

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](#).

Long Beach, California: Shoreline Drive Gateway: Corridor Realignment & Community Connections

Capital Grant Awarded at \$30,000,000 • See Long Beach's [winning application](#)

The City of Long Beach, California, was awarded \$30 million to support its Shoreline Drive Gateway Project, which will reconnect a neighborhood that was cut off from economic development as a result of post-World War II urban renewal and freeway construction. This project will convert a freeway into a landscaped local roadway, creating a 5.5 acre park with a bicycle path and pedestrian amenities. Additionally, in an effort to drive economic opportunities, project labor agreements and procurement policies will be used to ensure that local residents are hired for jobs on the project. The total cost of the [project](#) is anticipated to be \$60 million and completed before 2028.

Making the Case: The area near Shoreline Drive has been disproportionately impacted by the unique urban design centered around highways, rail lines, and the heavy industrial uses at San Pedro Bay Ports Complex. Additionally, the freeway has created a physical barrier that limits the safe transfer of people on and off the road and burdens the local communities with significant pollution, further driving public health disparities and contributing to the community's historically disadvantaged status.



Key Project Initiatives:	
Mitigating displacement	Includes a plan to minimize the negative impact of the project's construction on unhoused individuals that have established informal communities in and around the area.
Job development	Creates new jobs to maintain, create, and run programming in park spaces with opportunity to employ local residents within the Shoreline Drive community and Long Beach, as well as administrative support for the roadway and future park facilities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement policies for the city require that any contract over \$100,000 requires the use of union labor.
Quantifying equity	Uses Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) , which are negotiated on a regular basis with local building and construction trade unions, to ensure capital projects will pay a fair wage to workers, and that underrepresented and local workers are hired for jobs on the project.
Project timeline	Includes a timeline for this project as well as where this project fits into a much bigger project/scope and how the projects support each other.
Community Engagement and Inclusion	Assured that the local community was involved and considered through the use of forums, community organization partnerships, agency partnerships, and local business feedback.