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### Making the Most of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

**FX** 

#### **Today's Presenter**

Aurah Landau Senior Transportation Planner Juneau, AK

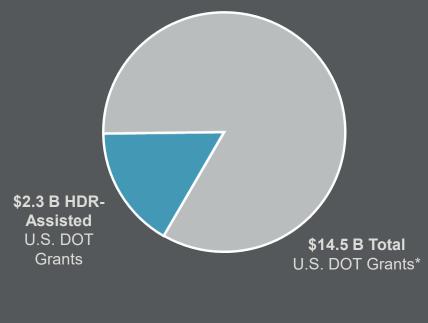




#### HDR Grants Experience An Industry-Leading Track Record

- HDR has won over \$100M in Alaska grants
- HDR has supported more than 200 USDOT INFRA, BUILD/RAISE, CRISI, and PID grant applications
- 96 PROJECTS' requests for funding were successful
- HDR-supported applications have received
  \$2.3B IN FEDERAL FUNDS for transportation projects
- HDR-SUPPORTED APPLICATIONS ARE 15.9%
  of the total construction funds awarded
- WE EMPLOY 40+ GRANT APPLICATION EXPERTS, supported by hundreds of transportation professionals

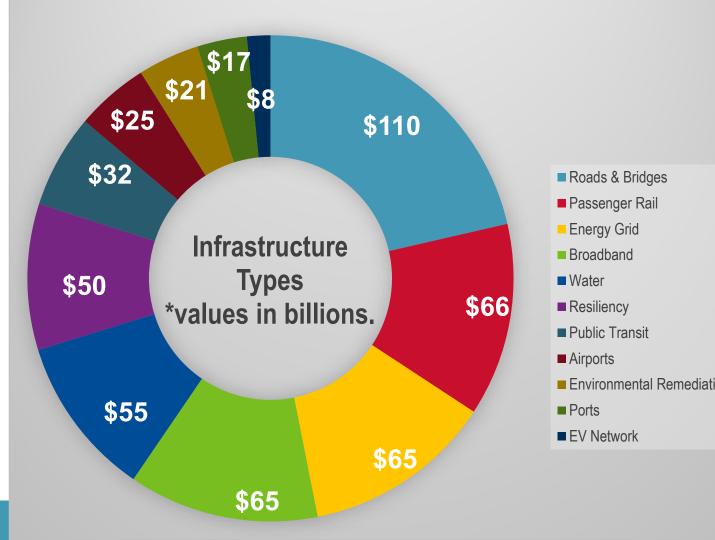
\* Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD)/RAISE and its predecessor TIGER; Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA), and its predecessor FASTLANE; Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI); and Port Infrastructure Development (PID) programs. We have assisted clients in successfully competing for **15.9% of the total funds available** 



#### \$101 million in 19 grant applications for Alaska

#### Generational Investment

- \$1.2 trillion
- \$18B discretionary funding
- \$550B for "new" investments and programs



#### Prioritization and Strategic Planning





**Thinking Strategically** 



#### **Focusing Effort**



#### Federal Grants – Initial Yes or No Benefits and Challenges

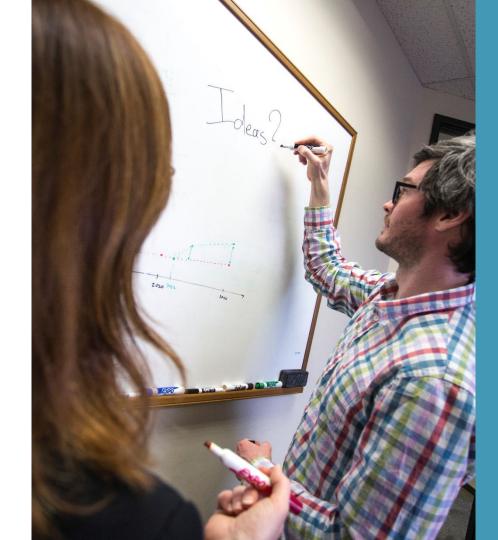
- Provides additional funding
- Can fill project funding gap
- Frees money for other projects

- Federalizes project
- Requires NEPA, etc.
- Has reporting requirements
- Sets a delivery deadline



## Grants, Funding and Financing

- Developing strategic funding approach
- Evaluating grant funding opportunities
- Developing financial planning models
- Estimating funding gaps
- Examining state/regional/local funding options to match federal funds
- Preparing grant applications
- Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA)
- Grants management

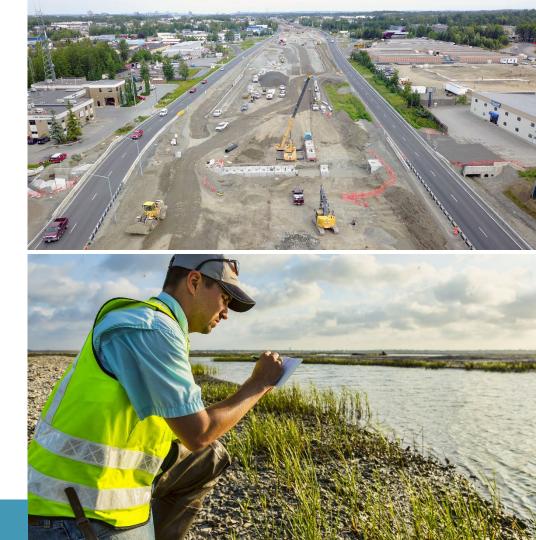




# Image: Timing Windows of<br/>Opportunity

#### **Consider Cycles of Funding and Implementation**

- Planning horizon
  - $_{\odot}\,$  1-5 years from now grant application
  - 2-10 years from now grant management
  - 5-10 years from now asset management
- Planning and/or construction grants
- Procurement grants



#### Track Notices of Funding Opportunities

#### Coming in May

- Transit-Oriented Development Pilot Program
- University Transportation Centers Program
- Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program
- Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Project Program
- Bridge Investment Program
- Water
- Energy
- Broadband



#### Plan for Grant-Specific Timeframes Example from 2022 RAISE

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) released January 14, 2022

Additional details (full NOFO) released January 28, 2022

Applications due 8:00 PM EDT on April 14, 2022

Obligation deadline (*must be able to obligate funds by*): September 30, 2026

Expenditure deadline (*spend the RAISE funds by*): September 30, 2031

### **Preposition for Grant Availability**

Not Enough Time After NOFO to Do Everything

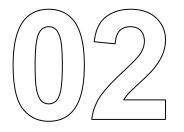
#### **Prior to NOFO**

- Evaluate projects
- Select projects
- Engineering, environmental, and fiscal analyses including BCA
- Political support
- Develop grant application team and workflow

#### **During NOFO Response Time**

- Gather letters of support
- Write grant narrative
- Adjust BCA
- Graphic design





## Thinking Strategically

#### **Cross-Agency and Cross-Grant Opportunities for Project Funding**

- Due to shared Administration values, grants from different agencies can have overlapping eligibility for your project
- Different grants from the same agency may have similar eligibility criteria
- Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) standard applies across grants



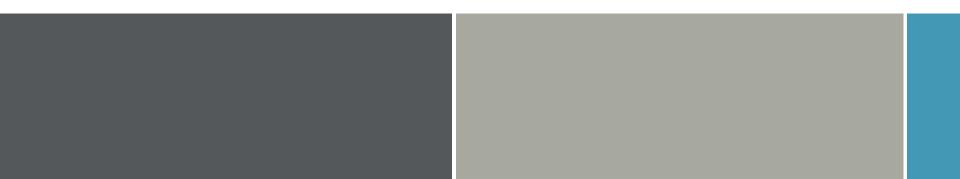
## Existing and New Funding Opportunities

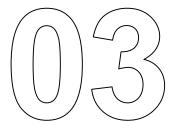
- Updated criteria in existing grants
- New programs
- Updates to BCA may offer new economic benefits



#### Ways to Divide or Group Projects to Maximize Funding

- Planning grant then construction grant for the projects
- Applying for projects at varying level of readiness over 5 years of grantmaking
- Bundling similar projects regionally or statewide
- Dividing complex project into smaller phased approaches





## **Focusing Effort**

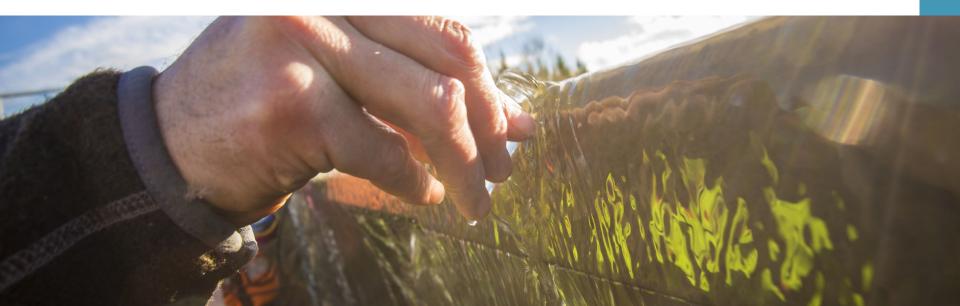
#### **Two Approaches to Prioritizing Projects and Grants**

- Go for it on discreet project-by project basis
- Forecast funding, prioritize projects, apply for grants
  - $_{\odot}\,$  Assess projects quickly
  - $_{\circ}\,$  Use available data



#### **List Infrastructure Projects**

- Projects in infrastructure development plans
- New projects community need, changed conditions, removal of fiscal constraint



#### Funding Analysis and Forecast

- Identify projects
- Identify all funding streams
- Match projects to grants or other funding sources
- Develop actionable strategic plan to leverage funding



#### **Products & Uses**

- List of priority projects
- Memo summarizing potential funding options for projects
- Summary of steps required to secure funding from each of the preferred funding options – includes timeline over 5 years of IIJA funding



### Why Prioritize?

- Funding constraints
- Focus on cost-effectiveness
- Greater emphasis on performance measurement
- Do more with less



## When to Apply Without Financial Planning

- Discreet project with high likelihood of success
- Project has progressed deep into design, permitting and simply needs construction funding



#### **Other Strategic Factors**

- Local, regional, state partnerships
- Relationships with funders
- Resource grant writing adequately
- Match
- Grant management



#### **Resources for Prioritizing Grant Options**

- Time
- Relationships
- Knowledge
  - $_{\circ}$  akfederalfunding.org
  - $_{\circ}~$  Agency websites and relationships
  - $_{\circ}~$  HDR policy briefs





#### **About HDR's Advisory Services**

The Advisory Services team has over 250 management consultants who serve our clients around the world with premium strategic advice that is rooted in the practical, solid-state service that our infrastructure customers have come to expect. They have expertise in funding and finance, economics and decision analysis, strategic planning and policy, sustainability and resiliency, strategic communications and business improvement.

Advisory Services professional review infrastructure policy developments and prepare summaries of key provisions to help keep our clients informed of the changing landscape in Washington.

#### Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

Summary of Environmental Review and Permitting Provisions Affecting the Transportation Sector

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), as passed by the United States Senate, is a massive 2700+ page bill that covers investment in a wide range of traditional and nontraditional infrastructure. Project types included in the bill are?:

- Transportation Safety
- Public Transit
- Passenger and Freight Rail
- EV Infrastructure
- Electric Buses
- Clean Drinking Water
- High-Speed Internet
  Airports, Ports
- and Waterways
- Power Infrastructure (strengthening the grid and seeding research)

Much of the IJJA focuses on investment in strategies to make our infrastructure more resilient to the effects of climate change, restore past environmental harms of prior investments, and move away from a transportation network reliant on fossil fuels. All of these elements are, in some ways, environmental policy decisions. The analysis contained in this document focuses only on those provisions of the IJJA that address environmental review and permitting in the transportation portion of the legislation, found in Subtitle C – Project Delivery and Process Improvement.

This is the first in a series of Advisory Policy Bulletins analyzing the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, providing summaries and key insights into how this new federal law will affect our clients and their programs.

- Reconnecting Communities (investment in restorative justice projects that remediate past transportation projects that adversely affected communities of color)
- Resilience and Western
  Water Infrastructure
  (investment in infrastructure
  - resilience to protect against the dangers of climate change)
- Environmental Remediation of Superfund and brownfield sites as well as reclaiming mines and orphaned gas wells

**HDR Policy Briefs** 

**IIJA Summary** 

IIJA Funding Overview

**Project Delivery** 

Energy and the Power Grid

**Discretionary Funding Opportunities** 

Equity and Environmental Justice

#### Freight and Ports

Climate Change, Resiliency, and Adaptation

Next Generation of Transportation

Transit

Water and Wastewater

#### Passenger Rail

#### Broadband

1 Categories described by White House Fact Sheet (08/02/21)

#### **Technical Assistance for AML**

- Grant strategic planning
- Project evaluation and prioritization
- Grant-specific action plan
- Initial feedback on application components including BCA
- National experts in transportation, energy, resiliency, water, broadband funding
- Alaskan team with winning grants track record and local project development experience





### **QUESTIONS?**

#### **More Information**

**Contact Us** 

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