



Government Affairs Update

March 28, 2024

USDOT Announces Strategic Innovation for Revenue Collection (SIRC) Program Grants Funding for Distance-Based Road Charging Projects

On March 27, 2024, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) announced the availability of the first \$45 million in grants from the Strategic Innovation for Revenue Collection (SIRC) Program. The program was established in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) to test the feasibility of a road usage fee and other user-based alternative revenue mechanisms to address the long-term solvency of the federal Highway Trust Fund.

The [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\) for the SIRC Program](#) establishes anticipated available funding of \$15 million for discretionary grants for FY 2022, FY 2023, and FY 2024. Grant applications and awards will be administered in two application processes with \$30 million for projects from FY 2022 – 2023 and \$15 million for projects from FY 2024. The application deadline for Fiscal Year 2022 – 2023 grant applications is May 27, 2024. The application deadline for Fiscal Year 2024 applications will be determined and will be posted to the Grants.gov website in an amendment to the NOFO.

The discretionary grants under the Strategic Innovation for Revenue Collection Program will be eligible for up to an 80% federal share of the total project cost for first-time SIRC awards. A federal share of 70% of the total project cost will be available to eligible entities that already received at least one grant under the program. Since the SIRC Program is a new program in IIJA, all applicants are eligible for the 80% federal share in their first application. FHWA has previously stated that multi-year project funding proposals may be considered.

Eligible entities include States or groups of States, local governments or groups of local governments, or metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) or a group of MPOs. The toll operators that are not eligible in one of these categories, SIRC grant projects will need to be undertaken in cooperation with a State or local government or MPO as a funding partner.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) plans to conduct two informational webinars SIRC Program on how to apply, one before the FY 2022 – 2023 application deadline and one before the FY 2024 application deadline. The first webinar will be announced within 21 days of the publication of the NOFO.

FHWA is encouraging applicants interested in applying for SIRC grants to email letters of intent to SIRCFHWA@dot.gov no later than 30 days prior to the submission deadline with the applicant's name, the State in which the project is located, approximate total project cost, amount of the SIRC grant request, and a two-to three-sentence project description. This early notification is not a program requirement but will assist FHWA in managing timely and efficient grant awards.

IBTTA remains committed to working with Federal, State, and local partners to support roadway pricing programs and to strive for flexibility of associated requirements to align with State and local objectives.