpage](#) to view the following presentation materials:
 - July 14, 2022 - Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity Webinar
 - August 11, 2022 - Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant Program NOFO Office Hours: Best Practices – Project Narrative
 - **Upcoming RCE Office Hours** - Please note that a separate registration is required for each one:
 - [August 18 - Project and applicant eligibility, project type, and lifecycle](#)
 - [August 25 - Statement of work](#)
 - [September 1 - National Environmental Policy Act \(NEPA\) and environmental considerations](#)
 - [September 8 - NOFO "nuts and bolts" \(e.g. Grants.gov, SAM registration, and other required elements\)](#)

Legislative Authority: This program was authorized in Section 22305 of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, 49 U.S.C. § 22909. Funding under the FY 2022 NOFO was made available by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, 2021 (Pub. L. No. 116-260, November 15, 2021).

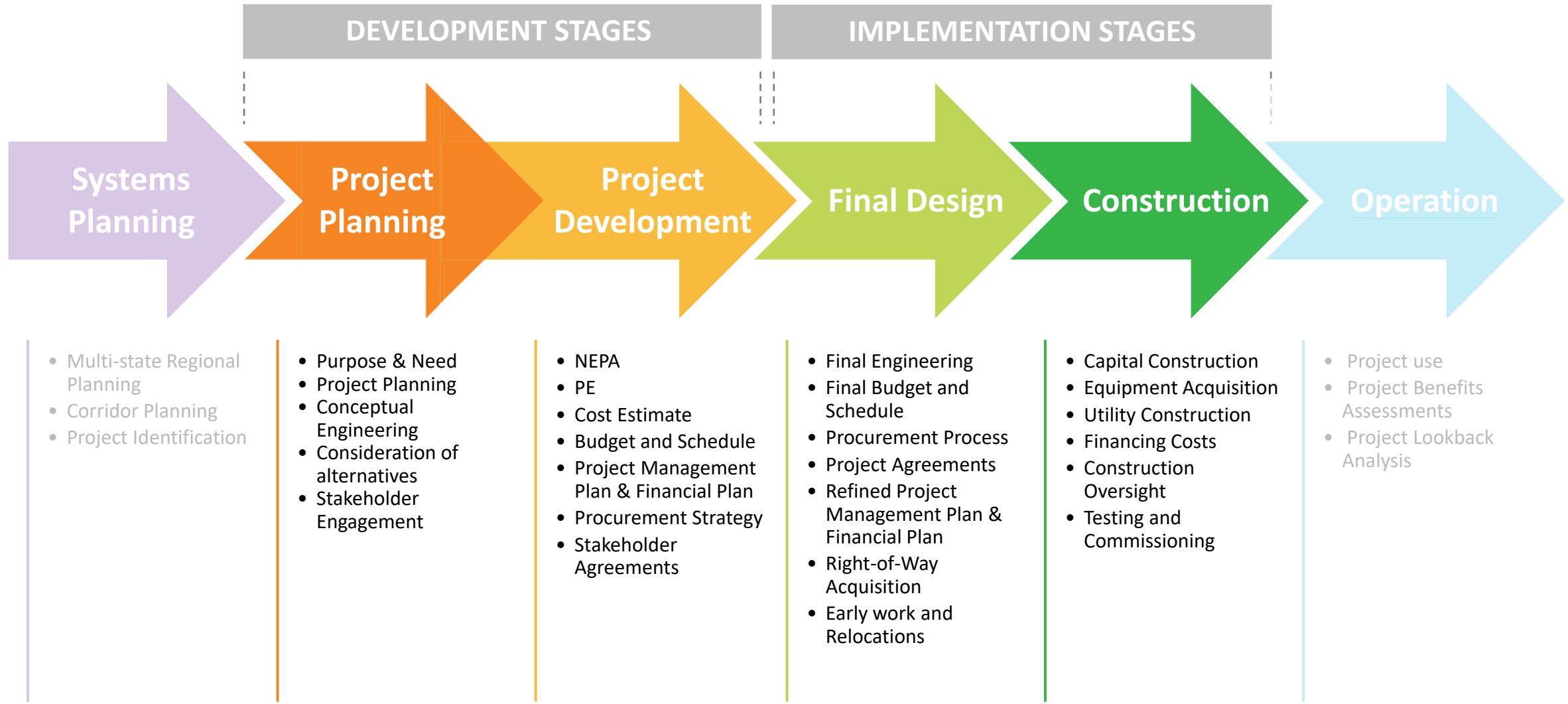
Funding Available for Award Under FY 2022 NOFO: \$573,264,000

Agenda

1. Overview of the Project Lifecycle Stages
2. Applicant Eligibility
3. Project Eligibility
4. Questions

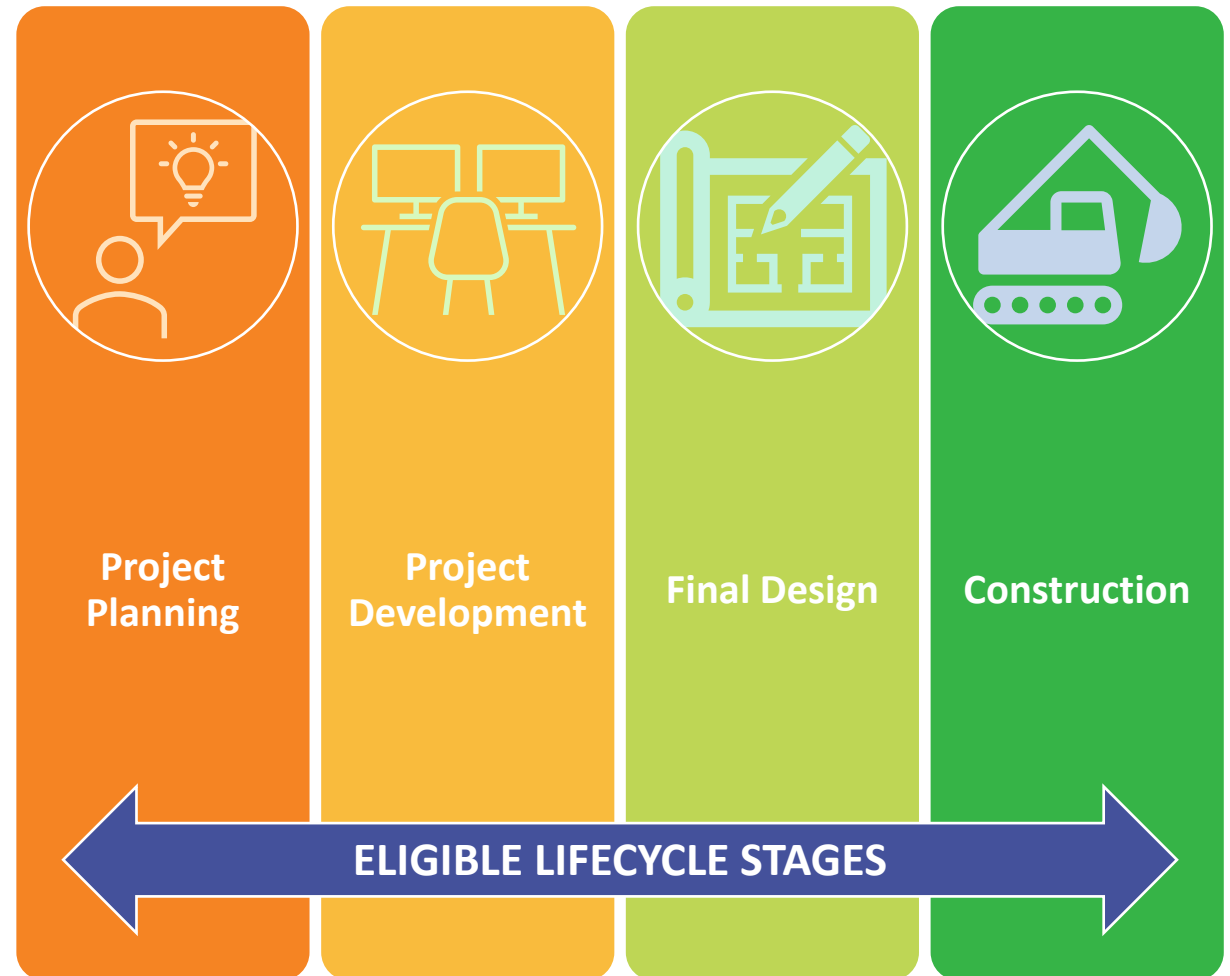


Project Lifecycle Stages



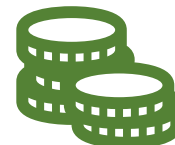
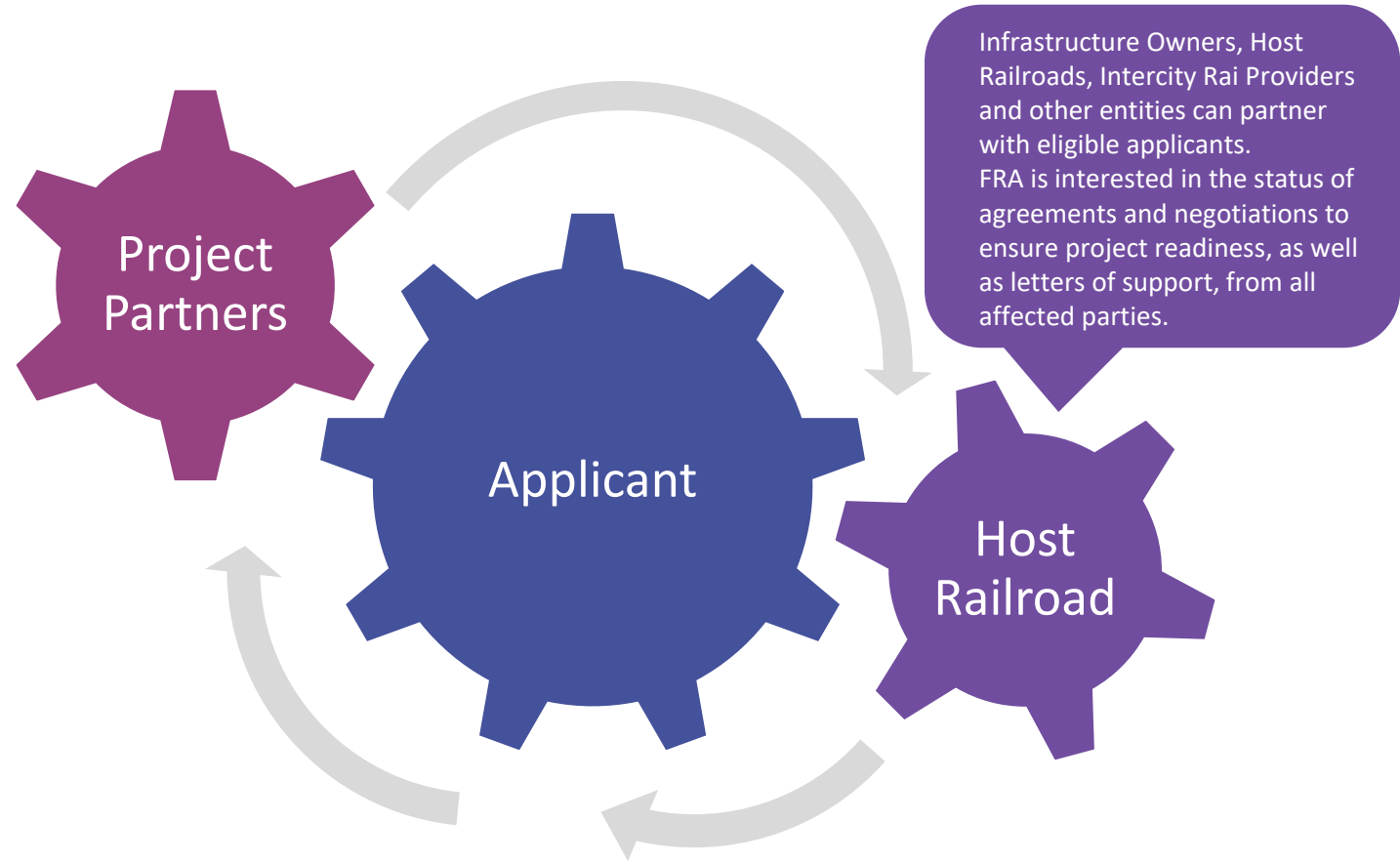
Lifecycle Stages and a NOFO

- Applicants need to determine:
 - What lifecycle stage their project is currently in.
 - What lifecycle stage(s) their project needs funding for.
- Applicants need to consider:
 - How to make an appropriate justification in their narratives regarding current project stage and requested funding stage.
 - What supporting documentation is required to demonstrate appropriate lifecycle stage?



Eligible Applicants

- A. A State, including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and other United States territories and possessions
- B. A political subdivision of a State
- C. Federally recognized Indian Tribe.
- D. A unit of local government or a group of local governments.
- E. A public port authority.
- F. A metropolitan planning organization.
- G. A group of entities described in (A) through (F).



Other funding opportunities are available with different eligibility criteria

How do I prove my eligibility?

- **Provide a justification in your narrative with appropriate documentation, such as:**
 - Enabling legislation and organizational structure;
 - For political subdivisions and units of local government, explain how applicant exercises independent governmental authority (e.g., power of eminent domain, taxation, etc); and
 - Legal explanation for applicant eligibility.
 - Any other relevant information (e.g., tax status)



Project Eligibility

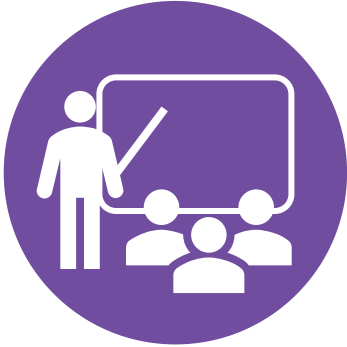
1. Grade separation or closure, including through the use of a bridge, embankment, tunnel, or combination thereof;
2. Track relocation;
3. The improvement or installation of protective devices, signals, signs, or other measures the improve safety, provided that such activities are related to a separation or relocation project described in paragraph (1) or (2)
4. Other means to improve the safety and mobility of people and goods at highway-rail grade crossings (including technological solutions);
5. A group of related projects described in paragraphs (1) through (4) that would collectively improve the mobility of people and goods
6. The planning, environmental review, and design of an eligible project described in paragraphs (1) through (5).



Covers improvements to existing highway-rail crossings

Remember your Lifecycle Stage!

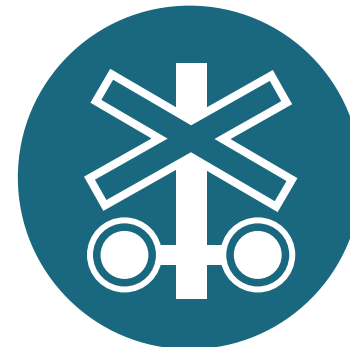
Project Eligibility - Continued



Highway-Rail Grade Crossing
Safety Information and
Education Programs



Rail ROW Acquisition is an
eligible project category



Improvements cannot be
made to existing grade
separations

Project and Applicant Eligibility Reminders

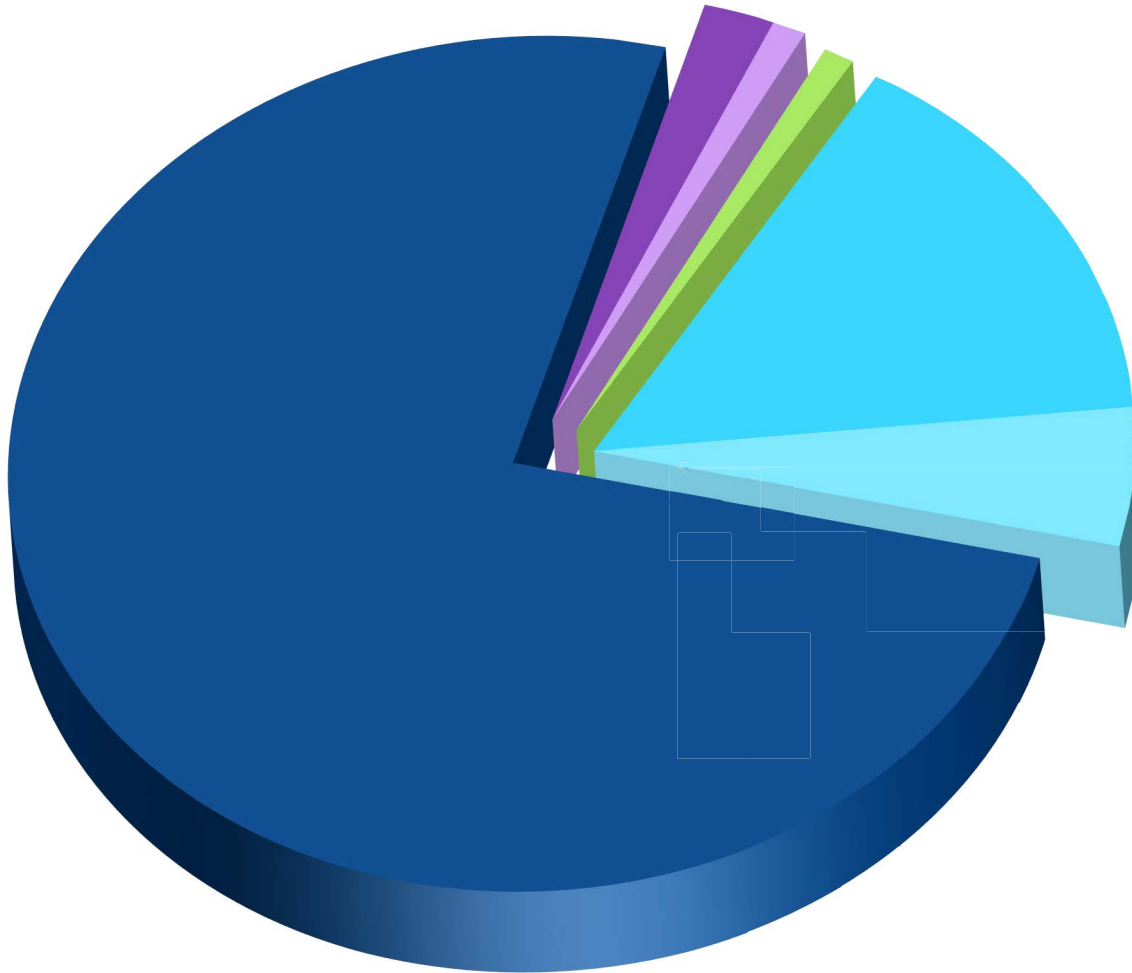
- Things to consider:
 - How does the applicant and project meet eligibility criteria.
 - How to make a justification in the narrative.
 - Are all components of the project eligible for funding?
 - How to include all aspects of the project in their justification
 - Supporting Documentation?
 - Citations and Hyperlinks
 - Partnering with an eligible applicant
- Ineligible Projects and Applicants will not be considered for funding and their applications will not be reviewed.



Applicants are expected to provide supporting justification and documentation that addresses project and applicant eligibility requirements. FRA will make final determinations on eligibility upon review of entire application package.



Additional Considerations



Planning

- Not less than 3% of total funding (\$18,000,000) is for planning projects.
 - Not less than 25% of these funds (\$4,500,000) is for planning projects in rural areas or on Tribal lands.

Crossing Safety Information and Education Program

- At least \$1,500,000 will be made available for highway-rail grade crossing safety information and education programs

Rural and Tribal Set Aside

- Not less than 20% of total funding (\$114,652,800) is reserved for projects located in rural areas or on Tribal lands.
 - Not less than 5% of these funds (\$5,732,640) are reserved for projects in counties with 20 or fewer residents per square mile.

Grant Conditions

- No grant awarded shall be smaller than \$1M, except for planning grants.

State Limitation

- No more than 20% of total funding (\$114,652,800) in any fiscal year may be selected for projects in a single State.

Additional Considerations

Project Considerations

- \$1,000,000 application minimum for non-planning applications
- 20% Non-Federal Match Requirement
- \$114,652,800 maximum per State

Applicant Considerations

- No Joint Applicant process for RCE – but project partners welcome!

Selection Preferences

- Elimination of Grade Crossings via Grade Separation or Closure
- Corridor Wide Improvements
- DOT Objectives

Keep state limit in mind across all considerations



QUESTIONS?

Contact Us

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U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Railroad Administration

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