



Prepared by the Office of Natural Environment

March / April
2023

Announcements



FHWA Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Discretionary Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) established the PROTECT Discretionary Grant Program to help make surface transportation more resilient to natural hazards, including climate change, sea level rise, flooding, extreme weather events, and other natural disasters through support of planning activities, resilience improvements, community resilience and evacuation routes, and at-risk coastal infrastructure. This NOFO offers up to \$848 million from Fiscal Years (FY) 2022 and 2023. Applications are due via [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) by August 18, 2023.

The NOFO can be found on [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=347585) at: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=347585>.

More information on this NOFO and the PROTECT Program can be found at: <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/protect/discretionary>.

Applicant questions should be directed to: PROTECTdiscretionary@dot.gov.

Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program Deadline and Webinar Recording

The Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program (CFI Program) created by BIL is available to strategically deploy publicly accessible electric vehicle charging and alternative fueling infrastructure. The CFI Program is making up to \$700 million (FY 2022 \$300 million and FY 2023 \$400 million) available for this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). Applications must be submitted electronically through [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) no later than 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time, on Tuesday, June 13, 2023.

Applicants must register and use the system to submit applications electronically. Applicants are encouraged to register in advance of the submission deadline and to register to receive notifications of updates/amendments to this NOFO.

FHWA hosted a Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program Webinar on March 22nd. To learn more about the CFI program, eligibility, and the grant application process, please review the webinar recording and PowerPoint presentation that is posted online:

- [CFI Discretionary Grant Webinar Presentation](#)
- [Recording of CFI Webinar held Wednesday, March 22nd](#)
Passcode: i#l2b6UV

Please contact CFIgrants@dot.gov with any questions on this Notice of Funding Opportunity.

Trails and Resilience: Review of the Role of Trails in Climate Resilience and Emergency Response

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) conducted a literature review on resilience and emergency response on trails. The project team also conducted eight interviews with national trail organizations to inform the development of the [Trails and Resilience report](#). This white paper includes the following three sections: Vulnerability and Resilience to Natural Hazards, Disaster and Emergency Response, and Use of Trails During Public Health Emergencies. Trail planners, designers, and managers across the country are integrating resilience and emergency response considerations into how trails are designed, built, and managed and this report highlight several of these efforts. For more information contact [Christopher B Douwes](#) at (202) 366-5013.

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program Updates

FHWA has updated eight brochures for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) program. These CMAQ resources can help State and local governments or CMAQ project sponsors learn about available programs. Additional resources are also available on the [CMAQ reference site](#) to help identify the fundamentals behind apportionment, develop transportation-air quality strategies, or put together project applications.

- [CMAQ Essentials](#)
- [Public-Private Partnerships](#)
- [Intermodal Freight Transportation](#)
- [Intelligent Transportation Systems \(ITS\)](#)

- [Idle Reduction Techniques](#)
- [Public Transportation](#)
- [Diesel Retrofits](#)
- [Alternative Fuel Vehicle \(AFV\) Projects](#)

For more information about CMAQ and available resources, contact [Edward Dancausse](#), (919) 747-7026.

Connect to the Office of Planning, Environment, and Realty Quarterly (HEP) Newsletter

FHWA HEP publishes a quarterly [Research Review newsletter](#) that highlights the research of the [5 HEP offices](#), including the Office of Natural Environment. The quarterly bulletins connect readers to research on the following objectives:

- Promote informed transportation decision-making to improve transportation planning, programming, operations, and coordination.
- Support comprehensive planning that improves transportation safety and addresses environmental, social, and economic needs.
- Accelerate the project delivery process.
- Minimize environmental impacts of transportation investments.
- Improve the way transportation contributes to economic development and quality of life in communities.

Welcome to Anthony Norman to The Office of Natural Environment

Anthony Norman joined the Air Quality and Noise Team as an Environmental Protection Specialist in the Highway Noise Program. Anthony comes from the FHWA Wisconsin Division Office where he served as a transportation engineer, providing oversight and stewardship for projects, as well as for the Value Engineering Program for Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Southwest Region. He also served on a rotational assignment as Innovation Program Coordinator and provided program and delivery support on several programs including Everyday Counts (EDC) 7, the Accelerated Innovation Deployment (AID) Demonstration, Accelerating Market Readiness (AMR), and the State Transportation Innovation Council (STIC) Incentive program.

Welcome to Patrick Lentlie to the Resource Center

Patrick Lentlie joined the Resource Center's Air Quality Team. As an Environmental Specialist with New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), Patrick was the statewide subject matter expert on air quality, energy and greenhouse gas issues

and has over 20 years of experience managing the complex transportation conformity process in New York State. His work included performing emissions analysis for transportation projects and ensuring compliance with State and Federal requirements. Patrick was also instrumental in interagency consultation process and has worked closely with FHWA and other Federal partners in his role at NYSDOT. Patrick also provided support the State's CMAQ and other Federal environmental programs.

Resources and Training



Air Quality Courses:

NHI Free Air Quality Planning Web-based Course

The National Highway Institute (NHI) Air Quality Planning web-based training series is designed for transportation practitioners. It includes four modules: Clean Air Act Overview ([FHWA-NHI-142068](#)), State Implementation Plan (SIP) and Transportation Control Measure (TCM) Requirements and Policies ([FHWA-NHI-142069](#)), SIP Development Process ([FHWA-NHI-142070](#)), and Transportation Conformity ([FHWA-NHI-142071](#)). All courses are free. For more information, visit the [NHI website](#) and search "Air Quality Planning," or look for the specific course number. Please contact [Karen Perritt](#) at (202) 366-9066 with any questions or comments.

FHWA NEPA Air Quality Analysis for Highway Projects

The FHWA Resource Center Environment, Air Quality & Realty Team periodically conducts a series of training sessions on National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Air Quality Analysis for Highway Projects. The training includes sessions on project-level applications appropriate for managers and practitioners, as well as hands-on sessions intended for modelers. If you are interested in this training, please contact [George Noel](#).

FHWA Resource Center Environment, Air Quality & Realty Team Training Activities

FHWA's Resource Center Environment, Air Quality & Realty Team is available to offer EPA's MOtor Vehicle Emission Simulator [MOVES](#) and other trainings. Please contact [Mike Roberts](#), for additional information or to discuss scheduling a training.

Training Available for PM Hot-spot Analysis

The FHWA Resource Center has developed a training course to cover the Particulate Matter (PM) hot-spot requirement under the transportation conformity rule. This three-day course provides detailed, hands-on instruction on how to complete a quantitative PM hot-spot analysis in accordance with EPA's guidance. The course is geared towards State and local agency staff who will be completing these analyses, as well as those who may be reviewing, approving, or otherwise assessing hot-spot analyses. Previous modeling experience is not necessary, although familiarity with MOVES and air quality dispersion modeling may be helpful. The course includes class discussion and numerous hands-on exercises, including a hypothetical project that will be carried through the course as an example of a quantitative PM hot-spot analysis. Contact [Chris Dresser](#) if have questions related to this training course.

CMAQ Course:

FHWA Web-Based Training on the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program

Several web-based CMAQ training opportunities are available on-demand on [FHWA's CMAQ training website](#). This page includes CMAQ program training such as CMAQ Overview, the CMAQ Transportation Performance Measures and the CMAQ Annual Reporting/Public Access System. Training Information for CMAQ Emissions Calculator Toolkit such as available tools and their associated webinars along with CMAQ Toolkit Video Series are available on the [CMAQ Emissions Calculator Toolkit website](#). For questions, please contact [Mark Glaze](#), [Karen Perritt](#) or [Eddie Dancausse](#).

Conformity Course:

FHWA Web-Based Transportation Conformity Training

Several web-based transportation conformity training opportunities are available on-demand from [FHWA's conformity training website](#) (under "Web-based Training") including a 32-module transportation conformity self-directed training that covers many facets of the transportation conformity requirements. This page also includes a webinar recording for "Introduction to MOVES3 for Non-Modelers." The target audience for these training materials are FHWA staff and State and local transportation partners (MPOs and State DOTs) who are either new to or would like a refresher training on the conformity process. For questions, please contact [David Kall](#).

Resilience Courses:

National Highway Institute (NHI) In-Person Resilience Course

NHI recently posted a new in-person course focused on planning and designing highway projects to be more resilient to changing climate conditions. It is a 2.5 day course in inland areas, or 3 day course in coastal areas, and includes material on climate science, tools and methods for assessing future conditions and addressing them in project development, and consideration in a range of engineering disciplines: inland flooding, costal hydraulics, pavements and geohazards. The target audience includes engineering, project planning and environmental staff; the series is also relevant to regional planners, asset managers, and others seeking to integrate climate change considerations into their practices. Fees related to the course would be eligible under the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation Formula Program For more information about the NHI In-Person Resilience Course, please contact [Robert Kafalenos](#).

In-person course: [Addressing Climate Resilience in Highway Project Development and Preliminary Design \(NHI 142085\)](#)

National Highway Institute (NHI) Resilience Training Courses

The National Highway Institute (NHI) recently released four one-hour web-based courses focused on resilience to climate change and extreme weather events. The four courses provide an introduction to past and expected future environmental conditions, future sea levels, climate datasets and modeling tools for temperature and precipitation change, system level vulnerability assessment, and methods for conducting project-level resilience assessments. The target audience includes engineering, project planning and environmental staff; the series is also relevant to regional planners, asset managers, and others seeking to integrate climate change considerations into their practices. Virtual courses (free):

- [FHWA-NHI-142081 Understanding Past, Current and Future Climate Conditions](#)
- [FHWA-NHI-142082 Introduction to Temperature and Precipitation Projections](#)
- [FHWA-NHI-142083 Systems Level Vulnerability Assessments](#)
- [FHWA-NHI-142084 Adaptation Analysis for Project Decision Making](#)

Traffic Noise Courses:

FHWA Web-Based TNM Training

FHWA has created a [Traffic Noise Model \(TNM\) Playlist on its YouTube Channel](#). These short-format videos demonstrate how to install TNM, complete basic tasks in the software, and provide details on specific features. Additional videos will be added throughout the year. Additional TNM Training materials are available on the [FWHA](#)

[Noise Training Website](#). For technical assistance with TNM please contact TNMHelp@dot.gov.

NHI No Cost Highway Traffic and Construction Noise Course

FHWA's Planning, Environment, and Realty office and the National Highway Institute (NHI), in cooperation with the Resource Center and Division Offices, have updated and launched a web-based Traffic Noise Training Course. This on-demand, web-based training was a previously multi-day, instructor-led course. This course is now available on the NHI website at no cost and provides a comprehensive overview of all aspects of the highway traffic noise program. The courses are available on the [NHI website](#) by searching for "highway noise" and locating course codes 142086 – 142094.

Contacts



FHWA Headquarters, Air Quality and Transportation Conformity (and Noise) Team

Cecilia Ho, Team Leader, (202) 366-9862, Cecilia.Ho@dot.gov

Edward Dancausse, (919) 747-7026, Edward.Dancausse@dot.gov

Mark Glaze, (202) 366-4053, Mark.Glaze@dot.gov

David Kall, (202) 366-6276, David.Kall@dot.gov

Victoria Martinez, (787) 771-2524, Victoria.Martinez@dot.gov

Anthony Norman, (608) 829-7529, Anthony.Norman@dot.gov

Karen Perritt, (202) 366-9066, Karen.Perritt@dot.gov

Aileen Varela-Margolles, (305) 978-7780, A.Varela-Margolles@dot.gov

FHWA Headquarters, Sustainable Transportation Team

Mike Culp, (202) 366-9229, Team Leader, Michael.Culp@dot.gov

John Davies, (202) 366-6039, JohnG.Davies@dot.gov

David D'Onofrio, (202) 981-2815, David.D'onofrio@dot.gov
Connie Hill Galloway, (804) 775-3378, Connie.Hill@dot.gov
Suraiya Motsinger, (202) 366-4287, Suraiya.Motsinger@dot.gov
Mary Kay Murray, (202) 366-2066, Mary.Murray@dot.gov
Neelam Patel, (248) 602-7454, Neelam.Patel@dot.gov
Will Stein, (651) 291-6122, William.Stein@dot.gov
Diane Turchetta, (202) 493-0158, Diane.Turchetta@dot.gov

FHWA Headquarters, Resilience Team

Becky Lupes, (202) 366-7808, Team Leader, Rebecca.Lupes@dot.gov
Eva Birk, (207) 512-4921, Eva.Birk@dot.gov
Emily Cline, (503) 316-2547, Emily.Cline@dot.gov
Elizabeth Habic, (202) 366-1701, Elizabeth.Habic@dot.gov
Rob Kafalenos, (202) 366-2079, Robert.Kafalenos@dot.gov
Katy Maher, (202) 366-6799, Kathryn.Maher@dot.gov

FHWA Resource Center Air Quality Team

Michael Roberts, (404) 895-6224, Team Leader, Michael.Roberts@dot.gov
Chris Dresser, (202) 385-4357, Christopher.Dresser@dot.gov
Kamala Joy, (707) 867-6009, Kamala.Joy@dot.gov
Patrick Lentlie, (838) 217-3395, Patrick.Lentlie@dot.gov
George Noel, (978) 758-5824, George.Noel@dot.gov
Leigh Oesterling, (614) 601-3273, Leigh.Oesterling@dot.gov

Please e-mail Victoria.Martinez@dot.gov with suggestions for future issues

Past issues of the Air Quality and Sustainability Highlights are available on

FHWA's [Air Quality website](#) and [Sustainability website](#)

FHWA provides this newsletter for information sharing purposes and does not endorse any private product, service, or enterprise.

FHWA-HEP-23-038

