

Maritime Administration



Alaska Infrastructure Development Symposium
Federal Agency Program Updates

April 9, 2026



Discussion Topics



U.S. Department of Transportation

Maritime Administration

Priorities and Programs



Priorities

SECURITY & SAFETY

INFRASTRUCTURE

INNOVATION

EFFICIENCY



Maritime Administration



MISSION

Foster, promote, and develop the maritime industry of the United States to meet the nation's economic and security needs.



MARAD Tribal Outreach

- Engagement across the nation with Tribes and Alaska Natives to fulfill Federal trust responsibilities
- Supporting self-determination
- Providing support to apply for Federal funding
- Making Federal processes less burdensome and more accessible
- Building lasting relationships



*Swinomish Tribe harvests Frazer sockeye salmon,
Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission*



Port Infrastructure Development Program

Competitive Grant Program

- Awards and administers grants to U.S. coastal seaports, inland river ports, and Great Lakes ports
- PIDP helps to improve the safety, efficiency, or reliability of the movement of goods through ports and intermodal connections to ports

Funding

- \$2.25 billion was provided through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act over five years (2022-2026)
- Funding is also provided through annual appropriations





Port Infrastructure Development Program

- Eligible applicants:
 - A State;
 - A political subdivision of a State, or a local government;
 - A public agency or publicly chartered authority established by 1 or more States;
 - A special purpose district with a transportation function;
 - *An Indian Tribe, or a consortium of Indian Tribes;*
 - A multistate or multijurisdictional group of entities described above;
 - A lead entity described above jointly with a private entity or group of private entities, including the owners or operators of a facility, or a collection of facilities at a port.
- The Secretary of Transportation may increase the Federal share of costs above 80 percent for: (1) a grant for a project located in a rural area; or (2) a grant awarded to a small project at a small port under 46 U.S.C. 54301(b).



How PIDP Funding Has Been Used

- **Landside equipment**, including the loading and unloading of goods at the port, such as marine terminal equipment
- **Infrastructure**, including the movement of goods into, out of, around, or within a port
- **Operational improvements**, including projects to improve port resilience



U. S. Marine Highway Program (USMHP)

- Through the development and promotion of marine highway transportation, the USMHP aims to relieve landside congestion and generate other public benefits by increasing the efficiency of the U.S. surface transportation system.
- The USMHP works closely with public and private organizations to:
 - Develop and broaden marine highway service options and facilitate their further integration into the U.S. surface transportation system.
 - Highlight benefits, increase public awareness, and promote waterways as an alternative to “landside” transportation options.



U.S. Marine Highway Designated Routes

- The Secretary may designate a route as a marine highway transportation route, or modify a designation, if the route:
 - provides a coordinated and capable alternative to landside transportation;
 - mitigates or relieves landside congestion;
 - promotes marine highway transportation; or
 - uses vessels documented in statute, and
- A route designation or modification can be requested (“sponsored”) by:
 - the government of a State or territory;
 - a metropolitan planning organization;
 - a port authority;
 - a non-Federal navigation district; or
 - a Tribal government



35 designated Marine Highway Routes, reaching **41 states**, the District of Columbia, and **five U.S. territories**; spanning over **27,000 miles**



U.S. Marine Highway Grants

- USMHP grants are awarded on a competitive basis to projects on designated U.S. Marine Highway Routes that **provide a coordinated and capable alternative to landside transportation or that promote marine highway transportation.**
- Eligible applicants:
 - State, a political subdivision of a State, or a local government;
 - United States metropolitan planning organization;
 - United States port authority;
 - *Tribal government*; or
 - U.S. private sector operator of marine highway projects or private sector owners of facilities, *including an Alaska Native Corporation*, with an endorsement letter from a U.S. Marine Highway Route Sponsor.



How Marine Highway Funding Has Been Used

- **Landside equipment**, including assorted Cargo Handling Equipment (CHE)
- **Infrastructure**, including construction and upgrades of landside infrastructure
- **Vessels**, including purchase, lease, construction or modification of documented vessels
- **Transportation Planning Activities** that are intended to develop strategies, plan for, or research the development, expansion, or promotion of Marine Highway Transportation



USDOT BUILD Grant Program

BUILD

- Provides funding for projects with significant local or regional impact that improve transportation infrastructure
- Award Sizes:
 - Minimum award of \$1 million for rural capital projects
 - Planning projects do not have a minimum award size
 - Maximum award is \$25 million
- Ports are eligible applicants
- The FY 2026 notice of opportunity (NOFO) has closed. Sign up for future program updates here: <https://www.transportation.gov/BUILDgrants>



USDOT BUILD GRANT PROGRAM

- **Goal** – Fund surface transportation infrastructure projects that will have significant local and regional impacts
- **Funding** - \$1.5 billion
- **Eligible Applicants** – Cities, towns, counties, states, tribes, port authorities, etc.
- **Eligible Projects** – Roads, bridges, passenger and freight rail, ports, transit
- **Grants** – Capital or Planning





USDOT BUILD GRANT PROGRAM

Capital Grants

- Surface transportation infrastructure capital construction or vehicle and equipment procurement.
- Projects that include right-of-way acquisition.

Planning Grants

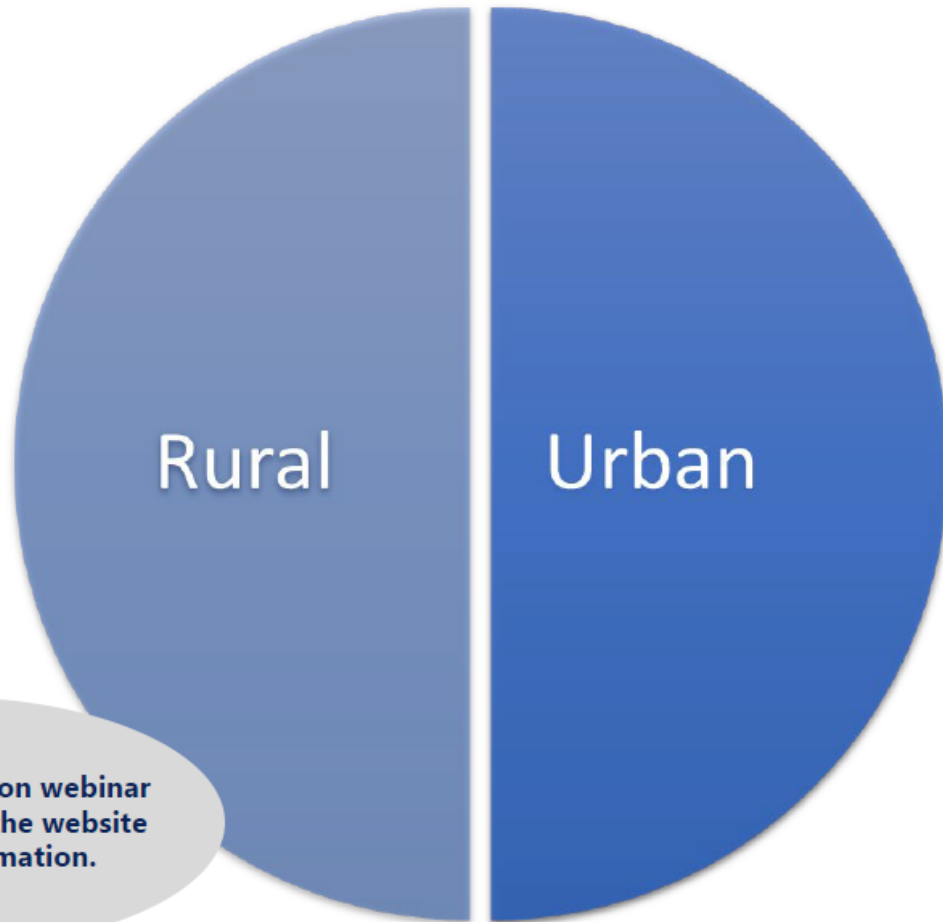
- Planning, preparation, or design of eligible surface transportation capital projects.
- Examples: master plans, feasibility studies, benefit-cost analysis, preliminary engineering, permitting, and other pre-construction activities.

See BUILD [NOFO](#) page 10

activities.



USDOT BUILD GRANT PROGRAM



At least 5% to
Planning
Projects

At least 1% to
APP/HDC

No more than
15% to a
single state



Location Designation webinar
will be posted on the website
for more information.



USDOT BUILD GRANT PROGRAM

Eligible Applicants

States & DC

Territories or
Possession of the
United States

Unit of Local
Government

Public agency or
publicly chartered
authority established
by 1+ states

Federally recognized
Tribe or consortium of
Tribes

Special purpose district
or public authority with
a transportation
function, such as a
port authority

Transit Agency


A multi-State or
multijurisdictional
group of entities that
are separately eligible

Ineligible Applicants:

- Federal agencies, non-profits, private entities, individuals




USDOT BUILD GRANT PROGRAM




Highway, Bridge, or Road



Public Transportation




Passenger and Freight Rail




Intermodal Projects



Transportation Projects on Tribal Lands



Surface Transportation
Components of an Airport
Eligible under part B of subtitle VII of title 49 USC



Port Infrastructure
Including Inland Ports and Land
Points of Entry



Culvert Replacement and
Rehabilitation
to Prevent Stormwater Runoff to
Improve the Habitat for Aquatic Species



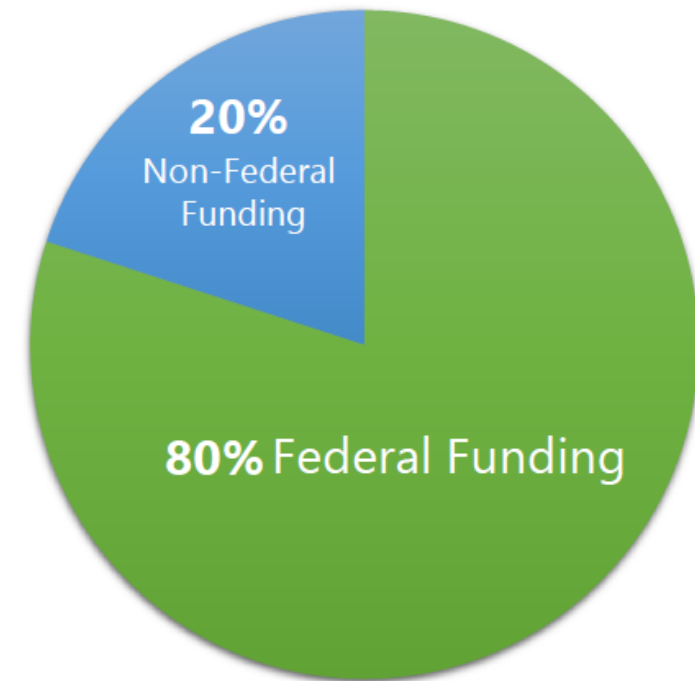
Planning and Pre-
Construction Activities



USDOT BUILD GRANT PROGRAM

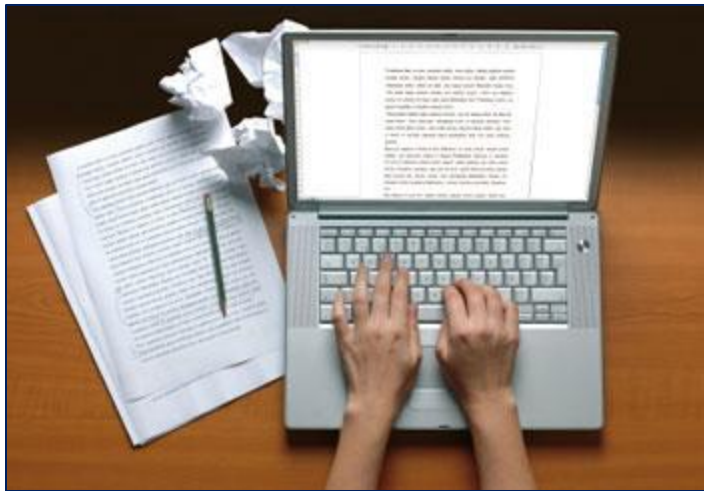
$$\frac{(\text{BUILD Grant Request} + \text{Other Federal Funds})}{\text{Total Project Cost}} = \text{Federal Cost Share}$$

- Cost share is the portion of a project's estimated total cost that is paid with non-Federal funds.
- The Federal share for BUILD grant projects **shall not exceed 80 percent** of a project's estimated total cost unless it is located in:
 - **Rural Area**
 - **Area of Persistent Poverty / Historically Disadvantaged Community**





Helpful Hints For Grants



The Key

to an “attractive” application is crafting an effective, detailed, and comprehensive story that demonstrates a clear funding need, commitment, and impact.



Write a Compelling Story

Some programs may require an applicant to articulate the expected outcomes or impact the project would have on the community. This could also include examples of community support or desire for the project. Consider showing alignment to stated priorities of the program, agency, and/or Department.



Communicate Impact

Some programs may require an applicant to articulate the potential impact of the proposed project. Consider quantifying statements as much as possible or providing data points specific to your community.



Helpful Hints For Grants

Remember ...

- Read the NOFO carefully. It will be modified from year to year.
- Applications must be submitted through the www.Grants.gov portal. Set up your [Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov) account at least two months prior to any application deadline!
- Your applicant narrative should follow the NOFO instructions closely, so it's easier for reviewers to understand your project



Helpful Hints For Grants

Is your project eligible?

Port Infrastructure Development Program

Projects within the boundary of a port, or outside the boundary of a port and directly related to port operations or to an intermodal connection to a port that improve the **safety, efficiency, or reliability** of:

- The loading and unloading of goods at a port;
- The movement of goods into, out of, around, or within a port;
- Operational improvements at a port;
- Resiliency in response to environmental factors; or
- Infrastructure that supports seafood and seafood-related businesses.



Helpful Hints For Grants

Review cost share

Port Infrastructure Development Program

The Federal share of the total costs of an eligible PIDP project must not exceed 80 percent.

The Secretary, however, may, by statute, **increase the Federal share of costs above 80 percent** for:

(1) a grant for a project that is located in a **rural area**; or (2) a grant awarded to a **small project at a small port*** under 46 U.S.C. § 54301(b).

** A small project at a small port is \$11.25M or less at ports with less than 8M tons of annual cargo, or projects in non-contiguous States and Territories* 23



USDOT BUILD GRANT PROGRAM



A grant agreement must be executed prior to beginning your project.

What is a grant agreement?

- A written agreement between the recipient and the Department that outlines item such as the award amount, scope, schedule, budget, requirements, and other terms and conditions. **The scope, schedule, and budget that is included in your grant agreement should match what was described in the application.**

Drafting the Grant Agreement

- USDOT Operating Administrations will then work with you to satisfy applicable requirements.



USDOT BUILD GRANT PROGRAM



Incurring Costs

- Unless authorized by the Department in writing after announcement of FY 2026 BUILD awards, **any costs incurred prior to the Department's obligation of funds for a project ("pre-award costs") are ineligible for reimbursement and are ineligible for cost share/matching.**
 - Ensure that any costs that your project will incur between the submittal of your application and the execution of your grant agreement are not included in your BUILD Total Project Cost.

Non-Federal Funding

- The terms of the award will require the recipient to complete the project using at least the level of non-Federal funding that was specified in the application.

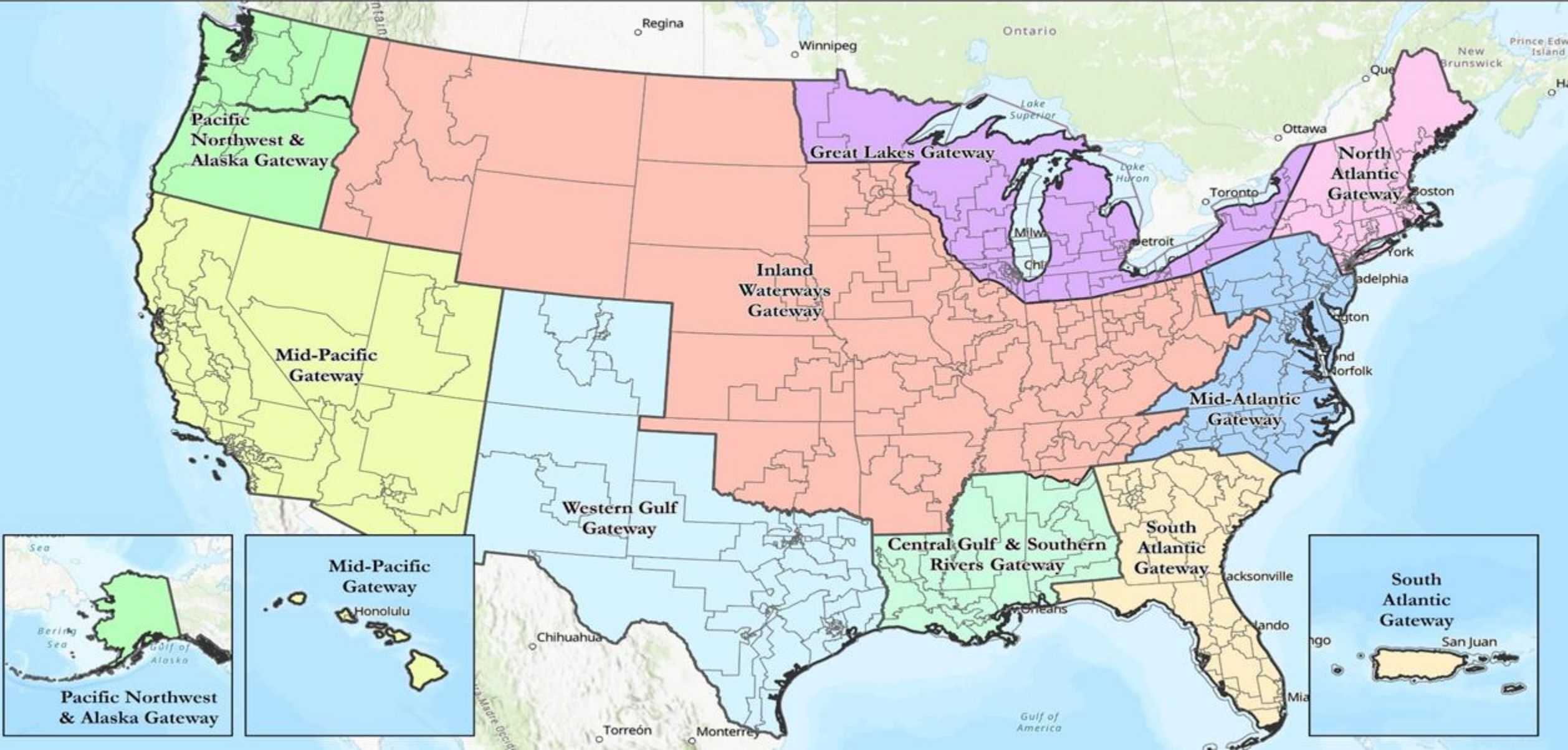


- DOT Navigator
 - www.transportation.gov/navigator
- DOT BCA guidance and spreadsheet template
 - <https://www.transportation.gov/mission/office-secretary/office-policy/transportation-policy/benefit-cost-analysis-guidance>
- Port Infrastructure Development Program
 - <https://www.maritime.dot.gov/PIDPgrants>
- US Marine Highway Program
 - <https://www.maritime.dot.gov/grants/marine-highways/marine-highway>
- For PIDP updates . . . PIDPgrants@dot.gov



U.S. Department of Transportation
Maritime Administration

Regional Presence and Engagement With Congressional District Overlay (119th Congress)





USDOT Navigator Website

A resource to help communities understand how to

- **Apply** for grants
- **Plan** for, and
- **Deliver**

Transformative infrastructure projects and services.

Go to: www.transportation.gov/navigator

Funding Dashboard

- Search 90+ grant programs
- Customize your search to identify opportunities for Tribes and rural areas
- Includes DOT / non-DOT funding sources
- Download your results!



Maritime Workforce Development

Recruit

Train

Retain



More Cargo

More Ships

More Mariners



Partnership and MARAD

- Understanding local conditions helps MARAD support maritime needs.
- A goal is to provide consistent and stable funding, technical assistance, and capacity building to Alaska Natives to advance maritime and intermodal projects.



*The National Geographic Sea Bird ship at dock
Ko'Kwel Wharf, Coquille Indian Tribe, OR*

Contact Information

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