

# Q&A: Strengthening Mobility & Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) program

Answers to questions asked during the Local Infrastructure Hub's SMART Approach to Road Innovation webinar on Sept. 12, 2023

**Q:** Would this grant allow our city to be able to formulate/create an intelligent transportation system (ITS) comprehensive plan? Currently lacking fiber optics to be able to synchronize everything.

**A:** The answer is generally yes. Stage one grants support planning and prototyping activities—so we do want to make sure that projects are demonstrating the technologies that they're contemplating. An ITS plan might be linked to a demonstration of those component parts. Stage two will allow for more implementation.

**Q:** My question was regarding electric vehicles planning as we're noticing a lot of disconnect within our transportation system with electric vehicles and trying to make sure we have a connected charging network. So I was wondering if this is something that this particular grant would be able to fund and cover?

**A:** Yes. One of the eight technology categories is smart grid and another category is systems integration which speaks to some of the other aspects of the problem that you identified. It's worth looking at the cohort of grantees that we funded last year to get a better sense of how issues are identified and discussed.

**Q:** Are FY22 SMART Stage 1 recipients eligible for FY23 Stage 1 applications, or is the expectation that recipients would need to next apply for Stage 2 awards?

**A:** *(Tara Lanigan, USDOT):* Yes, FY22 SMART recipients may apply for additional Stage 1 grants. There is also no limit on the number of SMART applications that an eligible applicant can submit in one year. Additionally, there is no limit on the amount of funding that an eligible applicant can receive throughout the duration of the SMART program, with the exception of geographic diversity requirements.