



2023 Fall Conference at Ashore Resort & Beach Club
Ocean City, Maryland

**INFRASTRUCTURE, INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT (IIJA)
GRANT OPPORTUNITIES**

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Brandon Brown, MPA

- Currently serves as a lead grants planner with RK&K of Baltimore
- Experienced in local and regional transportation planning with specialization in federal transportation policy
- Has coordinated and written grants for state DOTs and multiple municipal localities in the mid-Atlantic



ABSTRACT

INFRASTRUCTURE, INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT (IIJA) GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

- Major grant categories
- New grants created under IIJA
- Maryland FY22-23 award profile
- Major merit criteria and general evaluation process
- Justice 40
- Member counties provide IIJA grant experience
 - *Grants applied for*
 - *Successes & lessons learned*
 - *Next steps*

Major Grant Categories



- Roads bridges, and major projects
- Passenger and freight rail
- Public transportation
- Safety
- Ports and waterways

- Electric vehicles (EV), low emissions buses and fueling infrastructure
- Climate, energy, and environmental sustainability
- Water
- Resilience
- Broadband

New Competitive Grants Created Under IIJA

- Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods
- RAISE
- Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)
- SMART
- PROTECT (Discretionary)
- Bridge Investment Program
- Charging and Fueling Infrastructure
- MDGP/MEGA



Maryland Awards Profile: Roads & Bridges

- 251 bridges, more than 2,261 miles of highway in poor condition
- Expected to receive \$4.7B over five years in federal funding for **highways and bridges**
- Announced funding to date:
 - \$2B for roads, bridges, roadway safety, and major projects
 - \$1.7B in highway formula funding
 - \$176.3M in formula funding for bridges in 2022 and 2023
 - \$71.5M through the RAISE program in 2022 and 2023



Maryland Awards Profile: **Water & Public Transit**

- The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) represents the largest investment in clean drinking water in American history
- Announced funding to date:
 - \$288M to provide clean and safe water.
 - \$288M in 2022 and 2023 through the EPA
 - Of this, \$80.6M to **lead pipe and service line replacement**, and \$76.7M for **safe drinking water**
- \$1.8B over five years to **improve public transit** across the state
- Announced funding to date:
 - \$346.8M



Maryland: EV Charging & Resilience

- Through the National Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure Program MD should expect to receive roughly \$63M in formula funding over five years
 - MD has been allocated \$22.7M in 2022 and 2023 to build out a network of **EV chargers** across the state
- In the last decade, MD has experienced 32 extreme weather events, costing the state up to \$3.4B in damages.
 - Approximately \$159.3M has been allocated to MD for **infrastructure resilience** in 2022 and 2023, including \$27.6 M through the Army Corps of Engineers for flood mitigation

Recent Local Applications

Locality/Agency	Project Name
Montgomery County	Community Connector: Completing the Capital Crescent Trail
Anne Arundel County	West Annapolis-Parole Mobility & Access Project
Prince George's County <i>(Awarded)</i>	New Carrollton Multi-Modal Transportation Station Project
Maryland Transit Administration <i>(Awarded)</i>	Building Baltimore Penn Station Connections
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission	Creating Equitable Connections on the Capital Trails Network
City of Aberdeen	Aberdeen Train Station-Station Square Improvements
City of Salisbury	SALKAP Lake Street Oil Tank Farm Clean Up
City of Baltimore	West Baltimore United



Project Spotlight: **New Carrollton Station Improvements**

- Awarded \$20.5M to Prince George's County
 - ▶ Multimodal transit station improvements for New Carrollton Station:
 - *New Train Hall for the existing MARC, Metrorail, and Amtrak service, TheBus, Greyhound bus services and the future MD Purple Line light rail*
 - *New sidewalks, bike lanes, lighting, signalization, and traffic calming improvements*
 - *Makes transit a more attractive option, by facilitating nonmotorized first/last mile access to the station*

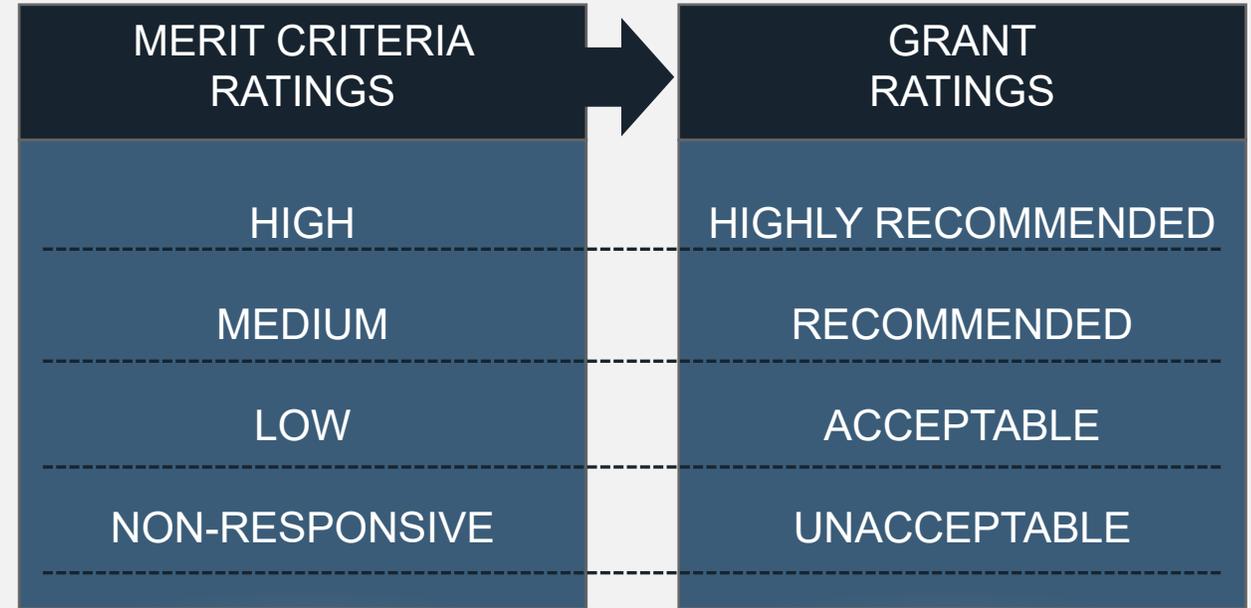
Major Merit Criteria and General Evaluation Process

- Federal merit criteria
 - Safety
 - Environmental sustainability
 - Quality of life
 - Mobility and community connectivity
 - Economic competitiveness and opportunity
 - State of good repair
 - Partnership and collaboration
 - Innovation
 - Equity



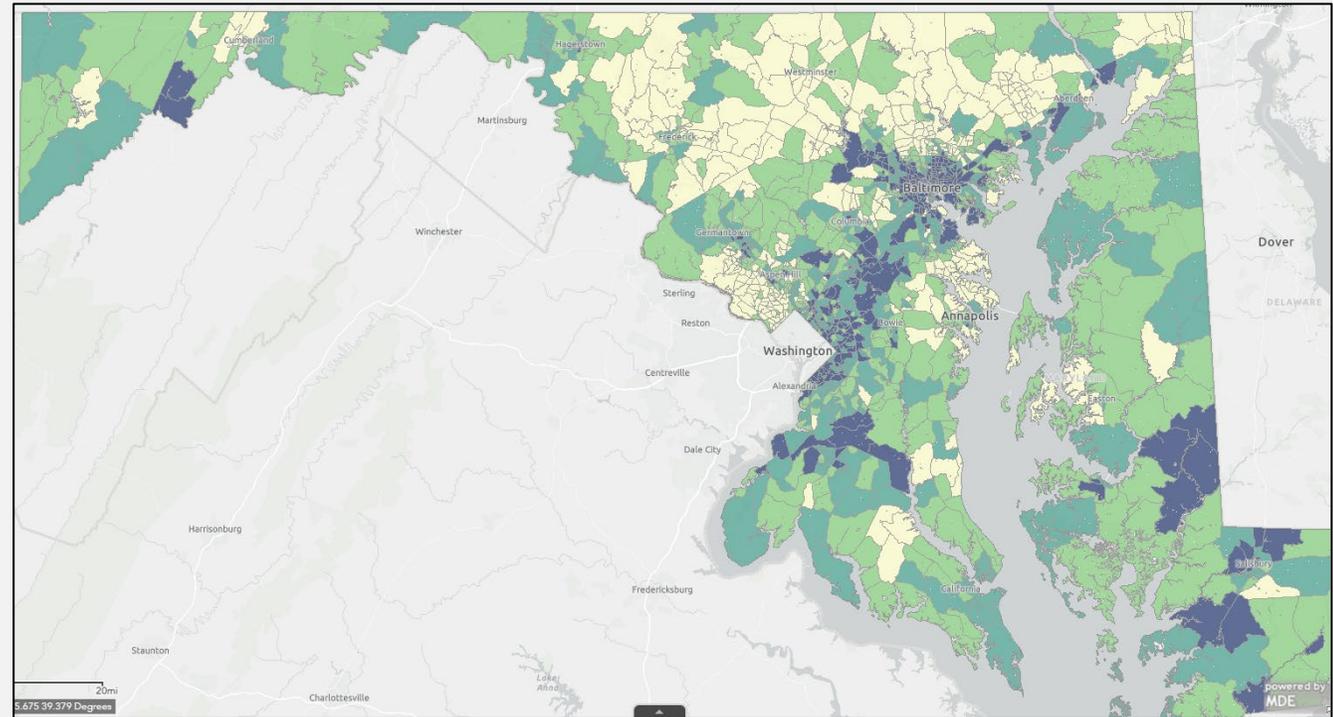
Major Merit Criteria and General Evaluation Process

- National priorities
 - Invest public dollars efficiently
 - Buy American
 - Create good-paying jobs
 - Invest dollars equitably, including Justice 40 initiative
 - Build resilient infrastructure to withstand climate change
 - Coordinate with state, local, tribal, and territorial governments



Justice 40

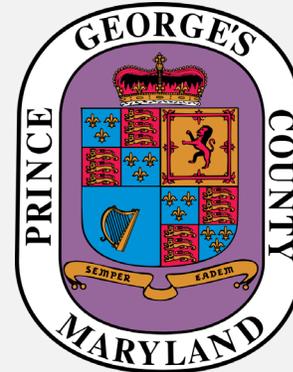
- 40% set aside of all federal discretionary grants to underserved communities
- 60% still competitively available without disadvantaged communities
- Other types of disadvantage characteristics include:
 - Disproportionate climate impacts
 - Disproportionate environmental burden and high cumulative impact
 - High energy cost burden and low energy access



MARYLAND EQUITY EMPHASIS MAP

Member Counties Recent Reflections

- Grant(s) applied for
- Successes/lessons learned
- Next steps



Allegany County

- One federal bridge project that was under design when this funding source was announced.
- Coordinated with SHA and encouraged to apply.
- Applied for the funding and was were awarded.
- The IIJA funding eliminated our local share
- The project should be advertised for construction in the next two months
- Unsure if they will face any new challenges with this funding construction begins



Montgomery County

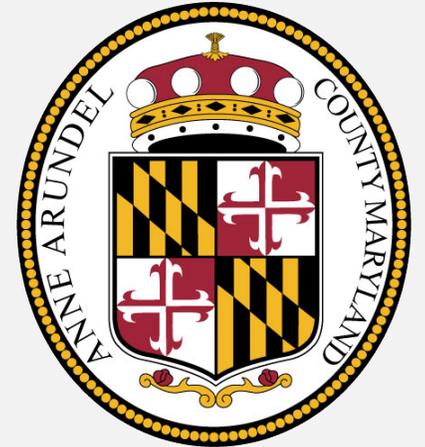
- Hold for Montgomery County



Anne Arundel County

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- Applied of SS4A Action Plan Grant for \$150K
 - Originally submitted for Capital FY22 funding for ~\$8M
 - Awarded 105k for a planning activity
 - *Safe Routes To Transit – “Transit Access Study” - Included an AoPP*
- **Lessons learned**
 - Prioritization and evaluation of project
 - ROI in applying for planning grant
 - Difficulty in turning down funding
 - READ the allocation element of NOFO – to help inform future decisions
 - County intends to submit based on findings from study for future capital award
 - Regional competition (ex. WMATA/MDOT MTA/PGC/ impact larger jurisdiction)
 - Cap on total state awards



Anne Arundel County

- **Grant administration challenges**

- Correct details for what FHWA is looking for
- Master Agreement can be cumbersome
- Internal coordination time for approval vs. quick turn around from FHWA
- Fill in the blank boxes
- Huge time commitment – approval from County – internal signatures and vetting for legal standards and practices
- FHWA returning for clarification and concerns
- Emphasis on paperwork and accuracy

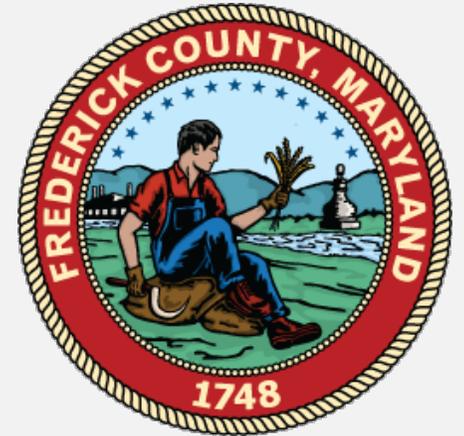


Frederick County

**BIPARTISAN
INFRASTRUCTURE
LAW**



- Local Government IIJA Funding Submission Bridge Replacement Program 100% Funding Application
 - Priority for projects ready for construction, must have NEPA approval & cleared right of way
 - Priority given to LGs who haven't received these funds previously
 - Must identify candidate project in Structural Management Plan and submit to SHA Office of Structures by June 30th



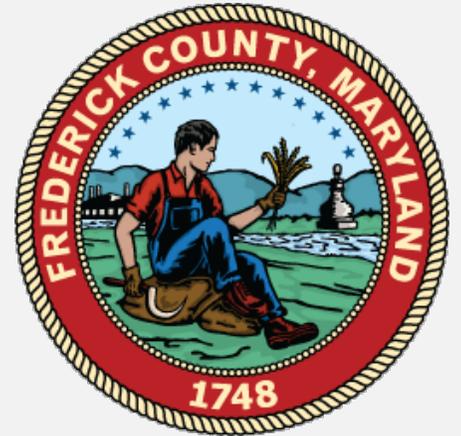
Frederick County

- **Applications submitted**

- Hornets Nest Bridge Replacement: Submitted Sept. 2022, received Award Notice Nov. 2022 for \$1.1M for construction funds
- Stottlemyer Road Bridge Deck Replacement: Submitted June 2023, waiting results of \$1,138,500 request for construction funds

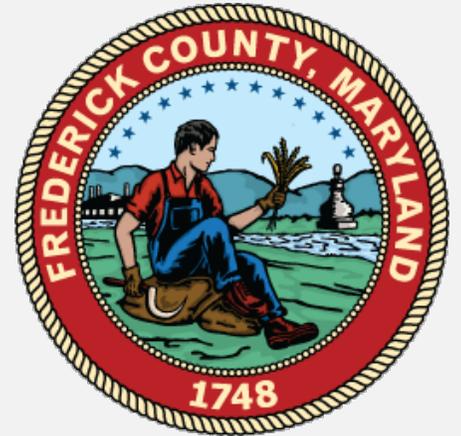
- **Lessons learned**

- Be honest
- The question prompts help you, but think outside the box with answers
- Remote/rural areas are just as vital as urban
- Connectivity, response time, community



Frederick County

- Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program \$955,000 (\$764k federal, \$191k local) to develop and update the Streets and Roads Manual
- SS4A funds initiatives to prevent roadway death and injury and supports the National Roadway Safety Strategy and the Transportation Department's goal of zero deaths and serious injuries on the nation's roadways
- Submitted in Sept. 2022, awarded in January 2023. Requires local match of 20%, funding to be used over a five-year period



Howard County

- Looking better way to manage and administer grants
 - What's the best forum to discuss importance?
 - *Location to provide status to plan for future opportunities and build on previously considered elements (Ex. SharePoint/Dashboard/Clearinghouse)*
 - Coordinated application/ regional /interdisciplinary/partners (other counties), nonprofit/private groups – interdepartmentally
 - *Ex. OEM (DHS focus, police/fire/sustainability/environmental)*
 - How to communicate these goals?
 - Identifying mutual goals while also appreciating and differences for joint applications



Howard County

- **Challenges and lessons**

- Identifying leadership and tasks
- Stakeholder and information – synthesizing for all
- Cooperation amongst stakeholders /timing and required process
- Awareness/understanding/willingness/ division of labor amongst stakeholders both internally with different departments at the local level and interregional, other counties and institutions
- Forum obstacles / access outside of network for SharePoint/due date, eligibility/merit and evaluation
- Location to provide status to plan for future opportunities and build on previously considered elements (match) find email from MDOT and grants



Howard County



FEMA

- **Experience fulfilling grant requirements**

- FEMA – Ellicott City 2016 and 2018 multi-million-dollar recovery efforts
- Reimbursement obligations/reporting
- Specificity in accomplishments (construction)
- Lag in federal responsiveness and information requests
- Contractor and inspector records (misalignment)
- Detail not in invoice / weekly IDRs/monthly summary/ + contractor summary – making stipulation in contracting
- Role of superintendent and loss of project knowledge when project manager leaves project
- Loss on knowledge recovery – (IDRs) ex. DBE participation and tracking of outcomes to meet requirements
- Project expectations for invoicing submittal



Prince George's County

- **Unsuccessful grants**

- TIGER - Not successful (2 applications)
- RAISE - Not successful

- **Successful grants**

- Bridge Investment Program, Planning Category Grant
 - *The Prince George's County Connecting Communities Bundled Bridge Replacement Project*
- Safe Streets and Roads for All
 - *Proud to Pave the Way for Multimodal Safety Projects \$21,253,985*



Prince George's County

- **Successes/lessons learned**

- It was helpful for the BIL grants that we applied at the early stages of this program
- Our projects serve communities in need which we believe was well received by the grant evaluators
- It is important to be persistent and commit the time and resources to this

- **Next steps**

- We will apply for more BIL/IIJA grants



Somerset County

- Somerset County did not experience recent success with IIJA grants
 - Has disadvantaged or persistent poverty populations
 - Concern about competitiveness of county when compared to more urbanized counties for mass transit, major highway, big airport or large port projects
 - Some IIJA funding categories were not that applicable to Somerset
 - Rural counties like Somerset County were not eligible for some IIJA funding
 - Having a smaller staff limited the ability to invest heavily in applications
 - Rural counties benefitted immensely from CARES and ARPA funds



Washington County

- Applied for two grants at the airport for new air traffic control tower & terminal expansion
- Benefited from the formula-based funding on several projects most notably MDOT was able to apply IIJA funding for I-81 widening
- **Initial challenges with the competitive grant opportunities:**
 - Time and effort that it takes to prepare and make applications which
 - Smaller counties have less resources
 - EJ issues not universal
 - Some programs not geared to county's needs
 - Some programs are more popular in urban locations/coastal communities



General Tips

- Value of multi-jurisdictional / regional applications for localities to collaborate and share successes
- Roll of political support at local, state, MPO and federal levels
- Dynamic projects that meet all merit criteria
- Even before submitting a grant, you should think ahead to how you will get your project built, including:
 - How will you pay for the project?
 - How long will it take until your project is ready to build?
 - How will you permit the project?
 - How will you deliver the project?



General Tips

- Think about how you will ensure that you can comply with important federal requirements that must be met BEFORE funds can be obligated
- All federal grants must comply with 2 CFR 200 that details Federal requirements including for financial reporting and oversight.
- All federal grants must comply with civil rights requirements such as Title VI



QUESTIONS?

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