



# COLORADO

## Department of Transportation

### Transportation Commission Memorandum

**To:** Colorado Transportation Commission

**From:** Leslie Welch and Anna Dunn, Grants Coordinators

**Date:** December 17th, 2025

**Subject:** Update to the Transportation Commission on CDOT's submitted, in progress, and forthcoming grant applications

#### Purpose

To share progress on submitted applications, as well as current and future coordination of proposals to anticipated federal discretionary programs, primarily under the Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act (IIJA).

#### Action

Per PD 703.0, when the department intends to apply for grants with a match consisting of previously approved funding, no action is necessary by the Commission, but we provide the Commission with the projects we intend to pursue. If the match requires an additional commitment of funds not already approved by the Commission, or Bridge & Tunnel Enterprise (BTE), staff brings the projects to the Commission as an action item, with the additional funding being made contingent on a successful application and grant award.

As always, Commissioners and CDOT staff are encouraged to contact CDOT's in-house grant team with questions, comments, and suggestions.

#### Background

For information on closed 2022, 2023 and 2024 grant programs and awarded proposals, please refer to archived TC Grants Memos from December 2024 or prior.

The following discretionary grant programs have closed and awards have been announced:

1. 5339s (Low-No Emissions and Bus & Bus Facilities)
  - a. CDOT submitted applications for 9 agencies, and were awarded the following to support local agencies in grant administration and project delivery:
    - \$1,504,000 awarded to The City of Steamboat Springs Transit (SST) to buy new hybrid buses to increase capacity and deliver a safer, more efficient, and reliable transit service.
    - \$1,060,000 awarded to Eagle Valley Transportation Authority to construct new bus shelters at rural transit stops where none currently exist or where existing shelters have exceeded their useful life.
    - \$768,557 awarded to Gunnison Valley Transportation Authority (GVRTA) to buy a commuter bus to replace an older bus that is at the end of its useful life.

- \$534,108 awarded to San Miguel Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART) to buy buses to replace older buses that have reached their useful life.
- \$14,400,000 awarded to Mountain Express (MX) to construct a bus storage, maintenance, and operations facility to support the delivery of public transit services in the Crested Butte, Colorado region.
- \$256,000 awarded to MX, to buy new buses to replace older buses that have reached their useful life.
- \$6,745,942 awarded to Roaring Fork Transportation Authority (RFTA) to purchase 7 diesel coach buses to replace older buses that have reached their useful life.
- \$3,745,800 was also awarded to RFTA to buy hybrid electric diesel buses to replace aging diesel and natural gas buses that have reached their useful life.
- \$1,056,120 awarded to the Town of Winter Park to rehabilitate its Winter Park Transit Maintenance Facility to improve safety, operational efficiency, and address critical infrastructure needs.

The following discretionary grant programs have closed, but applications are still being reviewed:

1. BRIDGE INVESTMENT PROGRAM (BIP) - LARGE BRIDGE
  - I-270 Corridor Improvements Bridge Bundle, R1
2. BRIDGE INVESTMENT PROGRAM (BIP) - OTHER than LARGE BRIDGE (>\$100M)
  - US50 Blue Mesa Bridges Emergency Repairs, R3
3. BRIDGE INVESTMENT PROGRAM (BIP) - PLANNING
  - I-70 West Applewood to Lakewood Critical Bridges Planning, R1
4. National Scenic Byways Program
  - Mount Blue Sky Scenic Byway: Interpretation Corridor Management Plan, R1
  - Roadside Markers Improvements on Colorado Byways, Statewide
5. BRIDGE INVESTMENT PROGRAM (BIP) - LARGE BRIDGE
  - I-270 Critical Bridges, R1
6. Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program
  - Grants Team has submitted the Small Slope Alternative Avalanche Mitigation Feasibility Analysis, which will affect locations across Region 3 and 5. Notice has been delayed due to the federal shutdown.
7. RESTORE Colorado - National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
  - Grants Team has submitted a \$485,000 grant for the R2 I25 Raton Pass wildlife crossing project. We should hear back in March 2026.

## IN PROGRESS

CDOT is actively pursuing the following discretionary grant program(s):

1. PROTECT
  - CDOT is pursuing grants for State-Wide Avalanche Mitigation (SWAP) in Regions 3 and 5 and a Culvert package in Region 3
2. CRISI
  - CDOT intends to pursue a grant for a sidings project in R1 to improve freight movement and railyard congestion
3. Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program

- CDOT intends to pursue resubmissions for the R2 I-25 Raton Pass project, R1 US 40 Empire Overpass, as well as a new submission for US 160 East of Cortez.
- 4. Bridge Investment Program: Planning
  - CDOT is preparing to submit:
    - I-70 West Applewood to Lakewood Critical Bridges Replacement Planning Project, Region 1
    - Colorado Eastern Plains Timber Bridge Replacement Planning Project, Region 1
- 5. Bridge Investment Program: Medium Bridge
  - CDOT is preparing grants to submit:
    - US 85 Fountain Creek Critical Bridge Replacement for Community Connectivity and Safety, Region 2
    - US 550 Animas Bridge Replacement, Region 5
- 6. National Railroad Partnership Program (formerly known as Federal State Partnership Program)
  - Match permitting, CDOT intends to apply for the following:
    - Denver Complex - Track improvements to reduce passenger rail delays as Union Station, Region 1
    - WEST Rail - Rockfall mitigation, grade crossing improvements, hazmat caching along key passenger rail routes (California Zephyr, future Mountain Rail), Region 3

#### **CDOT DISCRETIONARY GRANT SUCCESS BY THE NUMBERS**

Since the IIJA was signed into law in November 2021...

- CDOT has been awarded \$581.14M, including both direct and indirect via local agency partnerships
- 19 priority projects featured in our 10 Year Plan have won a federal discretionary grant
- The Floyd Hill to Veterans Memorial Tunnels Improvements Project received CDOT's largest award to date at \$100M

### **Next Steps**

Grants team is working on developing applications for the following programs:

- National Railroad Partnerships Program (NRRP), due Feb 6.
  - This deadline was extended from Jan 7, 2026 to Feb 6, 2026.
- Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD), due Feb 24, 2026.
  - The grants team is currently scoping out strong fits for this program.

Grants Team is expecting updated NOFOs to drop soon for the following programs:

- BIP Medium and Other Bridge: Deadline has been delayed by FHWA. No updated NOFO out at this time
- Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program: No updated NOFO, but expected to follow NRRP.
- Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program. Expected Spring 2026