Program Logistics and Norms

- The program will begin shortly
- Please turn on your video
- Your microphone will be muted when you join.
- **Please format your name to "First Name Last Name - City, State"**
- Please use the chat box to say hello to us and your peers! Please also use this space to ask any questions outside of small groups or dedicated Q&A time.

Local Infrastructure Hub:

March 2, 2023

Module 3: Federal Administration Priorities

Your hosts today

Kristin Wood
Transportation Policy
Analyst,Justice40
Program Lead ,
US DOT

- Former Director of Planning and Program Development, FTA Region 1, Cambridge MA
- Economic Development Director, House Appropriations Subcommittee
- Masters of Public Policy and Administration from University of Mass., Amherst.

Paul Teicher
Transportation Policy
Analyst,
US DOT

- Grantor and Program Manager for Safe Streets and Roads for All
- Safety and data policy
- Masters of Public Policy from the University of Minnesota

Dewaynna Horn
Course Deliverer
and Facilitator,
NLC

- Associate Dean and Professor of Management, College of Business, Texas Woman's University, Houston
- Teaches graduate courses in the MBA Program

Bootcamp Structure

Modules		Descriptions	Outputs
0	**Predevelopment**	Smaller towns and cities with less federal grants experience will **develop a basic understanding of the federal grants process** and are prepared to attend Modules 1-8.	N/A
1	**Setting the Table**	Cities will be **oriented to the funding program** and understand how to navigate the Learning Management System.	N/A
2	**Engaging the Community**	Cities will **be able to draft Community Engagement and Advocacy Strategies** and understand the audience for advocacy and project strategies.	Community Engagement Strategy aligned to grant context
3	**Federal Administration Priorities**	Cities will also be able to **incorporate climate and equity into their grant applications** and demonstrate that they are willing to raise their ambitions in these priority areas.	Plan for incorporating administration priorities into the grant application
4	**Data Driven Decision Making**	Cities will **understand application data requirements**; general data principles and uses; how to apply data tools to assess local framework and to support a transformational agenda.	Data Strategy aligned to grant context and Federal Administration Priorities
5	**Demystifying Capital Stacks and Budgeting**	Cities will **understand the basics of capital stacks and funding structures for projects**; **possible matching grant requirements** and allowable uses; and applying this understanding towards **developing a draft project budget** with matching sources and potential new sources of funding	Draft budget for grant application
6	**Writing a Strong Narrative**	Cities will understand the **best practices for narratives** and will be able to produce a compelling grant narrative consistent with the funding opportunity requirements.	Draft a grant narrative based on experience of previous modules
7	**Package, Submit, and Tell Your Story**	Cities will be able to **package a full grant application package** and develop a plan to advance the request with key officials	Draft a full grant application package validated by a city's chief executive
8	***Post Submission:* Long Term Capacity Building**	Once the applications have been submitted, cities **develop plans to successfully administer the grant** including how best to (re)-organize local institutional processes	Draft plan for grant administration

Expected learning outcomes for Module 3

Upon successful completion of this module, city teams will be able to:

✓ ***Understand Administration priorities,*** *particularly around addressing inequities in historically disadvantaged communities and addressing the climate crisis.*

✓ ***Align your project scope with the mission of the US DOT and the Justice40 initiative*** *to support the overall narrative of your grant and constructing an effective and competitive application.*

Federal Administration Priorities

Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)

Disclaimer: the development of the Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is in progress. The content of this deck may not reflect the final FY23 NOFO parameters.

Safe Streets and Roads for All Grants

Key program that supports the National Roadway Safety Strategy

Gorodenkoff - stock.adobe.com

Funding supports local initiatives to prevent death and serious injury on roads and streets, commonly referred to as "Vision Zero" or "Toward Zero Deaths" Initiatives.

$5 billion in appropriated funding, FY22-26

Up to $1.157 billion for the FY23 NOFO

U.S. Department of Transportation

SS4A FY23 NOFO Is Coming

FY23 Notice of Funding Opportunity is expected in **April**

Additional resources about SS4A and the NOFO can be found at https://www.transportation.gov/SS4A

Action Plan Application Review and Selection Process

FY22 Action Plan Selection Criteria – Broader Picture

- Grant activities are in jurisdictions that will likely support a **significant reduction or elimination of roadway fatalities and serious injuries** involving various road users.

- The activities will ensure **equitable investment in the safety needs of underserved communities** in preventing roadway fatalities and injuries, including rural communities.

- The Department will assess whether the applicant has considered any of the following in the development of the Action Plan:
  - Employs low-cost, high-impact strategies that can improve safety over a wider geographical area;
  - Engages with a variety of public and private stakeholders (e.g., inclusive community engagement, community benefit agreements);
  - Seeks to adopt innovative technologies or strategies to promote safety and equity; and
 - Includes evidence-based projects or strategies.

FY22 Action Plan Grants Evaluation Approach

- Three selection criteria:
  1. Safety Impact *(quantitative, two ratings)*
     - The count of roadway fatalities from 2016 to 2020.
     - Fatality rate average from 2016 to 2020, divided by 2019 U.S. Census population. DOT prefers that you normalize per 100,000 persons.
  2. Equity *(quantitative, one rating)*
     - Percent of population in underserved communities within the jurisdiction (based on the USDOT J40 Tool discussed today).
  3. Safety Considerations *(narrative)*

- Additional consideration:
  - Budget Costs

Safety Impact

Equity

Safety Considerations

Budget Costs
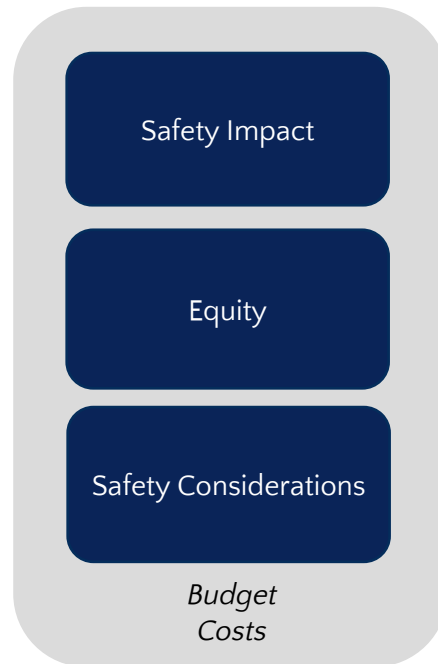
SS4A, Equity, and the Justice40 (J40) Initiative

SS4A and the J40 Initiative

- SS4A is a J40 covered program

- J40 Initiative aligns with the legislative language to consider **equitable investment** in **underserved communities**.

- The FY22 NOFO used data from the **USDOT Disadvantaged Community Tool** to identify underserved communities

- In FY22, award recipients ranged from 0% to 100% of funds to underserved communities

Background on Justice40

WHAT is Justice40?

President Biden's Jan 2021 **EO14008: Tackling Climate Change at Home and Abroad** created the government-wide Justice40 Initiative, establishing the goal that at least **40% of the benefits of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities**.

WHY Justice40?

Justice40 aims to **address decades of systemic inequitable historical policies and underinvestment in disadvantaged communities.** The initiative aims to bring resources to communities most impacted by climate change, pollution, and environmental hazards.

What Justice40 means for the US Department of Transportation (USDOT)

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act represent once-in-a-generation investment in **infrastructure, climate resilience, and innovation**. Justice40 allows USDOT to identify opportunities and prioritize projects that benefit rural, suburban, tribal, and urban communities **facing barriers to affordable, equitable, reliable, and safe transportation**. DOT will also assess the **negative impacts** of transportation projects and systems on **disadvantaged communities** and will consider if **local community leaders** have been consulted in a **meaningful way** during the project's development.

Prioritize Investments

Measure Impact and Improve Effectiveness

Strengthen Communities

U.S. Department of Transportation

How is US DOT incorporating Justice40?

1

US DOT is **asking grant applicants to address the benefits and burdens** of projects on disadvantaged populations

2

US DOT is **prioritizing projects that promote meaningful public engagement** throughout the project lifecycle and adhere to environmental justice requirements

3

US DOT is evaluating programs and regulations with an equity lens and **prioritizing resources to historically underserved communities**
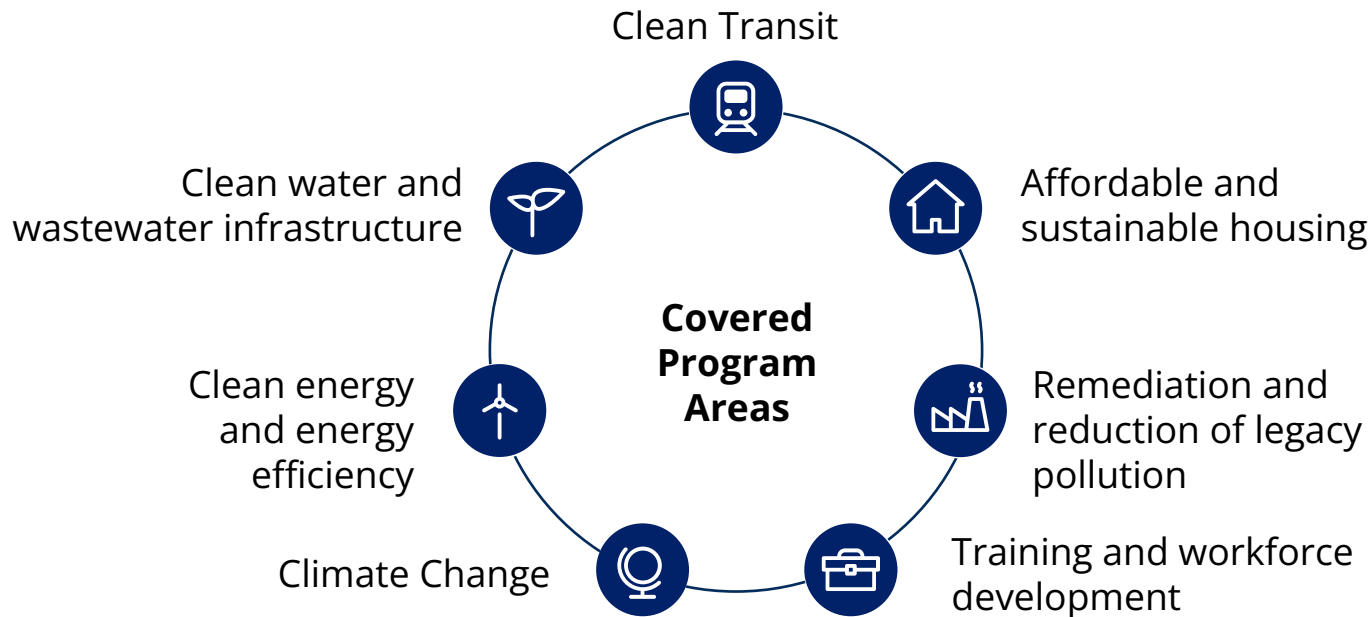
4

US DOT is providing **additional technical assistance** and support to disadvantaged communities

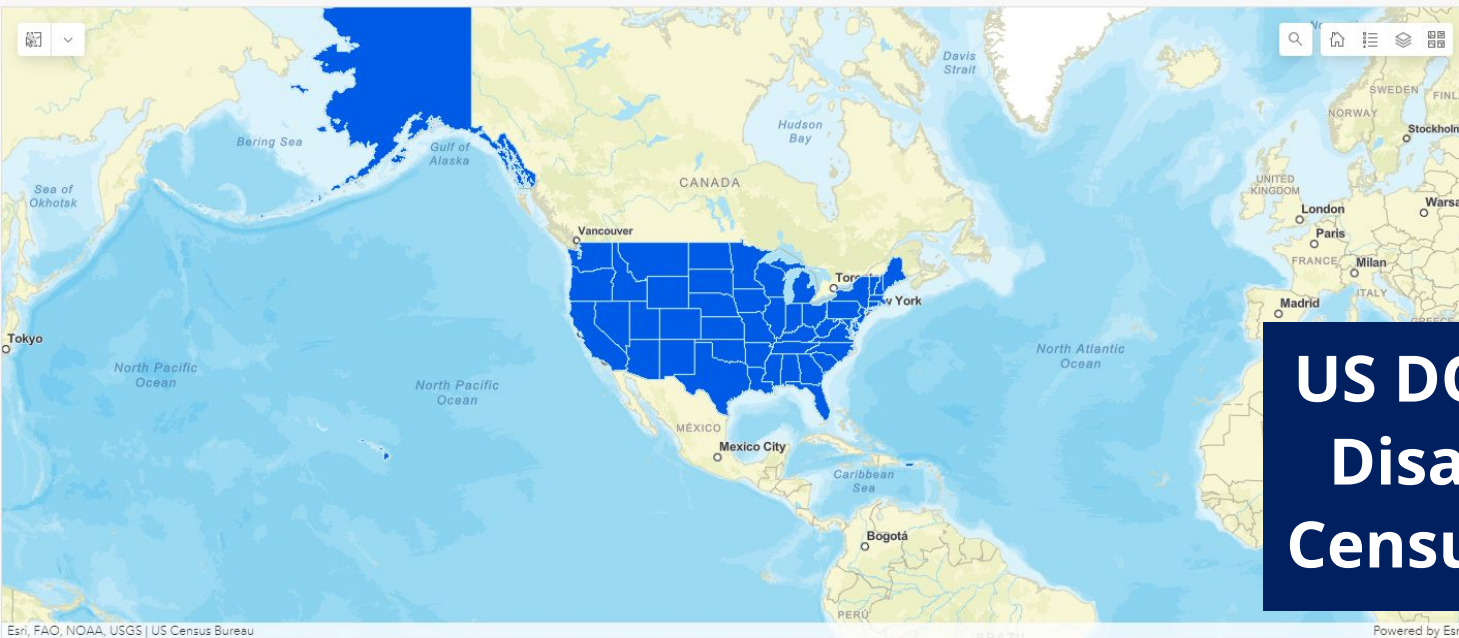# US DOT's Current Covered Programs Overview

The seven areas of Federal investment covered by the Justice40 Initiative are:

Clean Transit

Affordable and sustainable housing

Remediation and reduction of legacy pollution

Training and workforce development

Climate Change

Clean energy and energy efficiency

Clean water and wastewater infrastructure

Covered Program Areas

US DOT Covered Programs: 39 Funding Programs, Across 5 Modes ~$204 Billion in BIL authorizations

U.S. Department of Transportation

User Instructions: On the list to the right, select your state of interest. Use the +/- icons or mouse wheel to zoom into the map. Click and drag the map area to pan. Use the select tool on the left ⬆ to select US Census tracts within your area of interest. Census tracts with four or more Transportation Disadvantage indicators will be visible in orange. Single-click on a Census tract to view the tract number and Transportation Disadvantage categories. The ≡ icon is the legend for the visible map layers. Use the home button 🏠 to return to the continental US extent.

To view the **transportation disadvantaged definition**, select the expand icon in this box's upper right corner. Please note the Reconnecting Communities Notice of Funding Opportunity uses the "Transportation Disadvantaged Census Tracts" tool as one option for determining whether a community is

Transportation Disadvantaged Tracts by State

Select a state from the list

▶ Alabama: 601
▶ Alaska: 33
▶ American Samoa: 1
▶ Georgia: 861
▶ Guam: 1
▶ Hawaii: 33
▶ Idaho: 65
▶ Illinois: 867
▶ Indiana: 321
▶ Iowa: 47
▶ Kansas: 146

US DOT's Current Disadvantaged Census Tract Tool

Esri, FAO, NOAA, USGS | US Census Bureau   Powered by Esri

◀ 1 of 50 ▶

ALABAMA

72.8k

Total Selected Census Tracts

◀ 1 of 50 ▶

CALIFORNIA

22k

Total Selected Transportation Disadvantaged Census Tracts

30%

Percent of Transportation Disadvantaged Census Tracts In Selected Area

USDOT Equitable Transportation Community Explorer & Index Methodology RFI

On February 17, USDOT released a Request for Information (RFI) to receive input from stakeholders on its updated **USDOT Equitable Transportation Community Explorer (ETCE) and Index Methodology** that supports the Justice40 initiative.

Impact of the ETCE

Users of ETCE can:

- Explore how different geographic areas experience disadvantage
- Use the data to assist in identifying/developing projects that will begin to reverse elements of disadvantage

What should I review?

RFI Link with following components:

- **USDOT Equitable Transportation Community Explorer Map (ETCE)**
- **Tool Methodology**
- **Data Sets**

What feedback should I provide?

Please provide recommendations for areas including but not limited to:

- Improvements to the methodology used to identify burdened communities to support Justice40.
- Additional datasets to enhance current indicators and requests for geographic resolution of data (i.e., census block, census tract, zip code, county)
- Modifications that can improve usability, accessibility, or design of mapping functions
- Ways to address any gaps in any data from the 50 states and territories

USDOT's Pending Updated Disadvantaged Community Definition

For the Justice40 Initiative, USDOT developed a working definition of disadvantaged to identify communities and opportunities for program investments.
Applicant Explorer | US DOT Equitable Transportation Community Explorer (arcgis.com)

USDOT's Disadvantaged Community Index

ETCE can be used to explore project impact areas to:

- Understand the categories of drivers of disadvantage in a project area
- Cite the individual indicators driving disadvantaged. Assists users in linking the benefits of a proposed project to the drivers of disadvantage

Transportation Insecurity: communities that spend more, and take longer, to get where they need to go

Environmental Burden: communities experiencing disproportionately high levels of pollutants & toxins

Social Vulnerability: communities with high levels of poverty, low access to jobs and education, and communities with a shared history of discrimination

Health Vulnerability: communities with adverse health outcomes, disabilities, and low access to health care services

Climate and Disaster Risk: communities vulnerable to natural hazards and that are experiencing increased risk caused by climate change

U.S. Department of Transportation

How to submit RFI comments

USDOT released a Request for Information (RFI) on February 17, 2023 to receive input from stakeholders on its updated USDOT Equitable Transportation Community Explorer (ETCE) and Index

YOUR INPUT IS REQUESTED! HERE is the latest RFI. Please submit comments by March 18, 2023

How do I submit feedback?

Comments should refer to the docket number [DOT–OST–2023–0020] and submitted by one of the following methods:

- **Federal Rulemaking Portal**
- **Mail:** Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, Washington, DC 20590–0001.
- **Hand Delivery:** 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET, Mon.- Fri, except Federal Holidays.

For access to the docket, to read background documents or comments received please visit:

https://www.regulations.gov/document/DOT-OST-2023-0020-0001

For Questions:
- Please email Justice40@dot.gov

U.S. Department of Transportation

Looking back to look ahead: Implementation Application FY22 Selection Criteria

FY22 Implementation Grants Application Narrative

- Four criteria:
  1. Safety Impact – *highest priority*
  2. **Equity, engagement, collaboration**
  3. Effective practices and strategies
  4. **Climate and sustainability, and economic competitiveness**

- Two considerations:
  1. Project readiness rating
  2. **Funds in underserved communities**

Safety Impact

Equity, Engagement, and Collaboration

Effective Practices and Strategies

Climate Change and Sustainability, and Economic Competitiveness

Create a safer community

Safe system approach

Complete streets

Innovative practices and technologies

Project Readiness Rating
Funds to Underserved Communities

Selection Criteria: Climate and Sustainability, and Economic Competitiveness

- Demonstrate support of Departmental goals
- Examples include:
  - Reduce **motor vehicle-related pollution** such as air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.
  - Increase **safety of lower-carbon travel modes** such as transit and active transportation.
  - Incorporate **lower-carbon** pavement and construction materials.
  - Includes **climate resilience measures** (e.g., storm water management practices, etc.).
  - Increased **economic activity**, as well as improved mobility and connectivity.
  - Workforce benefits.

Q&A

Coaching and Office Hours

To deepen learning on this subject, Coaching, Office Hours, and Toolkits for this grant are available to all cities in the program

Peer Learning

*Interactive sessions featuring **subject matter experts** on the policy and grant approach; followed by smaller **cohort sessions*** for peer discussions*

Coaching

Smaller, cohort-based sessions to continue to build on **specific application questions** identified in the peer learning session

Office Hours

Support in the form of **designated time slots** with content experts to address specific questions

Tools and Templates

The following resources can help **strengthen core components** of your grant application

Coaching and Office Hours help build forward from the peer learning session

Coaching

Smaller sessions to work on **specific application questions** as peers

Who will you engage with?	Jenny O'Connell, NACTO Ryan Russo, Together Projects
How will you engage?	Coaching sessions will be held on **March 7, 1-2:00 PM EST** You will receive a separate calendar invite for the coaching session.

Office Hours

Support in the form of **designated time slots** with content experts to address specific questions

Who will you engage with?	Jenny O'Connell, NACTO Ryan Russo, Together Projects
How will you engage?	Participants will be able to **register for office hours** through Canvas. Reserved time slots will be **15-minutes in length**, but may be extended pending availability and demand. Office hours will be offered on **March 8, 1-3:00 PM EST** and **March 9, 1-2:00 PM EST**

Coming up for Safe Streets and Roads for All

Module 3 Coaching Session
Hosted by, Jenny O'Connell, from NACTO and Ryan Russo from Together Projects

When: **March 7, 1 -2:00 PM EST**

Registration Link:
https://nlc-org.zoom.us/j/84980762935?pwd=aDQ2eGF3WVhnQIpQUmZqZjl1MytMdz09

Module 3 Office Hours
March 8, 1 - 3:00 PM
March 9, 1 -2:00 PM
https://calendly.com/ssr4aactionbootcamp/module-3-ss4a-action-planning-office-hours

Module 4 Peer Learning Session
Topic: Cities will **understand application data requirements**; general data principles and uses; how to apply data tools to assess local framework and to support a transformational agenda.

When: **March 16, 1 pm EST**

Registration Link:
https://nlc-org.zoom.us/j/87473848450?pwd=VWNYbTBDV1BDSjROZkgyK3FUMkZpZz09

Tools and Templates

Tools and Templates for Module 3: Federal Administration Priorities

The following resources can help **strengthen core components** of your grant application

- **DOT Justice40 Initiative**
- **Office of Management and Budget (OBM) - Interim Implementation Guidance for the Justice40 Initiative**

End of Module Survey

- How prepared do you currently feel to submit your application *(Scale of 1-5)*

    5 - Very Prepared
    4 - Somewhat Prepared
    3 - Neither Prepared nor Unprepared
    2 - Somewhat Unprepared
    1 - Very Unprepared

- How helpful did you find today's session in preparing your grant application? *(Scale of 1-5)*

    5 - Very Helpful
    4 - Somewhat Helpful
    3 - Neither Helpful nor Unhelpful
    2 - Somewhat Unhelpful
    1 - Very Unhelpful

- Which of the following support resources do you plan to use? *(Multiple Select)*
    - Coaching sessions or office hours
    - Navigators / Support Team
    - Canvas

Thank you!

For questions, please contact your navigator, the office hours and/or coaching lead, or email **‹INSERT GRANT EMAIL›**.

For general information, please visit
www.localinfrastructurehub.org

WITH SUPPORT FROM: