

Office of Innovative Mobility Grant Program

An overview of the available funding opportunities, and the awarded projects to date.

Background

What is Innovative Mobility?

Innovative mobility focuses on understanding and developing services that integrate advanced technologies, including electronic and wireless communication systems and alternative fuels, to develop new transportation choices and services. Our mission is to reduce pollution in our air and congestion on our roads by expanding multimodal transportation options and using traditional and emerging mobility technologies.

About the Program

Building upon the success of the Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Grants, the Office of Innovative Mobility (OIM) at the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is launching the CDOT OIM Grants Platform to provide grants to private, public, non-profit, and local agencies to fund innovative mobility and electrification solutions in the state of Colorado.

The purpose of the expanded OIM Grants Platform is to help stakeholders with financial assistance to implement programs and projects to support the goals and objectives of the Office of Innovative Mobility's core mission. This grant encompasses funding and material opportunities from OIM's Mobility Services, Electrification and Energy, and Mobility Technology Programs.

Mobility Services Grants

Mobility Services' TDM Grants offer two funding opportunities:

- **TDM Seed Funding:** To establish new transportation management organizations (TMOs) and permanent TDM programs in currently un-represented areas of the state, and to add new perspectives to the TDM conversation that have the potential to increase TDM success in non-urban areas.
- **TDM Innovation:** To support and demonstrate creative solutions addressing gaps in existing TDM approaches and programming.

Past Awarded Projects

TDM Seed Funding Projects

City of Glenwood Springs Transportation Demand Management Project: This project aims to establish a Transportation Management Association (TMA) in the City of Glenwood Springs. This TMA will provide the institutional framework necessary for coordination among its local stakeholders to develop and implement innovative solutions that reduce congestion and single occupancy vehicle (SOV) trips, as well as address parking challenges and ways to increase access/use of alternative modes of transportation to help curb greenhouse gas emissions.

City of Fort Collins Shift Your Ride Electric Micromobility Pass and Education Series Pilot: This TDM program strategy focuses on 1) City of Fort Collins employees and 2) low-income City residents who want

to shift away from driving alone and use sustainable transportation but have concerns or barriers that prevent them from doing so.

NFRMPO US 34 Transportation Management Organization (TMO): The US 34 Coalition is developing a TMO on the US 34 Corridor that will be responsible for programming, marketing, outreach, and advocacy of multimodal transportation and reduced single-occupancy vehicle (SOV) trips between Estes Park and Kersey along the US 34 corridor.

TDM Innovation Projects

Town of Vail Shift Bike Electric Bike Share Program Expansion: The Shift Bike program rolled out in 2022, providing 90 e-bikes in 20 station locations seasonally, across 3 municipalities in Colorado. With its success of 7,400 rides and 22,000 miles, it was due for expansion to reach more Eagle County residents, especially those who have been disproportionately impacted, further reducing vehicle miles traveled and subsequent greenhouse gas emissions.

Summit County Colorado and Partners Multi-Agency Local/Regional Microtransit Feasibility Study: Spurred by local jurisdictions, the community desired to commission a study of Microtransit Feasibility to include local and outlying (commuter) communities. The project is based on the 2021 Transit Equity and Access Study as well as the 2021 Short Range Transit Plan which identified the need for first/last-mile solutions for several underserved, transit-dependent, disadvantaged (Justice40) communities.

I-70 Coalition TDM Video Production & Spanish Language Resources: This project aims to produce five TDM videos that educate the audiences on I-70 mountain corridor state/regional/local transit options and I-70 travel tips with one video in Spanish. It will also create a new web page on GoI70.com that provides I-70 travel information and travel tips in Spanish.

Northeast Transportation Connections Central Park Bike Lockers: This project provides multiple smart bike lockers to expand on the current bike locker network. A secure area to park will encourage use of public transit and reduce the need for single-occupant vehicles.

Auraria Higher Education Center Exploring the Effectiveness of an Innovative Pilot TDM Program for Students at the Auraria Campus: This project focuses on changing commute behavior for students at the Auraria Campus using a pilot Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program. The program will promote sustainability and equity using an innovative, app-based, and gamified approach that considers existing behaviors, origin points, and commute preferences. This is a targeted and strategic intervention on a population ripe for changes. The outcomes of this program will be used to identify the best TDM program at the Auraria Campus.

City and County of Denver Shared Micromobility Programmatic Framework: This project aims to create a strategic framework to fill programmatic needs for the continued future of shared micromobility in Denver. The framework will allow the Shared Micromobility Program to thoughtfully scale by 1) supporting and growing the Shared Micromobility Program through policy and program actions/recommendations and 2) providing strategies for continued sustainable mode shift in alignment with the TDM Program and 3) share lessons learned with other partner municipalities to accelerate program development and uniformity across Colorado's shared micromobility operations.

Colorado "I Have A Dream" Foundation Transportation Initiatives: The Foundation's program participants face transportation barriers that prevent consistent access to program activities, mental health therapy sessions, and internships. This project seeks to provide unique, safe, reliable, environmentally friendly, and cost-effective solutions for youth transportation.

Commuting Solutions Local Government TDM Ordinance Preparation: In partnership with local government staff from Boulder, Boulder County, Louisville, Superior, Broomfield, Westminster, Lafayette, Erie and Longmont and consultants, Commuting Solutions sought to develop TDM ordinance language, TDM land use/development consulting services and support elected official approval of a TDM ordinance.

City of Fort Collins FC Moves: This project aims perform the necessary planning to prepare for the implementation of innovation zones and a Mobility as a Service (MaaS) application in the City of Fort Collins. Innovation zones are defined areas of the city where microtransit service will operate, providing residents with on-demand transit service. The MaaS application provides users with a multimodal trip planning interface where they can plan, purchase, and ride a variety of mobility offerings within a single, easy-to-use application.

City of Fort Collins Paratransit Passenger Scheduling Portal: This project was formed to create and implement new technology either through a web-based portal or mobile phone application to allow paratransit (Dial-A-Ride) clients in the Fort Collins and Loveland service area to schedule their own trips with 24/7 access to the system, ability to edit trips, and receive trip alerts. Additionally, the technology allows for the client to view real-time vehicle information and track their vehicle's location.

Energy and Electrification Grants

The Electrification and Energy Grants offer two funding opportunities:

- **ZEV Workforce Development:** To develop and attract the skills and talent necessary to meet the changing demands of the transportation electrification sector.
- **E-Mobility Education and Awareness:** To expand public awareness and education around EVs and increase public understanding of their benefits, capabilities, and availability.

Past Awarded Projects

ZEV Workforce Development Projects

Roaring Fork Transportation Authority Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Safety & Training Program: RFTA intends to build a NEW Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Safety & Training Program to both address existing ZEV workforce gaps and needs, and utilize a train-the-trainer concept to build skill capacity into the future.

University of Colorado Colorado Springs Cybersecurity Training Lab for Zero Emission Vehicles: This project establishes a cybersecurity-focused zero emission vehicle (ZEV) training lab and workforce development program at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs (UCCS).

Colorado State University ZEV Manufacturing and Engineering Workforce Development: This project supports the development and delivery of electric vehicle (EV)-centric coursework in answer to the assessed and documented needs of the Colorado EV industry. In partnership with Lightning eMotors

(LeM), the largest EV manufacturer in the state, this program has developed a plan to meet the training needs of the existing EV workforce by delivering on-site a set of short courses on the topics of EV DFMEA/PFMEA, EV Requirements Engineering, HV Safety for Engineers, and HV Safety for Assemblers and Technicians.

Drive Clean Colorado EV Safe Tech (EVST): The EV Safe Tech project is a ZEV Workforce Development program designed to provide High Voltage vehicle training and certification for current automotive technicians who seek to include zero emission vehicles in their work. Specifically, the target group will be technicians who work for public and private fleets, or in independent shops, especially those located in disadvantaged and underserved communities.

Warren Tech Warren Tech ZEV Workforce Project: In Warren Tech's 36 innovative programs, Jefferson County students are given hands-on experience with cutting edge technology and are mentored by industry experts. Three programs provide experience with EV technology to hundreds of students each year so they may continue their educations in related fields or accept in-demand, fulfilling careers immediately upon graduation. The Auto Tech, Collision Repair, and Engineering programs sought out this grant to 1) Purchase ZEV-specific training equipment, 2) Develop new ZEV experience-based training for students from all racial, gender, and socioeconomic groups, and 3) Expand ZEV training for instructors.

Arapahoe Community College Electric Vehicle Safety, Operation, and Diagnosis: The project aims to acquire and utilize state-of-the-art simulation equipment for the training and upskilling of automotive technicians in the necessary safety procedures for servicing electric vehicles.

TACT EV Program: TACT is a Denver-based 501c3 with the mission the encourage, empower individuals living with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) through education and employment in the skilled trades. This project includes creating an EV program/track for clients in collaboration with the electric vehicle learning center (EVLC).

Pickens Technical College Expanding Capacity and Engaging Community through ZEV Pilot

Programming: This program uses grant funding to host an estimated total of three trainings from the Automotive Certified Training Academy or similar training partner, a Colorado-based training team focused on skills development and certification in ZEV maintenance and safety. The training will allow Pickens CTE instructors and designated staff to build internal knowledge and capacity, develop a stronger understanding of the institutional capacity required to pilot a ZEV-training program, and make valuable inroads among local industry.

E-Mobility Education and Awareness Projects

4CORE Ute Mountain Ute Tribe E-Mobility Education and Awareness: 4CORE proposed the E-Mobility Education and Awareness program for the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe (UMUT) located in Towaoc, Colorado. The project aims to deliver multiple strategies for Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEV) education and provide the Tribe with a mobility plan as a result of listening sessions that create an understanding of mobility challenges for a rural, disproportionately impacted community.

Drive Clean Colorado Drive Electric Colorado: DCC's project aims to expand their Drive Electric Colorado consumer-facing EV-ents, like ride and drives, showcases, workshops, and other community-centered events to grow into communities and groups that haven't been served.

University Of Colorado Boulder Pre-College Explorations Into Electric Vehicles and Wireless Charging:

The overarching goal of the Pre-College Explorations Into Electric Vehicles and Wireless Charging project is to authentically engage Colorado's youth, especially students from underserved and underrepresented communities, in learning about electric vehicles (EV) and the future of widespread EV wireless charging and clean-energy transportation in Colorado.

Mobility Technology Grant

The Mobility Technology Grant offers one funding opportunity:

- **Roadside Units (RSU) and On Board Units (OBU) Deployment and Project Management:** To provide RSUs and OBUs and project support to local jurisdictions with a one-time gift of 10 RSUs or OBUs in order to accelerate the deployment of connected vehicles and increase safety.

Past Awarded Projects

Roadside Units (RSU) and On Board Units (OBU) Deployment and Project Management

Castle Rock CV Safety and Operation Message Project: This project includes the installation of roadside (RSUs) and onboard units (OBUs) at high traffic intersections and roadways to enhance its current snowplow Connected Vehicle (CV) project by providing safety, operational, and informational messages through the connected vehicle environment. This project will seek to assess targeted safety improvements over the project period to determine if safety benefits have been realized and to what extent.