

Rules, Eligibility & Selection Process

Opportunity 2: Small Multimodal and Economic Resiliency Grant

Overview

This grant program funds active transportation infrastructure improvements that support downtown vitality and the built environment, encourage economic development, support community access to public streets and multimodal transportation, and imagine innovative uses of public spaces for people.

Eligibility



Maximum CDOT grant award per project: \$250,000.

Minimum grant award per project: \$10,000.

Note: Minimum matching funds amount required is 10% of total project cost.



Applicants must be one of the following:

- Local Governments
- Business Improvement Districts
- Council of Governments, on behalf of a local jurisdiction and with proof of support from that local jurisdiction
- University or College

Note: Nonprofit organizations may partner with one of the above eligible entities

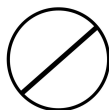


Projects must be located in the state of Colorado. On-CDOT system and off-CDOT system projects are eligible. *Note:* if a project encroaches on a state right of way, a [Special Use Permit](#) is required. Projects must be ready to be substantially completed within 12 months.



Project Types: A non-exhaustive list of project examples includes:

- Extend, add or expand sidewalks to increase ADA accessibility;
- Increase walking trails throughout downtown areas;
- Add separated bicycle lanes;
- Increase street landscaping with a landscaped street buffer, street trees or planter boxes in walking areas or sidewalks;
- Reduced speed limits to allow for safer walking and biking;
- Add a parklet into the downtown area;
- Increase pedestrian amenities such as benches, sidewalk lighting or drinking water fountains in walking or bicycle riding areas of downtown districts
- Public art features such as wall murals or sidewalk drawings to slow traffic



Expenses that are exempt from award, if awarded:

- Planning, design, engineering, architecture, landscape architecture, and professional surveying expenses.
- Work completed prior to or post CDOT contract execution is not eligible nor can it count toward the minimum 10% match.
- Volunteer time.

Application & Review Process

1. Eligibility:

- An applicant must be a local government (city, town, county, tribal entity), Business Improvement District, Council of Government, on behalf of a local jurisdiction and with proof of support from that local jurisdiction, University or College within the state of Colorado.
- The project location must entirely be within the state of Colorado.
- Applicants can receive up to one RMS Opportunity 2 award per 12 month term, with that term beginning on the application deadline date of the approved award.
- Applicants may not have more than two active projects funded by the RMS Opportunity 2 grant program at any given time.
- The applicant must own or hold an active easement of the project site location, unless the project site is CDOT right-of-way. If the project location includes CDOT's right of way, a CDOT special use permit must be obtained prior to application submission.

2. Required elements:

- Applicants shall acknowledge within the application their responsibility to follow all applicable federal (such as ADA) and state laws, and commit to comply with their local procurement codes that identify appropriate competitive bidding procedures.
- Projects requiring CDOT local agency concurrence (projects involving transit service, facilities, maintenance, within rights-of-way, or otherwise in need of involvement) must submit a special use permit request to the CDOT region traffic department before an approved application can be submitted for a grant contract execution.
- Projects requesting to change infrastructure on land that is not owned by the applicant must submit proof of easement or wait to submit an application until the land has been purchased by the grantee.
- If approved, the submitted and approved application scope becomes the work agreement that the applicant must complete.
- All projects must be 'shovel ready', therefore all of the work must be substantially completed within 12 months of an approval, but may not begin until the project has an authorized 'Purchase Order' to begin the work. A project that cannot substantially be completed within 12 months will be asked to return for review when they reach that 'shovel ready' status.

3. Applications may be submitted at any time to cdotmainstreets@state.co.us.

Application deadlines will be the last Wednesday of *every other month*, unless the date falls on a State holiday. Dates to note for 2025 application reviews are below:

Submission Deadline	Application Review (Week of)	Notice of Decision (Week of)
February 26, 2025	March 10	March 17
April 30, 2025	May 12	May 19
June 25, 2025	July 7	July 14
August 27, 2025	September 8	September 15
October 29, 2025	November 10	November 17
December 31, 2025	January 12, 2026	January 19, 2026

4. The review committee scoring process will work as follows:
- The minimum score for a project to be eligible for an award is 80 points. Applications scored at 80 or above will be awarded funding if sufficient funding is available during that review cycle.
 - Geographic equity may be considered in determining final awardees.
 - Evaluation criteria is as follows:

Category	Description	Points & Criteria (0-5)	Weight (%)
Downtown Vitality and the Built Environment	Supports downtown vitality, community gathering spaces, and a built environment that encourages economic development, and a mix-of-uses. Supports local community goals that are appropriate for the size and context of the community.	5: The project is exceptional in its support of vitality of downtowns and community gathering space, and/or utilizes built environment best practices. 3: The project provides some benefits. 0: The project does not demonstrate positive impacts to the vitality and the built environment.	35%
Active Transportation and Safety	Supports community access to public streets and multimodal transportation	5: Project provides new and/or significantly safer access to ADA accessible biking, walking or transit.	35%

	infrastructure that safely accommodates all modes of travel.	3: Project provides moderate improvements to ADA accessible biking, walking or transit. 0: No evidence of improved safe access to ADA accessible active transportation.	
Equity Improvement	Does the project reach populations with disproportionately greater environmental and/or health impacts, as defined by Colorado House Bill 23-1233?	5: Project is within a Disproportionately Impacted (DI) community. Applicant clearly describes how the project will address equity and accessibility. 3: Project is not located in a DI community, but applicant clearly describes how the project supports and benefits these communities. 0: Project does not advance equity and accessibility.	20%
Community Support/relationship to community plans	The extent to which the applicant demonstrates public support through project's connection to community plans created with community input and/or letters of public support.	5: Project is included in a community plan 3: Applicant provides evidence of public support from a variety of stakeholders 0: Project is not included in a community plan and applicant does not provide evidence of public support	10%

5. Grant applications will be reviewed by a committee that will evaluate and score projects. The review committee may include staff from various state agencies, including:

- The Colorado Department of Transportation
- The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
- The Colorado Energy Office
- The Colorado Department of Local Affairs

6. Completed and submitted applications with the required attachments will be reviewed. Applications received that are incomplete will be returned to the sender with instructions of adding the missing components.

Project Awards and Implementation

1. Awardees must be able to implement the project within 12 months of receiving a Purchase Order, excluding seasonal dependencies. Time extensions will be considered for extenuating circumstances such as unexpected supply chain

issues, lack of bids from contractors, weather delays, construction reprioritizations due to emergency responses, etc. Requests for time extensions must be submitted no later than 90 days before the Purchase Order expires.

2. Each awardee will enter into a time bound agreement with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT). CDOT is the ultimate steward of these state funds. All awardees must agree to the [grant terms and conditions](#). Among other requirements in the agreement, CDOT will specify requirements for status reporting and reimbursement requests.
3. This is a reimbursement grant program, therefore all project invoices will first be submitted to the grantee entity for payment. Once the grantee entity pays the project invoices, the grantee will submit original invoices and proof of payment to CDOT with an invoice cover sheet for reimbursement. Work completed and expenses incurred prior to or post contract term with CDOT is not eligible for reimbursement nor can it count toward the match requirement. Documentation will be required to validate proof of work dates.
4. At the completion of the project, awardees will submit a close-out report with photographs of completed improvements and narrative describing lessons learned. Among other requirements in the agreement, awardees may be required to report data on utilization, safety, delivery and traffic implications of the awarded project. If any element of the project varied from the original scope of work, the awardee shall identify them and provide an explanation for the changes. Awardees may be requested to complete a post-award survey and/or attend a post-project debrief with CDOT and other state agency staff.