

Update and Discussion on IIJA Coordination

Strategic Goals

The purpose of this strategy is to develop an implementable plan and approach for ARC to respond to IIJA that:

1

Provides ARC with the structure, process and information to **drive regional benefit** from IIJA grant opportunities

2

Helps ARC to promote and incentivize **regional coordination**

3

Provides local jurisdictions with the information to be **effective in grant applications**

4

Demonstrates and improves **ARC's value add** to the region

Federal Implementation Priorities



Workforce Development

IJA places focus on creating job opportunities with **fair wages and high labor standards**. Certain IJA grants set-aside funds specifically for this purpose. Key programs include the Workforce Development, Training, and Education Program; the State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program; and the Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program.



Equity

IJA encourages funds to be invested equitably, including through the Justice40 initiative, which seeks that 40% of overall benefits from **federal investments in climate and clean energy reach underserved communities**. Federal agencies are taking steps to ensure that IJA programs are accessible to underserved communities, including by offering technical assistance and simplifying the funding process. Certain programs have carved out **funds for disadvantaged communities**.

Multiple IJA programs including Reconnecting Communities, Community Charging, and the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program emphasize equity goals in their program design.



Resilience

IJA makes funding available to prioritize building resilient infrastructure that can withstand the impacts of climate change. A handful of programs within IJA focus specifically on bolstering resilience, such as the PROTECT program, while others support resiliency through development of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, new battery development programs, and programs that promote innovation to advance clean energy technologies and water infrastructure.

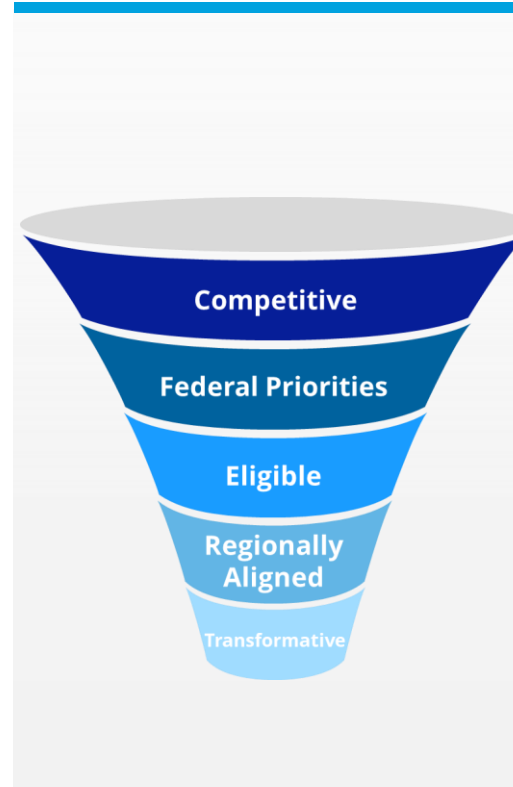
It will be important for the region to account for and reflect federal priorities in application development processes. Moreover, there is the opportunity for the region to leverage IJA resources to establish coordinated programming that addresses regional workforce, equity, and resilience challenges and goals.

Grant Prioritization

The strategy is to focus attention to a set of target grants that yield the biggest impacts to the region

Prioritization Criteria

1. With over 250 competitive programs, a smaller priority set of grants need to be identified to focus the region's resources on high-value opportunities and benefits from IIJA.
2. The graphic to the right displays the criteria established by the Infrastructure Consortium to narrow down the total pool of competitive IIJA grants to a smaller, more meaningful set of competitive opportunities that align with the region's priorities.
 - a. Competitive: Focusing on competitive IIJA grants only
 - b. Federal priorities: Emphasizing policy themes such as equity, resiliency, sustainability, and workforce development that are embedded in IIJA
 - c. Eligible: Further focusing on grant opportunities that are targeted to MPOs, cities, counties, and/or transit authorities
 - d. Regional Alignment: Narrowing in on grant opportunities that align with the objectives and policies contained in the region's plan
 - e. Transformative: Identifying the subset of such grants that offer the greatest potential to positively impact the region, address infrastructure deficiencies, and catalyze transformative projects



Potential Priority Grants*

1. Bridge Investment Program
2. Capital Investment Grants
3. Clean School Bus Program
4. Local and Regional Project Assistance Grants (RAISE)
5. Low or No Emission (Bus) Grants
6. National Infrastructure Project Assistance (Megaprojects)
7. Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects (INFRA)
8. Safe Streets and Roads for All
9. Reconnecting Communities
10. Regional Hydrogen
11. Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT)
12. Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART)

* Illustrative examples only – priority grants to be confirmed

2023 Priority NOFO Calendar*

Illustrative calendar based on example grants – priority grants to be confirmed by the infrastructure consortium

January	February	March	April	May	June
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Local and Regional Project Assistance Grants (RAISE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Commercial Motor Vehicle OperatorsAirport Terminal Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bus and Bus FacilitiesLow or No EmissionNational Infrastructure Project Assistance (MEGA)Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects (INFRA)State Incentives Pilot Program (set aside within INFRA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Airport Infrastructure GrantsCongestion Relief Program –Spring FY23Community Charging – Spring FY23Corridor Charging – Spring FY23Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) – Spring FY23	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Safe Streets and RoadsClean School Bus ProgramPilot Program for Transit Oriented Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bridge Investment ProgramGrants for Planning, Feasibility Analysis, and Revenue Forecasting (Bridge Investment Program Set-aside)Reconnecting Communities
July	August	September	October	November	December
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Railroad Crossing EliminationAll Stations Accessibility Program		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART)Advanced Transportation Technologies & Innovative Mobility DeploymentRegional Clean Hydrogen HubsBuilding Resilient Infrastructure and Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Rail Vehicle ReplacementThriving Communities Program (TCP)*	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Pilot Program for Enhanced Mobility – Fall 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program - Q4 2022

*TCP is part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022, not IIJA

Infrastructure Consortium Activities: January 2023

Primary focus: Preparing for RAISE Grants due on February 28

- Consortium meeting: 11:30 am; Friday, January 15, 2023 (ARC)
 - Review critical program criteria
 - Identify and discuss priority applications
 - Identify likely resource needs to support sponsors

RAISE Projects of Interest Expressed to ARC staff through December 15

- HUB 404 (Buckhead; MARTA)
- Old Highway 5 corridor (Cherokee). Joint application with County and the cities of Woodstock, Holly Springs and Canton
- Peachtree Creek Greenway Phase II (Brookhaven)
- Stitch
- Other

Infrastructure Caucus Activities: January 2023



Primary focus: Orienting on future activities and their role

- Include discussion as part of the TAQC-ARC Board meeting on January 11:
 - Remind and discuss role of group
 - Discuss recently released and upcoming NOFOs
 - Brief on planned coordination with federal stakeholders

Pre-meeting Preparation

- Assess priority opportunities

Infrastructure Consortium and Caucus Activities: February-March 2023

Primary focus: Early Identification of MEGA and INFRA projects

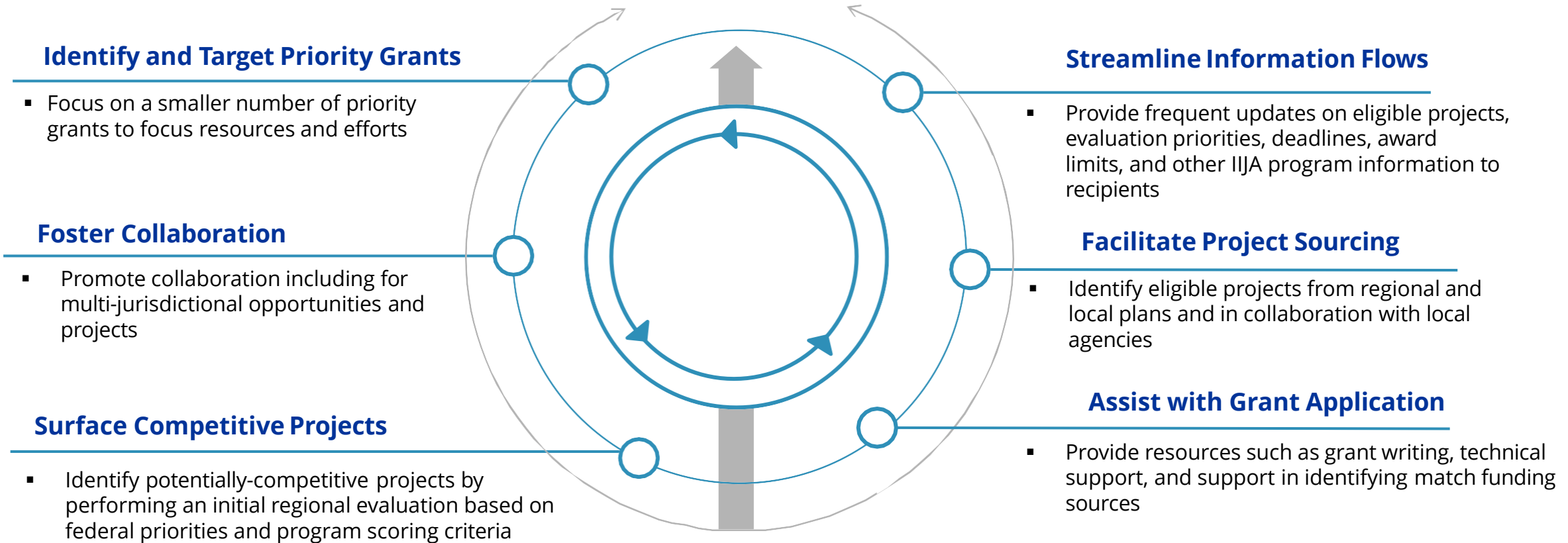
- Consortium meetings:
 - 11:30 am; Friday, February 10, 2023 (ARC)
 - 9:30 am; Friday, March 10, 2023 (ARC)
- Policy maker coordination:
 - Combine with ARC Board and TAQC meetings

Other Critical Path Activities

- Preparation for electrification NOFOS:
 - Community charging
 - Corridor charging
- PROTECT Program

Application Support Model

Application Support



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Discussion on Priority ARC Regional Projects Identified to Date