

# BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW

AND Additional Resources

# BROADBAND -NEBRASKA

## Why Does Broadband Connectivity Matter to Counties?

Citizens in many rural areas of Nebraska are unserved or underserved due to difficult terrain and high cost of building out the broadband infrastructure. The next step to provide broadband acre to acre in Nebraska is build public-private partnerships. Counties with ample broadband service can bring opportunities:

- Precision Farming
- Telehealth
- Education
- Economic Development

# BROADBAND - NEBRASKA

## Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment Program (BEAD) -

- The NTIA will grant funds to states. Letter of Intent – July 18, 2022
- The state will receive \$5 million to produce a broadband plan.
- Local Government will be included in the planning
- Nebraska is slated to receive at least \$100 million in FY22

## Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program –

Additional \$20 million granted in 2022. May be used to finance new construction/improvements of existing infrastructure and network expansion.

## Nebraska Universal Service Fund -

Offers ongoing support for telephone and broadband services in high cost areas

## ARPA-Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds -

Final Rule expanded the broadband project eligibility, allowing counties to assess the need for improved broadband connectivity.

# BROADBAND - NEBRASKA

## County Investment in Broadband

- Expand Middle Mile Infrastructure Projects to Increase Access
- Leverage Public-Private Partnerships to Address Broadband Gaps
- Implement Digital Equity Initiatives
- Equip Parks with Public Wi-Fi
- Connect Unserved Parts of the County with Reliable Service
- Increase Internet Speeds to 100 MBPS Download/Upload

# BROADBAND - NEBRASKA

## Nebraska Regional Officials Council (NROC)

- Broadband Mapping, Digital Needs Assessment and Toolboxes

## NACo

- Broadband Toolkit and BIL Notice of Funding Opportunities

## Public Service Commission (PSC)

- State Grant Opportunities

## Telecommunications and Internet Service Providers

- Construction and Improvements to Broadband Projects

## NACO

- Collaborate with state on BEAD funding for unserved and underserved rural communities; Assessing Regional Collaboration and Technical Assistance

# TRANSPORTATION- NEBRASKA

## ROUTES Initiative

The Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success (ROUTES) Initiative aims to address disparities in rural transportation and improve safety, mobility, and economic competitiveness nationwide.

- Improves analysis of projects from rural areas
- Provides rural communities with technical assistance for meeting the transportation infrastructure investment needs of the US in a financially sustainable manner.

# TRANSPORTATION - NEBRASKA

## ROUTES

### User Friendly Resources

- Applicant Toolkits for Competitive Funding Programs at USDOT
- Charging Forward: A Toolkit for Planning and Funding Rural Electric Mobility
- Webinars highlighting DOT programs and rural success stories
- Comprehensive website with information on DOT programs, resources and points of contact

### Outreach and Engagement

- Technical assistance via [rural@dot.gov](mailto:rural@dot.gov)
- Presentations at external conferences and events
- Quarterly newsletters
- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Rural Playbook

# TRANSPORTATION - NEBRASKA

BIL funding set-asides for rural communities FY22-26

## Competitive Grant Opportunities

Rural Surface Transportation Grants – supports projects to improve and expand the surface transportation infrastructure in rural areas to increase connectivity, improve the safety and reliability of the movement of people and freight, and generate regional economic growth and improve quality of life. Federal Cost Share 80%

Bridge Investment Program – provides funding projects to replace, rehabilitate, preserve, or protect on or more bridges on the National Bridge Inventory, as well as projects to replace or rehabilitate culverts to improve flood control. Federal Cost Share 50%-80%



# TRANSPORTATION- NEBRASKA

Notice of Funding Opportunities Open Right Now – Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS<sub>4</sub>A)

Supports the implementation of local safety initiatives to prevent death and serious injury roads and streets. Federal Cost Share 80%

**1.TITLE: How to Apply for SS<sub>4</sub>A Grants: General Overview**

- This webinar will offer a general overview of the SS<sub>4</sub>A program, the grant application process, and the available grant types.
- Monday, June 13, 1:00-3:00 p.m. (EDT)

**2.TITLE: How to Apply for SS<sub>4</sub>A: Action Plan Grants**

- This webinar will offer a general overview of the SS<sub>4</sub>A program and the grant application process and provide a particular focus on applying for Action Plan Grants.
- Wednesday, June 15, 1:00-3:00 p.m. (EDT)

**3.TITLE: How to Apply for SS<sub>4</sub>A: Implementation Grants**

- This webinar will offer a general overview of the SS<sub>4</sub>A program and the grant application process and provide a particular focus on applying for Implementation Grants.
- Thursday, June 23, 1:00-3:00 p.m. (EDT)

# TRANSPORTATION- NEBRASKA

## Who is eligible to apply for SS4A grant funding?

- Metropolitan planning organizations;
  - Counties, cities, towns, and transit agencies or other special districts that are subdivisions of a State;
  - Federally recognized Tribal governments; and
  - Multijurisdictional groups comprised of the above entities.
- **Applications due no later than September 15, 2022.**
  - Grant opportunities will be available for the next five years.

# TRANSPORTATION - NEBRASKA

## NACO TRANSPORTATION BIL WORKING GROUP

Bill Tielke, Holt County Supervisor

Chris Jacobsen, Custer Highway Superintendent

Scott Huppert, Dodge Highway Superintendent

Barb Keegan, Box Butte Highway Superintendent

Tim Ryan, Keith Highway Superintendent

Bob Post, Banner County Commissioner

Earl McNutt, Red Willow County Commissioner

Pam Dingman, Lancaster County Engineer

Jodi Gibson, Local Division Assistant Manager, NEDOT

Joe Werning, US Federal Highway NE Division Administrator

# TRANSPORTATION - NEBRASKA

The mission of this NACO working group is to:

- assess the needs for repairs on roads and bridges in Nebraska
- explore regional or county collaboration for grant opportunities
- identify resources for technical assistance to prepare grants for successful award
- identify BIL Programs that would be desirable for Nebraska Counties
- Collaborate on communicating State funding opportunities with our counties.

# RESOURCES

Federal Highway Administration

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/summary.cfm>

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

<https://www.ntia.doc.gov/category/broadband>

Nebraska Association of County Officials

<https://nebraskacounties.org/resources/infrastructure-investment-and-jobs-act.html>

Nebraska Department of Transportation

<https://dot.nebraska.gov/>

ROUTES

<https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/2022-02/ROUTES%20Flyer.pdf>

BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW RURAL PLAYBOOK

[https://nebraskacounties.org/file\\_download/inline/2127de59-0858-4b8d-bd4c-d23c4a9f1c37](https://nebraskacounties.org/file_download/inline/2127de59-0858-4b8d-bd4c-d23c4a9f1c37)