STRENGHTENING MOBILITY & REVOLUTIONIZING TRANSPORTATION (SMART) PROGRAM
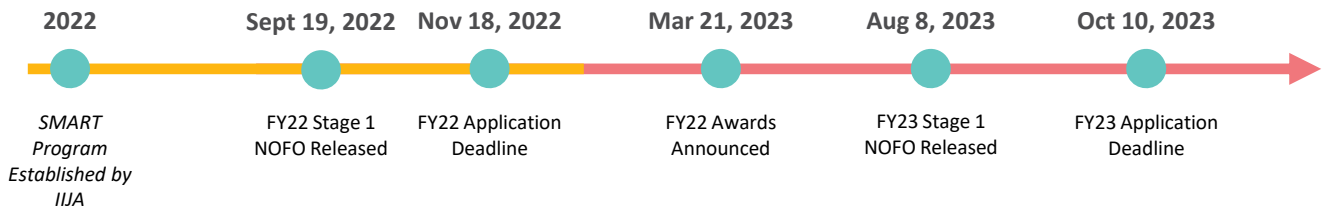
ARC Atlanta Regional Commission

PART I: BACKGROUND

PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grants Program created by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). The program provides funding to conduct demonstration projects focused on advanced smart city or community technologies and systems in a variety of communities to improve transportation efficiency and safety. The program is appropriated $100M annually for fiscal years 2022–2026.

The program is divided into two stages. USDOT anticipates that only recipients of Stage 1 Planning and Prototyping Grants will be eligible for Stage 2 Implementation Grants. During Stage 1, public sector project leaders should build internal buy-in and partnerships with public, private, academic, nonprofit, and community organizations and community networks to refine and prototype their concepts, and report on results. Stage 2 implementation projects should result in a scaled-up demonstration of the concept, integrating it with the existing transportation system, and refining the concept such that it could be replicated by others. Eligible applicants include States, Tribal Governments, Transit and Poll Authorities, and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs).

2022	Sept 19, 2022	Nov 18, 2022	Mar 21, 2023	Aug 8, 2023	Oct 10, 2023
SMART Program Established by IIJA	FY22 Stage 1 NOFO Released	FY22 Application Deadline	FY22 Awards Announced	FY23 Stage 1 NOFO Released	FY23 Application Deadline

FUNDING INFORMATION

Fiscal Year	Funding Source	Total Funding	Max Award	Match Req.	Funding & Obligation Restrictions
2023	IIJA	$100M Total $50M Stage 1 $50M Stage 2[1]	$2M Stage 1 $15M Stage 2[1]	0% for Stage 1 Awards	• Period of performance is 18 months • DOT anticipates up to 30 Stage 1 grants • $250,000 Minimum award size • 40% allocation for large communities[2] • 30% for midsized and rural communities[2]
2022	IIJA	$100M Stage 1	$2M	0% for Stage 1 Awards	• DOT anticipated 30 to 50 Stage 1 grants

1. FY23 Stage 2 NOFO is still pending
2. Large communities have a population over 400,000; rural communities are those located outside of an urbanized area of not less than 50,000; midsized communities are those not classified as large or rural

ATLANTA REGION APPLICATION AND AWARD HISTORY

Fiscal Year	Project Name	Applicant	Funding Requested	Funding Awarded?
2022	**Singleton Road Corridor Technology Improvements**	**Gwinnett County**	**$1,053,400**	**$1,053,400**
2022	Cruising Through Signalized Intersections via Coordinated Automation	City of Peachtree Corners		No
2022	Planning a Tech-Enabled Car-Lite County	DeKalb County		No
2022	SMART Grant City of Woodstock Smart Technology Traffic Signal Project	City of Woodstock		No
2022	Deployment of Connected Vehicle Technology in Henry County, Georgia	Henry County		No
2022	Planning and Feasibility Study of Advanced Transportation Systems	Douglas County		No

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ELIGIBLE TECHNOLOGIES

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COORDINATED AUTOMATION	Use of automated transportation and autonomous vehicles while working to minimize the impact on the accessibility of any other user group or mode of travel.
CONNECTED VEHICLES	Vehicles that send and receive information regarding vehicle movements in the network and use vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-everything communications to provide advanced and reliable connectivity.
SENSOR-BASED INFRASTRUCTURE	Deployment and use of a collective intelligent infrastructure that allows sensors to collect and report real-time data to inform everyday transportation related operations and performance.
SYSTEMS INTEGRATION	Integration of intelligent transportation systems with other existing systems and other advanced transportation technologies.
COMMERCE AND DELIVERY LOGISTICS	Innovative data and technological solutions supporting efficient goods movement, such as connected vehicle probe data, road weather data, or global positioning data to improve on-time pickup and delivery, improved travel time reliability, reduced fuel consumption and emissions, and reduced labor and vehicle maintenance costs.
INNOVATIVE AVIATION TECH	Leveraging the use of innovative aviation technologies, such as unmanned aircraft systems, to support transportation safety and efficiencies, including traffic monitoring and infrastructure inspection.
SMART GRID	Developing a programmable and efficient energy transmission and distribution system to support the adoption or expansion of energy capture, electric vehicle deployment, or freight or commercial fleet fuel efficiency.
SMART TECH TRAFFIC SIGNALS	Improving the active management and functioning of traffic signals, including through: • Use of automated traffic signal performance measures; • Implementing strategies, activities, and projects that support active management of traffic signal operations, including through optimization of corridor timing; improved vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycle detection at traffic signals; or the use of connected vehicle technologies; • Replacement of outdated traffic signals; or • For an eligible applicant serving a population of less than 500,000, paying the costs of temporary staffing hours dedicated to updating traffic signal technology.

PART II: APPLICATION EVALUTION INFO

Applications will go though a four-part application review process, starting with eligibility:
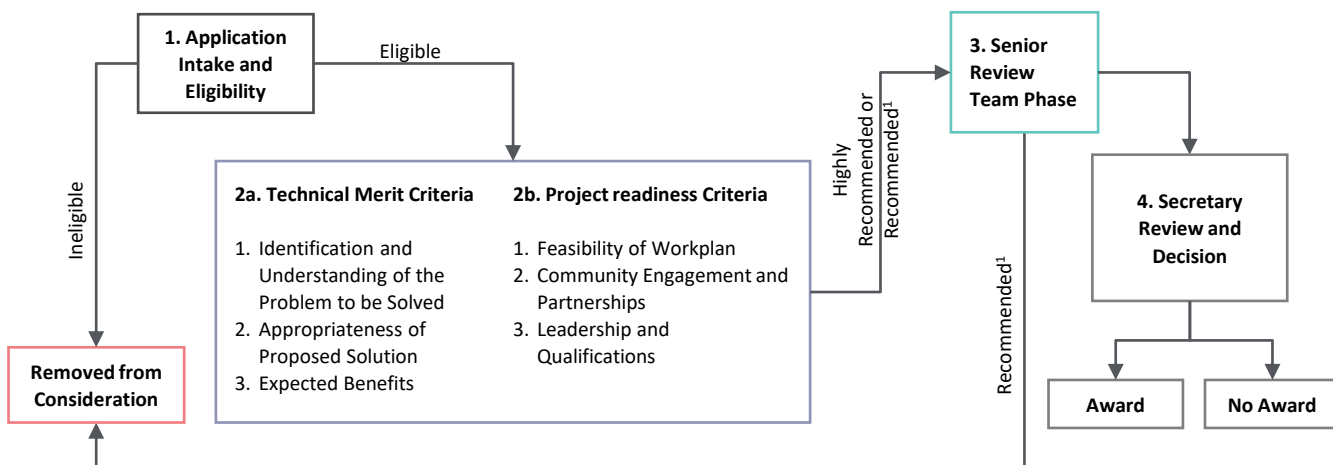
1. The Senior Review Team can advance recommended applications if the list of highly recommended applications does not fulfill the requirements for distribution of funds to large, midsized, and rural communities.
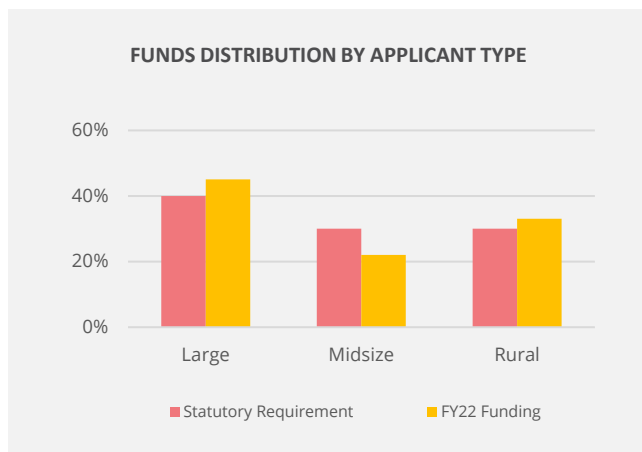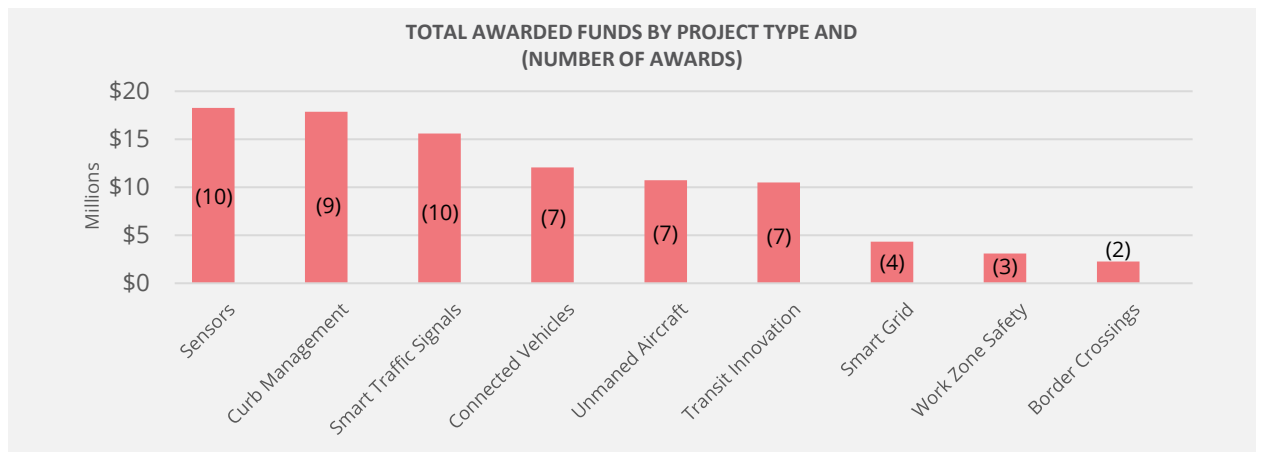
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PART III: AWARD TRENDS AND INSIGHTS

AWARD TRENDS

- 70% of funds were awarded to projects with funding requests above $1.5M

- Large, Midsize and Rural communities received the following funding shares, respectively: 45%, 22%, 33%

- Local and State applicant types received the majority of FY22 funding respectively at 55% and 34%

- Sensor, Curb Management, and Smart Traffic Signal type project received 55% of total award funding combined

- Curb Management project types had the highest average award amount a $1.98M

- All awarded projects contained Sensor and Systems Integration technology types

TOTAL AWARDED FUNDS BY PROJECT TYPE AND (NUMBER OF AWARDS)

Project Type	Amount (Millions)	Number of Awards
Sensors	~$18	(10)
Curb Management	~$17.5	(9)
Smart Traffic Signals	~$15.5	(10)
Connected Vehicles	~$12	(7)
Unmaned Aircraft	~$10.5	(7)
Transit Innovation	~$10.5	(7)
Smart Grid	~$4.5	(4)
Work Zone Safety	~$3	(3)
Border Crossings	~$2.5	(2)

FUNDS DISTRIBUTION BY APPLICANT TYPE

Applicant Type	Statutory Requirement	FY22 Funding
Large	40%	45%
Midsize	30%	22%
Rural	30%	33%

Minimum Award	Maximum Award
$250,000	$2M

Median Award	Mean Award
$1.9M	$1.6M

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APPLICATION AND AWARD INSIGHTS

- **Smart Traffic Signals projects were the #1 awarded project type, but the southeast received zero awards for these in FY22;** Smart Traffic Signal projects represented 17% of the awarded applicant pool and 16% of total funding

- **Midsize communities received less funding in FY22 than stated funding levels in the program guidance –** Midsize community applicants received 22% of award funding; the SMART NOFO states that 30% of program funding would be allocated to Midsize communities

- **Roughly 60% of recipients received awards greater than $1.75M;** this award range was consistently the highest across large, midsize and rural applicants; in this first phase of SMART distributions, the award ceiling was $2M

- **Local Government Applicants captured the majority of FY22 funding –** Local applicants received the highest number of awards (18) and the highest allocation of funds (34% or $32M) however were the most competitive applicants, submitting the highest number of applications (204) with an effective success rate of only 9% (18 awards)

- **Highly competitive states emphasized projects utilizing Sensor and Systems Integration technology types** - For states with at least 5 applications, Nevada (4 winners from 9 applicants) and Colorado (4 winners from 10 applicants) were the top states in terms of applicant win percentage, while Georgia captured 2 wins on 10 applications; all winners in these states utilized Sensor and Systems Integration technology types

Applicant Type	Success Rate	Awards	Applications
Tribal	33%	2	3
Transit Agency	23%	14	62
State	23%	18	79
MPO	27%	8	30
Local	9%	18	204
Overall	**15%**	**59**	**324**

APPENDIX: SOURCES & LINKS

DATA SOURCES

- [SMART Illustrative Use Cases](#)
- [SMART FY22 Awarded Projects](#)
- [SMART Fact Sheet](#)
- [SMART FY22 NOFO](#)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Local Government Infrastructure Hub](#)