



**STAFF REPORT**  
Board Meeting of January 21, 2026

**AGENDA ITEM:** 4-B

**PREPARED BY:** Sandy Ebersole, Administrative Analyst

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**SUBJECT:**

FY 2026 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program

**Enclosure:** No

**Action:** Information and Discussion Only

**SUMMARY:**

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program. The purpose of the program is to support regionally or locally significant projects that enhance surface transportation infrastructure. There is \$1.5 billion in total program funding authorized by the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* (P.L. 117-58).

DOT will accept applications for Capital Grants and Planning Grants. The minimum Capital Grant award is \$5 million in urban areas and \$1 million in rural areas. There is no minimum award amount for Planning Grants. The maximum grant award for either Capital Grants or Planning Grants is \$25 million. The federal cost share may not exceed 80 percent of the total project cost unless the project is in a rural area, Historically Disadvantaged Community (HDC), or Area of Persistent Poverty (APP), where projects are eligible for up to a 100 percent federal share.

DOT will allocate \$750 million in funding for projects in urban areas and \$750 million for projects in rural areas. The agency will award at least \$75 million for planning projects and at least \$15 million for projects located in APPs or HDCs. No more than \$225 million will be awarded for projects within a single state.

The following projects are eligible for BUILD funding:

- Highway and bridge projects eligible under Title 23;
- Public transportation projects eligible under Chapter 53 of Title 49;
- Passenger and freight rail transportation projects;
- Port infrastructure investments, including inland port infrastructure and land ports of entry;

- Surface transportation components of airport projects eligible under Part B of Subtitle VII;
- Projects that enhance surface transportation facilities located on Tribal lands and where title or maintenance responsibility is vested in the federal government;
- Projects to replace or rehabilitate culverts or prevent stormwater runoff that improve habitat for aquatic species and advance the goals of the BUILD Program;
- Intermodal projects where component parts are otherwise eligible project types; and
- Other surface transportation infrastructure projects considered by the Secretary as necessary to advance the goals of the program.

Eligible planning projects include planning, preparation, and design of eligible surface transportation capital projects not resulting in construction, including environmental analysis, feasibility studies, benefit-cost analysis (BCA), and other pre-construction activities.

The application deadline is **February 24, 2026** at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET).

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

No fiscal impact on the approved 2025-26 Overall Work Program and Budget.