

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](#).

Tucson, Arizona: Atravesando Comunidades: Greenway and Bike/Ped Bridge Project

Planning Grant Awarded at \$900,000 • See Tucson's [winning application](#)

This project addresses historic inequities by [reconnecting](#) several neighborhoods in south Tucson, Arizona — which are federally-designated "[Areas of Persistent Poverty](#)" (AOPP) — to Tucson's economic center, which will provide easier access for non-motorized travelers to a community college, shopping centers, healthcare, and grocery stores. The project seeks to mitigate the long-term negative effects of the construction of Interstate-19 (I-19), which was erected in the 1960s and cut off historically Latino neighborhoods from economic activity. The grant will fund the construction of a new bicycle and pedestrian bridge over a highway that is currently dangerous to cross, as well as support pre-construction tasks (planning & designing) of the Airport Wash Greenway.

Making the Case: In the early 1960s, the predominantly Latino population that resides in south Tucson neighborhoods, was forcibly isolated from the rest of the city with the building of Interstate-19 (I-19). Now for more than 60 years, the physical barrier has disproportionately limited residents' access to key civic services leading to the emergence of [food deserts](#), restricted economic mobility, and the dire health risks of consistent exposure to air and noise pollution.



Key Project Initiatives:

Focus on low-income households	Households in this area are generally in the 80th percentile or above for low-income households, satisfying the criteria of an economically disadvantaged community .
Reduced reliance on single-occupancy vehicles	Creating a new pedestrian bridge and greenway will make it easier for pedestrians to cross the highway and connect to Tucson's economic center, reducing risks for non-motorized travelers and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
Robust community engagement	The project will utilize in-person community meetings, online platforms, bilingual news releases, and engagement with local stakeholders to overcome anticipated barriers and receive feedback from residents.
Prioritizes the environment	Expanded network of greenways will help reestablish critical wildlife corridors by using native vegetation and drought tolerant trees.
Community Engagement and Inclusion	Will include bilingual notification letters and news/media releases and coordination with ADOT to ensure that feedback from community members will be considered throughout the planning process.