

# Winning Project

## Reconnecting Communities Grant Program

The Reconnecting Communities Grant Program was created under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to reconnect communities that are cut off from opportunity and burdened by past transportation infrastructure decisions.

The first round of \$185 million in funding was awarded to 45 communities (49 Planning Grants and 6 Capital Construction Grants) for fiscal year 2022. Now known as the [Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Grant Program](#), cities can use the case study below to submit a competitive application for the \$3.2 billion funding opportunity due on **8/28/23**.

View more 2022 Reconnecting Communities winning applications [here](#).

### Charlotte, North Carolina: Reconnecting the West End

Planning Grant Awarded at \$1,000,000 • See Charlotte's [winning application](#)

This project will study two key interchanges in Charlotte, NC's West End, which is home to Johnson C. Smith University, a Historically Black University. The goal of the project is to reconnect this historically African American community to jobs, healthcare, grocery stores, and public space for non-motorized travelers. It will also propose recommendations for equitable transit-oriented development and the inclusion of mixed-use and mixed-income housing development for the West End community.

**Making the Case:** In the 1960's, this community was victimized by redlining and urban renewal. The construction of Highway I-277 in the West End [demolished](#) a thriving Black neighborhood and cut the community off from economic activity. As a result, The West End is now classified by the federal government as an economically disadvantaged community, and the university is surrounded by highways.



#### Key Project Initiatives:

<b>Mitigating displacement</b>	The Charlotte Neighborhood Equity and Stabilization (NEST) Commission will review and recommend "anti-displacement strategies and tools for protecting residents of moderate to high vulnerability of displacement," to help mitigate the high risk of displacement for residents in West End.
<b>Quantifying equity</b>	The project will utilize tools such as the <a href="#">Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool</a> and the <a href="#">FHWA Screening Tool for Equity Analysis of Projects</a> to continue promoting equity and inclusion.
<b>Reclaiming the neighborhood</b>	The grant emphasizes equitable transit-oriented development and the reclamation of land for public space, housing, and jobs that were previously destroyed and displaced.
<b>Support for residents</b>	The project will create more options for pedestrians, cyclists, and public transit users, as those without access to a vehicle tend to have lower incomes.
<b>Inclusive contracting framework</b>	Seeks to provide business opportunities for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and women-owned firms through the <a href="#">Charlotte Business INclusion program</a> .
<b>Community Engagement and Inclusion</b>	Developed a <a href="#">community participation plan</a> , partnered with community organizations and agencies, and developed strategies for engagement to ensure the local community will be involved in the project planning.