



COLORADO

Department of Transportation

Revitalizing Main Streets

Pre-Application Workshop | April 4, 2021



Submitting Questions Today

- Send questions through the chat box.
- Please include:
 - Which grant opportunity you are referencing:
 - Opportunity 1: Larger Safety Infrastructure Grants
 - Opportunity 2: Small Multimodal and Economic Resiliency Projects
 - Both
 - Uncertain
 - Your Local Agency or Organization
 - Your Question
- At the end of the Q & A, we will open it to individuals who would like to unmute and ask a question.



Background

On March 19 Gov Polis signed SB110, providing \$30M in state stimulus funding to the Revitalizing Main Streets and Safer Main Streets grant programs.

- Revitalizing Main Streets was originally funded with multi-modal options fund (MMOF) dollars and, to date, has awarded 76 grants to communities across the state to help adjust transportation infrastructure in response to COVID.
- Safer Main Streets was originally funded with SB267 and state/DRCOG STBG dollars. The program was limited to the DRCOG region and focused on reducing bike and pedestrian injuries/fatalities along busy urban arterials.
 - At the March 17th Board meeting, DRCOG approved a final set of SMS projects bringing the total to 37 funded projects and just under \$76M allocated.





The Re-Launch

CDOT is using SB110 funds to relaunch these grant programs under the single banner of **Revitalizing Main Streets**.

~\$22M distributed via large grants (up to \$2M) for projects that improve safety and increase active transportation options.

- Takes basic concept of original Safer Main Streets and expands it statewide while incorporating lessons learned from metro-area program.
- \$1.3M remaining from Safer Main Streets would be rolled into this program (but only available in the DRCOG region).

~\$8M allocated via small grants (\$150k or under) to projects that help communities implement COVID mitigation measures and make temporary and permanent infrastructure improvements.

- The current program has approximately \$900,000 remaining meaning the total available is closer to \$9M.
- Overall emphasis and rolling application process to remain the same.





Grant Overview

Large Grants

Capital Projects up to \$2M

\$22 million total

Applications due by May 14, 2021

(no incentive for earlier submissions)

Evaluation Criteria:

- Safety Improvement (30%)
- Active Transportation (10%)
- Readiness (10%)
- Funding Need (10%)
- Diversity of Funding (10%)
- Economic Impacts (10%)
- Public Support (10%)
- Local Match (10%)

Small Grants

Community Projects up to \$150k

\$8 million total

Applications reviewed weekly

Evaluation Criteria:

- Public Health Mitigation (COVID-related) (30%)
- Active Transportation (30%)
- Readiness (20%)
- Equity/Economic Impact (10%)
- Public Support (5%)
- Innovation/Scalability (5%)



Technical Assistance

CDOT is happy to provide tailored assistance to cities and counties particularly around the safety projects.

HQ: Nathan Lindquist: nathan.lindquist@state.co.us (Project Support)

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Region 2 (Pikes Peak, Pueblo, SE CO): Valerie Vigil: valerie.vigil@state.co.us

Lachelle Davis lachelle.davis@state.co.us

Region 3 (NW CO): Joe Carter: joseph.carter@state.co.us

Mark Rogers: mark.rogers@state.co.us

Region 4 (Boulder, NE CO): Katrina Kloberdanz: katrina.kloberdanz@state.co.us

Region 5 (SW CO): Paul Frank: paul.frank@state.co.us



Opportunity 1: Larger Safety Infrastructure Grants



Opportunity 1: Goals

- Reduce fatal and serious injury crashes on the region's transportation system
- Support a transportation system that safely accommodates all modes of travel (i.e. driving, taking the bus or any transit system, walking, and biking)
- Improve transit access and multimodal mobility
- Support the development of connected urban/employment centers and multimodal corridors
- Provide safe access to opportunity and mobility for residents of all ages, incomes and abilities – including vulnerable users
- Help communities adjust to the new normal travel patterns caused by COVID-19
- Play an important and immediate role in job creation/retention and small business investment



Opportunity 1: Eligibility

Large Grants: \$22 million (total)

- Capital Projects up to \$2M
- One application submitted per jurisdiction
 - A jurisdiction is an individual local entity, so a City/Town and County can both apply, but CDOT will be looking for local coordination when applicable.
- On-system and Off-system Projects are eligible
- Design Expenses:
 - Allowed as long as concept is developed and clear enough for the review committee to score. Project readiness is part of the scoring criteria and projects need to be fully constructed with grant funding.



Opportunity 1: Timeline

Award Timeline - Applications are due by **May 14, 2021**

- **April 7, 2021 - May 14, 2021: Submit Applications**
 - **There is no benefit of submission prior to May 14, 2021.**
- **May 17, 2021 - June 30, 2021: Review and Score Applications**
- **July 2021: Announce Awards**
- **Contracting Process Begins**



Opportunity 1: Evaluation Criteria

Scoring Breakdown on Page 4 in the Rules and Selection Document

- Safety (30%) - CDOT will assess Safety Performance and Value
 - o Subscoring:
 - Strategic (20%)
 - Effectiveness (20%)
 - Equity (20%)
 - Value (40%)
- Active Transportation (10%)
 - o Provides new and/or safer access to biking, walking, and transit
- Readiness (10%)
 - o Provide Schedule, including Milestones; scoring in increments of construction completion
- Funding Need (10%)
 - o Is this project possible without external funding?



Opportunity 1: Evaluation Criteria

- **Diversity of Funding (10%)**
 - In the last year, have you received funding from CDOT grants?
 - Safer Main Streets
 - Revitalizing Main Streets
 - Safe Routes to School
- **Economic Impacts (10%)**
 - AMI using Census data - link included in application
- **Public Support (10%)**
 - Letters of support must be included
 - Points will vary depending on the level of public support and the studies conducted to measure and garner public support
- **Local Match (10%)**
 - 20% encouraged
 - Lower match needs justification, or application will lose points



Opportunity 1: Concurrence

- Local Concurrence:
 - o Application must include an official local response noting local concurrence.

- CDOT Concurrence (projects on state highway or within state ROW):
 - o Concurrence is not expected when the Application is submitted.
 - o Applicant must complete and submit a Request for CDOT Concurrence Form when the application is submitted (linked in the Additional Resources on the website).
 - o This will begin an internal Concurrence Review alongside the Grant Committee Review.
 - o Applicants still need to show evidence that they have discussed potential high-level feasibility with CDOT's regional staff.
 - o If selected to receive funding, projects will require CDOT concurrence prior to award.



Opportunity 1: Project Ideas

COLORADO
Department of Transportation

Safer Main Streets

Safer Main Streets

Project Selection Round 1.0

SAFER

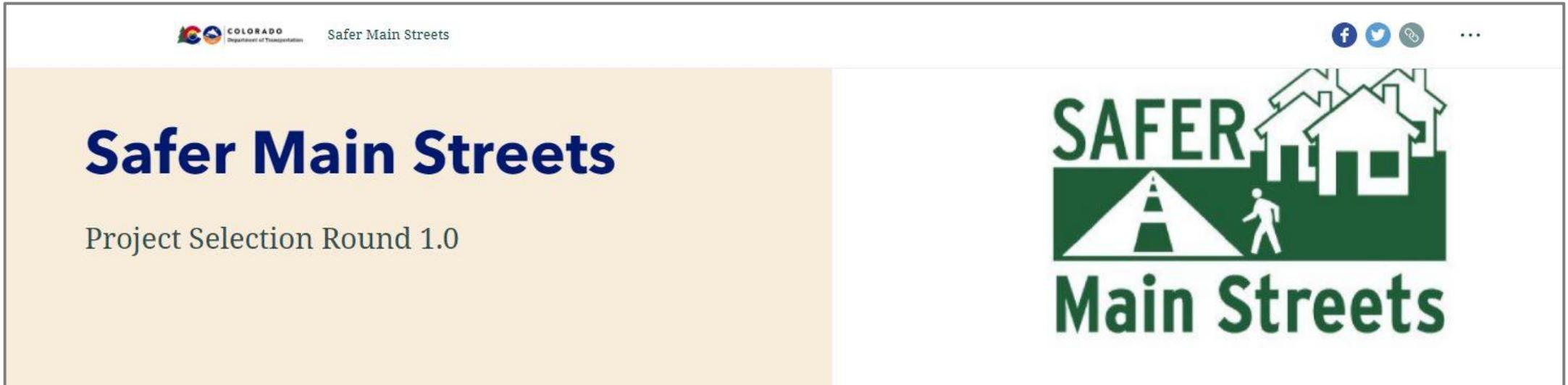
Main Streets

Arapahoe County Boulder Boulder County Broomfield Centennial Commerce City Denver Douglas County Englewood Erie Lakewood Littleton

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/c88cea6770964bdcaa06236fddb2fb54>



Opportunity 1: Project Ideas



- Intersection Improvements
- Sidewalk Improvements; integrated with bus routes
- Intersection Improvements to accommodate bicycles and pedestrians.
- Protected Intersections
- Separated Bike Lanes
- Transit Access Improvements

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/c88cea6770964bdcaa06236fddb2fb54>



Opportunity 1: Questions so far

Q: Is ROW acquisition an allowable expense for these grant funds?

A: Yes, but to score well, ROW acquisition must be specifically tied to the project being delivered and needs to be addressed carefully in the Project Schedule.

Q: Is there a minimum safety requirement?

A: Safety is one of the key criteria, so it would be difficult for a project that has no safety benefits to score well.

Q: Is public artwork an eligible expense?

A: Yes, limited public art features are eligible where such features are not the primary purpose of the application but are included to enhance safety and encourage multimodal choices (not to exceed \$5,000).



Opportunity 2: Small Multimodal and Economic Resiliency Projects



Opportunity 2: Goals

- Encouraging active, multimodal transportation, including better access and safety for pedestrians, cyclists and scooters.
- Promoting public health and safety by encouraging social distancing and/or providing publicly available personal protective equipment (PPE) and sanitation stations
- Improving equity and public space access for low-income and disadvantaged users
- Expanding economic opportunity and development in a regionally-equitable way



Opportunity 2: Eligibility

Small Grants: \$8 million (total)

- Continuation of 2020 Revitalizing Main Streets Program
- Community/Placemaking Projects up to \$150k
- One local government entity can submit multiple projects and receive up to \$250k
 - Projects awarded with initial rollout are included in the total.
- On-system and Off-system Projects are eligible; if a project impact state ROW, a Special Use Per
- Design Expenses:
 - Allowed as long as concept is developed and clear enough for the review committee to score. Project readiness is part of the scoring criteria and projects need to be fully constructed with grant funding.
- No work completed prior to contract execution with CDOT is eligible for either Reimbursement or to count toward the 10% match requirement.



Opportunity 2: Timeline

Award Timeline - Applications reviewed weekly until funding is exhausted.

Funding is First-Come First-Serve; Funding remains for about 50-80 projects depending on the funding requests.

- Applications are reviewed every Wednesday
- It typically take about two months for projects to receive fully executed contracts.
 - Committee Review
 - Applications must score a minimum of 80 points and address all procurement and safety questions raised by the committee.
 - Final Approval
 - Scope of Work Finalization
 - Incorporating committee feedback and any agreed changes to scope and/or budget.
 - Execution of contract - typically a Purchase Order.
 - Able to Begin of Work



Opportunity 2: Evaluation Criteria

Scoring Breakdown on Page 4 in the Rules and Selection Document

- **Public Health Mitigation (COVID-related) (30%)**
 - Referencing and incorporating Public Health Guidelines in the project scope.
- **Active Transportation (30%)**
 - Installing temporary or long-term multimodal components to increase access and safety for all modes of transportation
- **Readiness (20%)**
 - Provide Schedule, including Milestones; incremental scoring based on completion date
 - Projects must be complete in 8 months.
- **Equity/Economic Impact (10%)**
 - Clearly identify the communities that will be impacted and outline how it will address equity and/or accessibility.



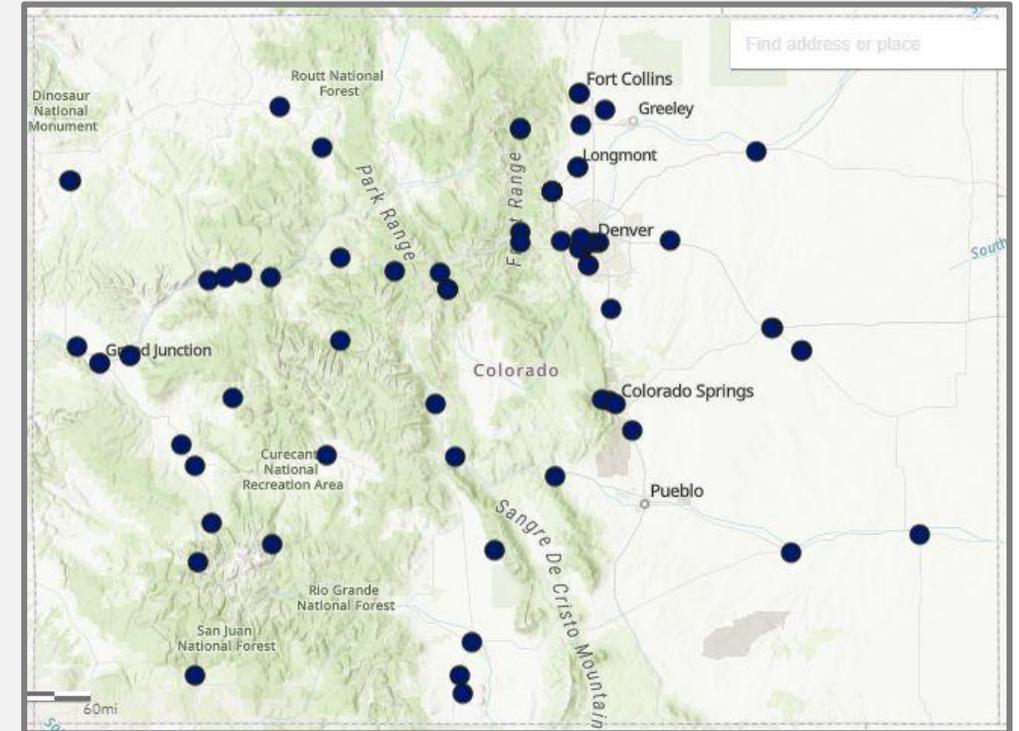
Opportunity 2: Evaluation Criteria

- **Public Support (5%)**
 - Letters of support must be included
 - Points will vary depending on the level of public support and the studies conducted to measure and garner public support
- **Innovation/Scalability (5%)**
 - Innovative ideas are encouraged, but innovative ideas that do not adhere to all traffic control requirements will not be approved for funding. Be sure to check safety and traffic codes before submitting applications.
- **Local Match**
 - A local match (cash or in-kind) is required.
 - 10% of grant funds requested (9% of total); up to \$15k depending on grant request.
 - Matching expenses must be incurred after the contract with CDOT is complete; past expenses cannot be matched.
 - Match expenses will be documented in invoices to CDOT just like all other expenses.



Opportunity 2: Project Ideas

- Bike Racks and Bike Corrals
- Parklets
- Tables and Chairs for Outdoor Seating
- Park and Outdoor Dining Improvements
 - Planters
 - Lights
 - Shade Structures
- Benches/Public Seating for Pedestrians
- Barriers to Assist with Road Closures
 - Outdoor Dining
 - Closed Plazas
 - Shared Streets
- Staff time/crews to install projects
- Wayfinding Signage for Active Modes of Transportation





Opportunity 2: Questions so far

Q: The old “Revitalizing Main Streets” is now a Small Multimodal and Economic Resiliency Project grant? If yes, are there no more of the \$50,000 grants available?

A: Yes, this is correct. It is still essentially the same grant and application - we made slight modifications to address some ongoing gaps in the last application. There are technically no longer the \$50k grants available, but you can apply for up to \$150k. So if you have a project at or under \$50k, you should still apply.

Q: Is public artwork an eligible expense?

A: Yes, limited public art features are eligible where such features are not the primary purpose of the application but are included to enhance safety and encourage multimodal choices (not to exceed %5 of the grant request).



Opportunity 2: Questions so far

Q: Is revitalizing the exterior of buildings an eligible expense?

A: No, these grants do not fund renovations related to buildings. While these grants are tied to Revitalization, they are state highway and multimodal funds, so we've kept our funding tied to outdoor placemaking and small pedestrian/bicycle improvements.

Q: Can businesses expand into the state highway?

A: Any work that impacts the state ROW will require a Special Use Permit. Additionally, if business is being conducted in the state ROW a Fair Market Value Waiver will be required from the Federal Highway Administration.



Additional Resources



Example Projects:

- CDOT website has example projects from across the state

General Questions: cdotmainstreets@state.co.us

Website: <https://www.codot.gov/programs/revitalizingmainstreets>

Program Information Sheet:

https://www.codot.gov/programs/revitalizingmainstreets/assets/revitalizingmainstreets_programinformation.pdf



Programmatic Questions



Both Grants: Questions so far

Q: Is my project a good option for this grant opportunity?

A: We cannot advise as to whether a local agency should or should not apply for grant opportunities. We will encourage you to review the evaluation criteria discuss what the criteria are - as well as assisting with some data collection if it's available to CDOT.

Q: Can I apply for both grant opportunities simultaneously?

A: Yes, communities can apply for both grant opportunities.

Q: The rules say that non-profit organizations, design firms, and contractors can partner with governmental agencies. What does that partnership look like?

A: The applicant would be the local government agency, but the application should note other local partners who would help complete the project. CDOT's contract will be directly with the applicant.



Both Grants: Questions so far

Q: Are planning/design expenses eligible for these grants?

A: Allowed expense as long as concept is clear for the review committee to score. Project readiness is part of the scoring criteria and projects need to be fully implemented with grant funding.

Q: Can these grant funds be used as match on federal projects?

A: These can be used as match on federal project as long as project hasn't started yet.

Q: Are off-system projects eligible for these grant funds?

A: Yes, these are allowed on local owned streets.



Additional Questions?



Technical Assistance

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