Reconnecting Communities:
Highways to Boulevards

Application Workshop #2

August 24, 2023. 8:30-10:00am

Reconnecting Communities: Highways to Boulevards Program

$149 million was established in the FY 22/23 State Budget to reconnect communities divided by transportation infrastructure. A “Call for Communities” was issued back in June. We will award to three Communities that demonstrate the most need to address the historical harm to their communities.

The proposed Green TI, parkland served by a small road, would replace a mile of the Terminal

Call for Communities

7 PROGRAMMATIC GOALS (PARAPHRASED)

1. Restore Community Connectivity
2. Provide matching funds for federal grants
3. Removing barriers associated with transportation infrastructure
4. Improve travel options
5. Opportunities for implementation of affordable housing
6. Avoid displacement effects
7. Advance Community-Based transportation planning

Meet the Team

PRESENTERS TODAY:

MISTY BRADSHAW

RC:H2B Program Manager

Office of Innovative Programs

Caltrans Division of Local Assistance

JIMMY TRAN

Transportation Planning Lead for RC:H2B

Office State Planning, Equity, and Engagement

Caltrans Division of Transportation Planning

NAILA SHARMEEN

Active Trans. Planner – Implementation

Office of Active Transp. and Transit Planning

Caltrans Division of Transportation Planning

TEAM MEMBERS AND FACILITATORS TODAY:

RACHEL PADILLA

Grant Program Coordinator

Office of Innovative Programs

Caltrans Division of Local Assistance

GRETCHEN CHAVEZ

Office Chief Office of Innovative Programs

Caltrans Division of Local Assistance

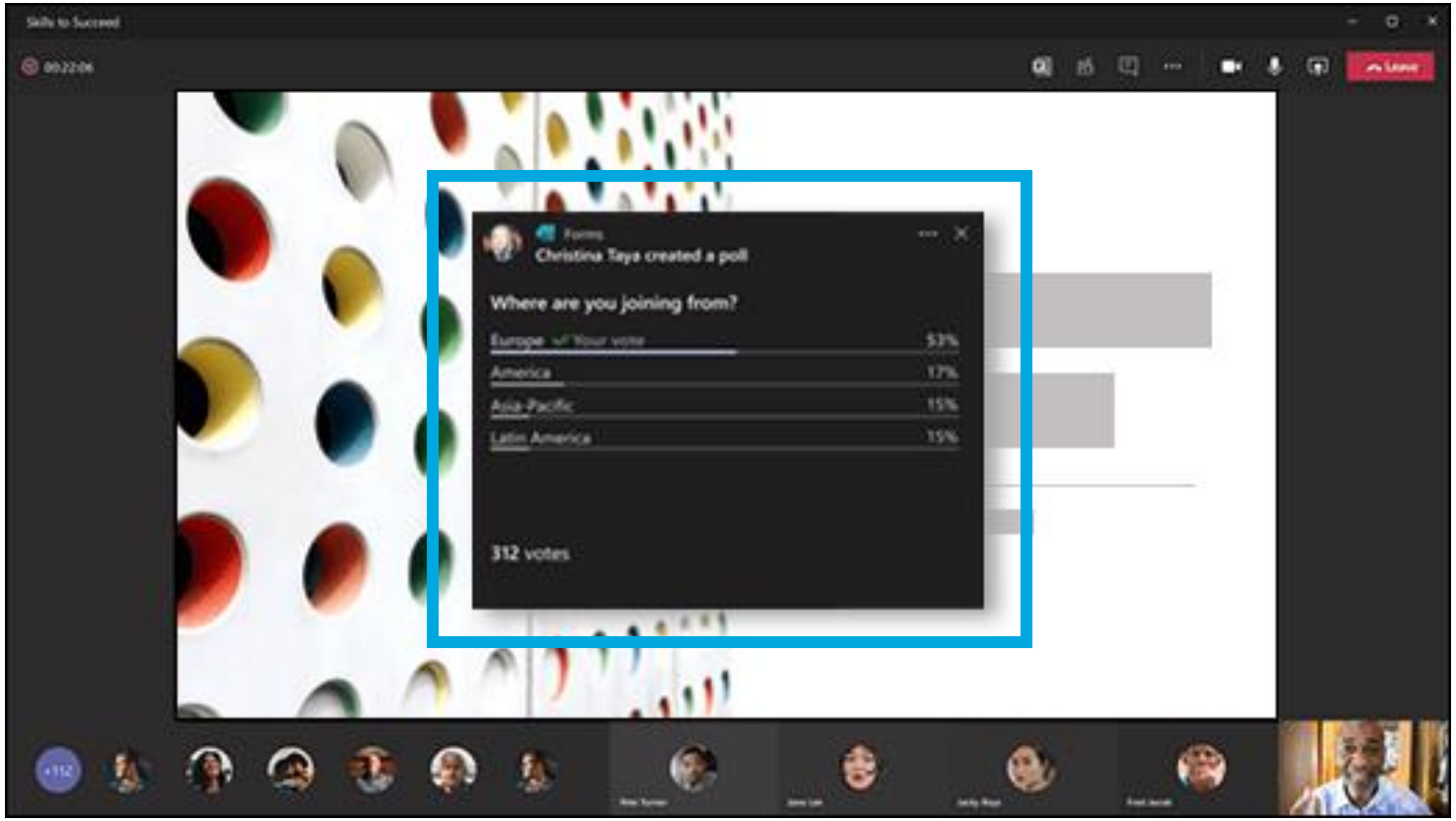
EMILY GIBSON

Sr. Transportation Planner

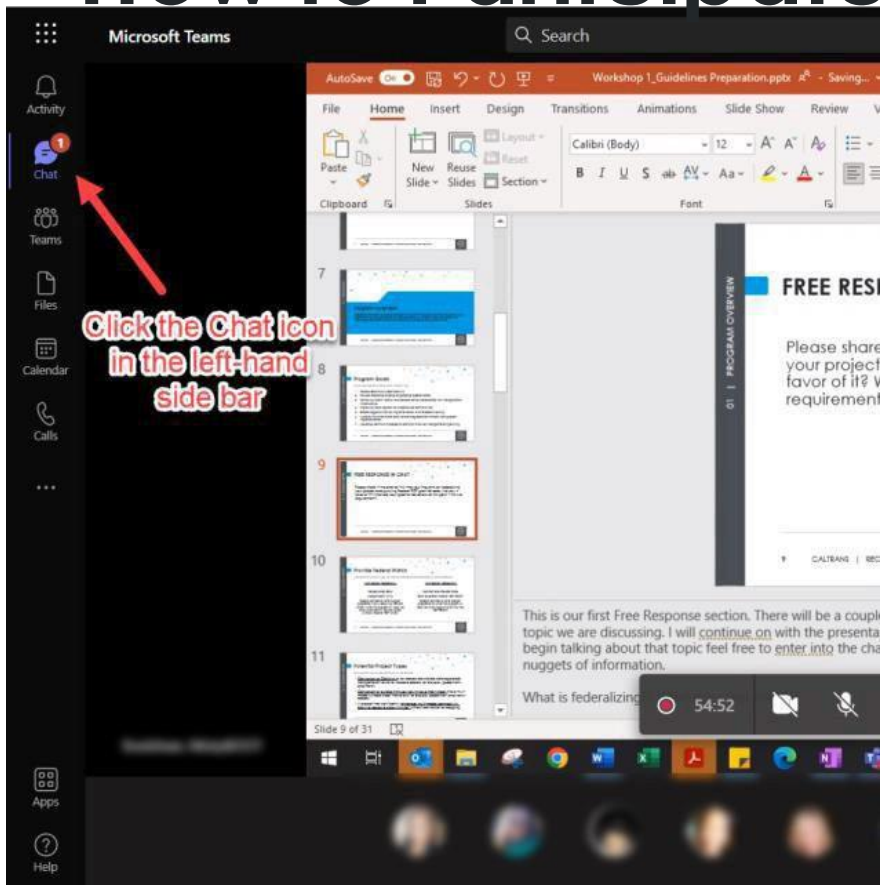
Office of Innovative Programs

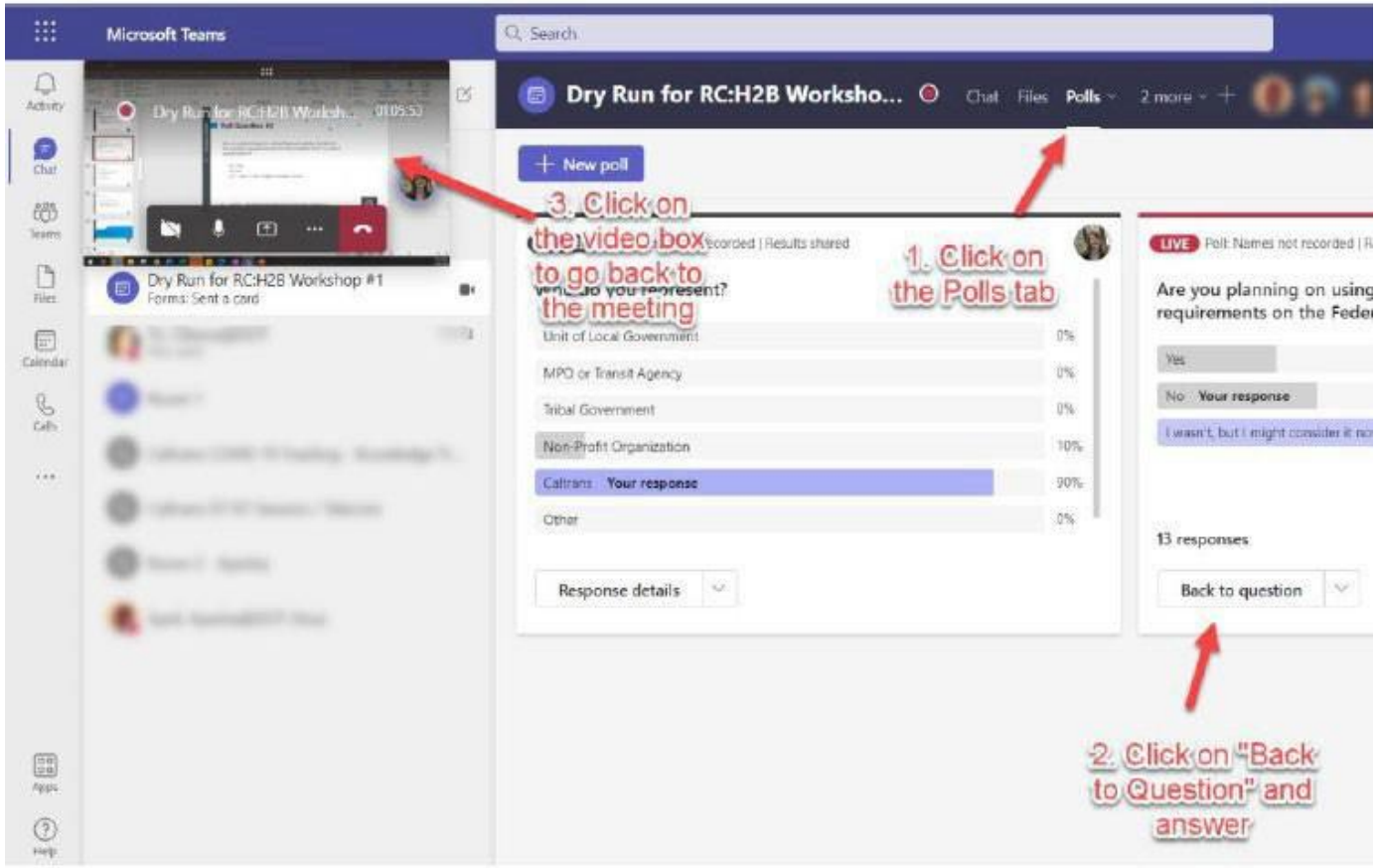
Caltrans Division of Local Assistance

How to Participate in Polls – Desktop



How to Participate in Polls – Web





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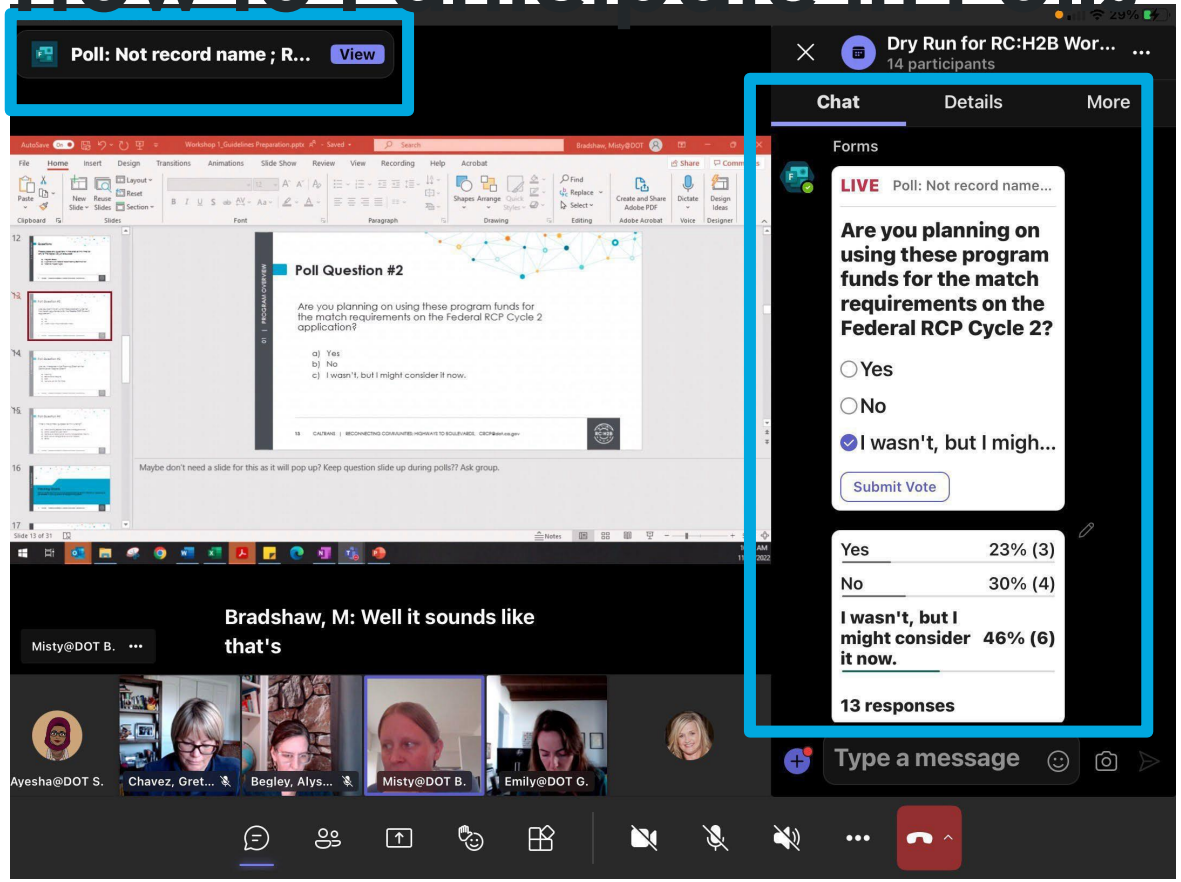


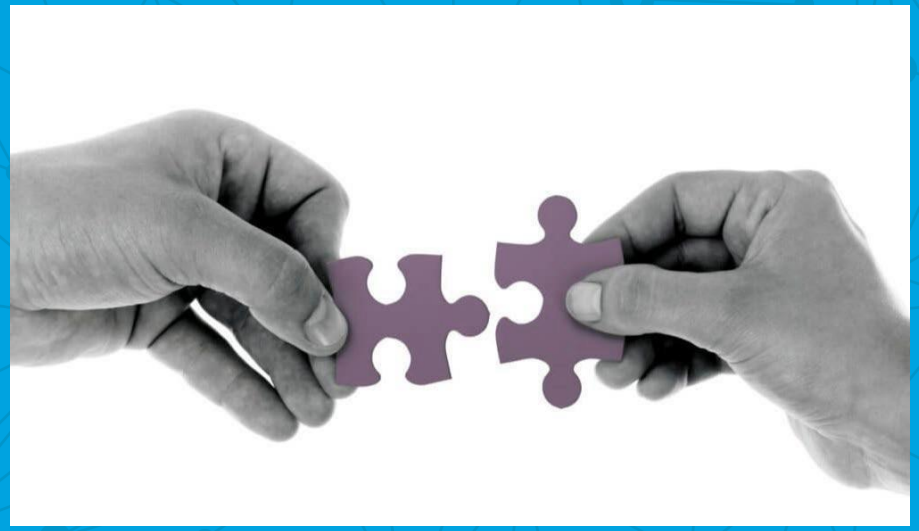
Agenda

01 – Overview of Application Workshop #1

02 – Proposed Improvement Area

03 – Partnership Structure

04 – Packaging and Submitting



Poll Question #1

Who do you represent?

a) Unit of Local Government
b) MPO or Transit Agency
c) Tribal Government
d) Non-Profit Organization
e) Caltrans
f) Other

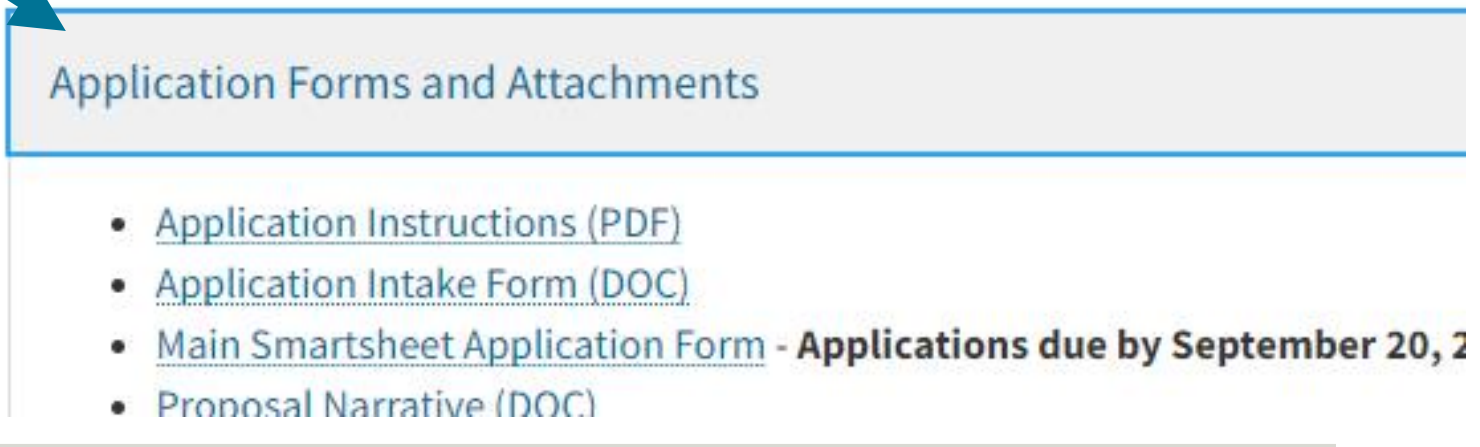
Overview of Application Workshop #1

- Resources available on the Website
- Application Process
- Attachment A: Proposal Narrative
- Attachment C: Determination of Underserved

Resources on the RC:H2B Website

Resources to aid in preparation of your application available on the website.

- RC:H2B Program Guidelines
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
- Application instructions
- Application Intake Form
- Resource Document



Community Engagement vs. Involvement

Engagement

- Focuses on initial engagement of the community at the start of a project.
- Takes place before applications are submitted.
- Used to identify the preliminary needs.
- Obtain public feedback through public meetings and outreach efforts.
- Successful/competitive proposal will likely have considered Community Engagement strategies in preparing their applications.

Present at Public Meeting.
Surveys
Canvasing or Noticing

Involvement

- Continuous involvement of community members through each phase.
- May be formal partnerships or involvement opportunities for community members.
- Community participation on identifying the specific barriers facing their community and the needs/wants.
- A successful/competitive proposal will consider potential involvement opportunities.

Social Media
Design Charrettes

Steering Committee/Advisory Board
Working Groups
Locally Sourcing Trades/Materials…etc..
Formal Partnerships
Participatory Research

Takeaways from App. Workshop #1

- Use the resources provided on the website. Particularly the **Resource Document** accessible under the "Resources" drop down will be very helpful!
- Use the **pre-screening tools** (checklist and questions) to determine alignment with the program goals.
- When preparing the Attachment A: Proposal Narrative, really emphasize the story you want to tell the evaluators.
- **Follow Instructions**, either within the documents themselves or the Application Instructions document available on the website.
- Applicants may be in an early phase of work or may be ready for Construction. After award, awardees will have any prior work reviewed. Some updates may be required to conform to the goals of the program.

Poll Question #2

How have the Community Members been engaged/involved? Select all that apply.

a. Presenting at Public Meetings
b. Steering Committee or Advisory Board
c. Surveys / Cognitive Mapping
d. Website / Social Media
e. Community Working Groups
f. Design Charettes
g. Participatory Research or Budgeting
h. Sub-Contract or Formal Partnerships Established
i. Preparation of Proposal Efforts

Questions

Please place any questions in the chat at this time for any of the topics we just discussed:

a) Resources on the Website
b) Community Engagement vs. Involvement
c) Takeaways from Application Workshop #1

Proposed Improvement Area

Grant Categories

Completion Attachment B

Grant Categories

BASED ON 2010 US CENSUS BUREAU DESIGNATION

Three communities will be awarded under three grant categories:

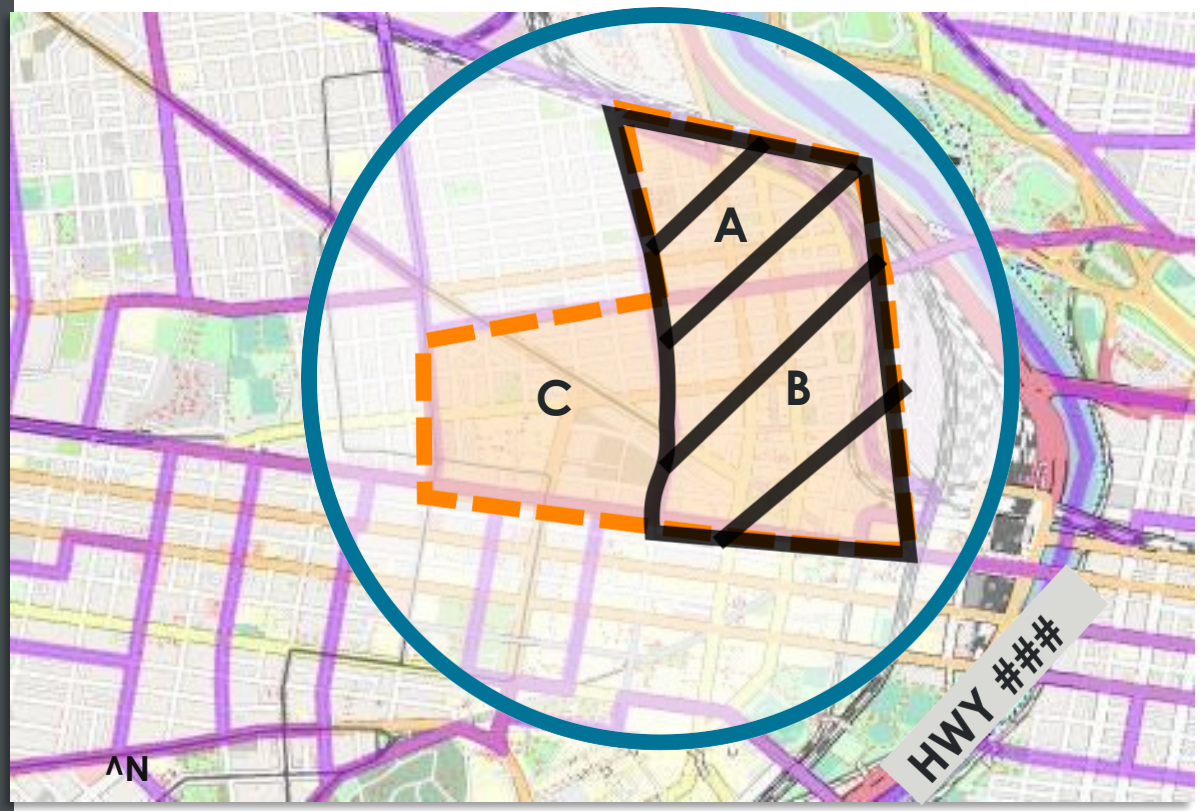
1. Urban –Communities with populations of 50,000 or more. Urban clusters with at least 2,500 but fewer than 50,000.

2. Rural – Areas with less than 50,000 people.

3. Corridor – Linear geographic facility that support the needs of multiple underserved rural or urban communities. The corridor does not necessarily need to be the eligible transportation barrier facility but must at a minimum be impacted by the eligible facility.

Proposed Improvement Area

Approach for both Rural and Urban



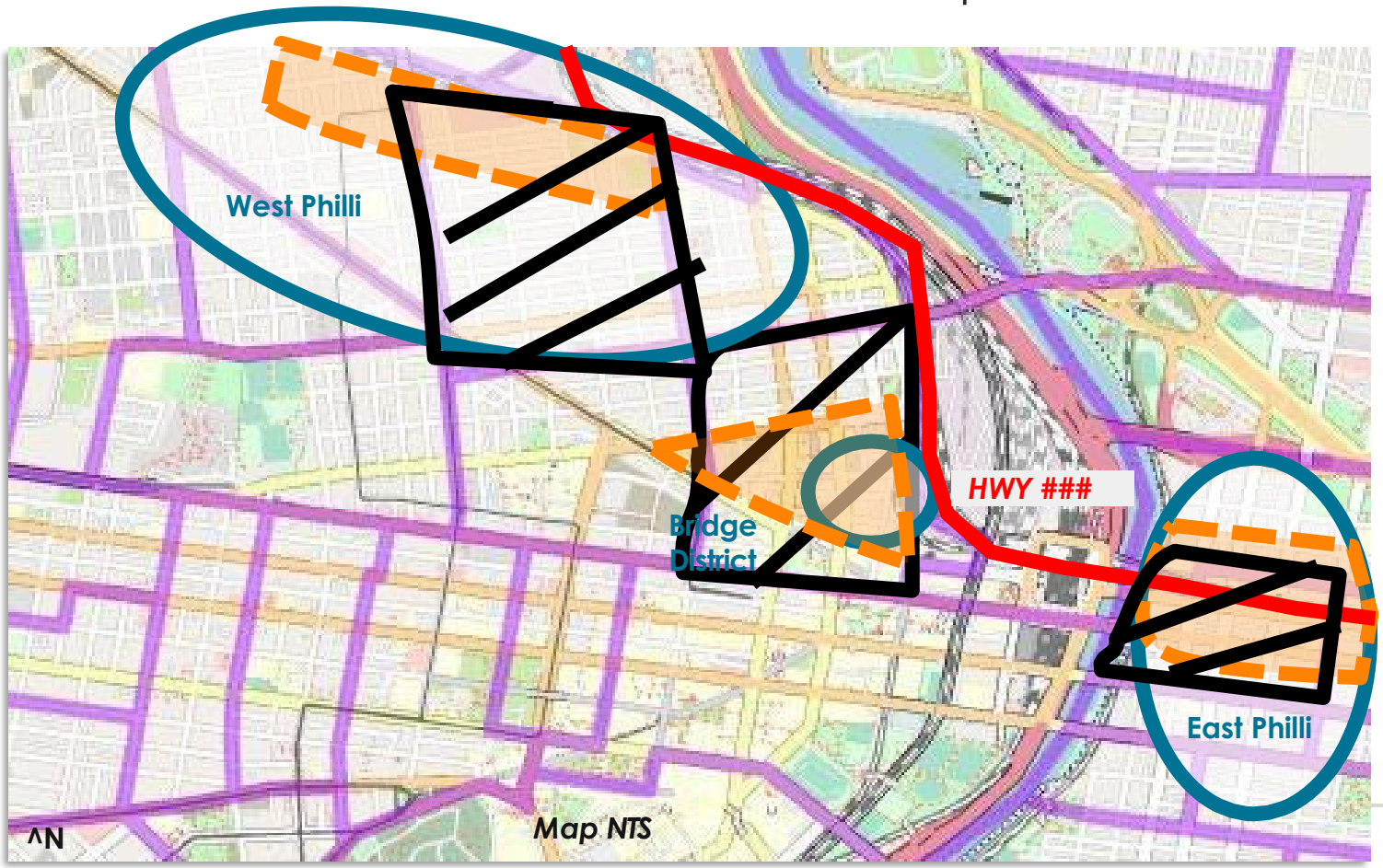
Map NTS

To Start:

- Have a map of the area. (This example includes some overlaid census tracts)
- Show where your community is.
- Create your Proposed Improvement Area (PIA). (5 sq.mi. in Urban, 10 sq.mi. Rural)
- Look at what census tracts are within your Proposed Improvement Area. (all census tracts within your PIA shall be included in Attachment C.)
- Add north arrows and any necessary labels to clarify key landmarks or facilities

Proposed Improvement Area

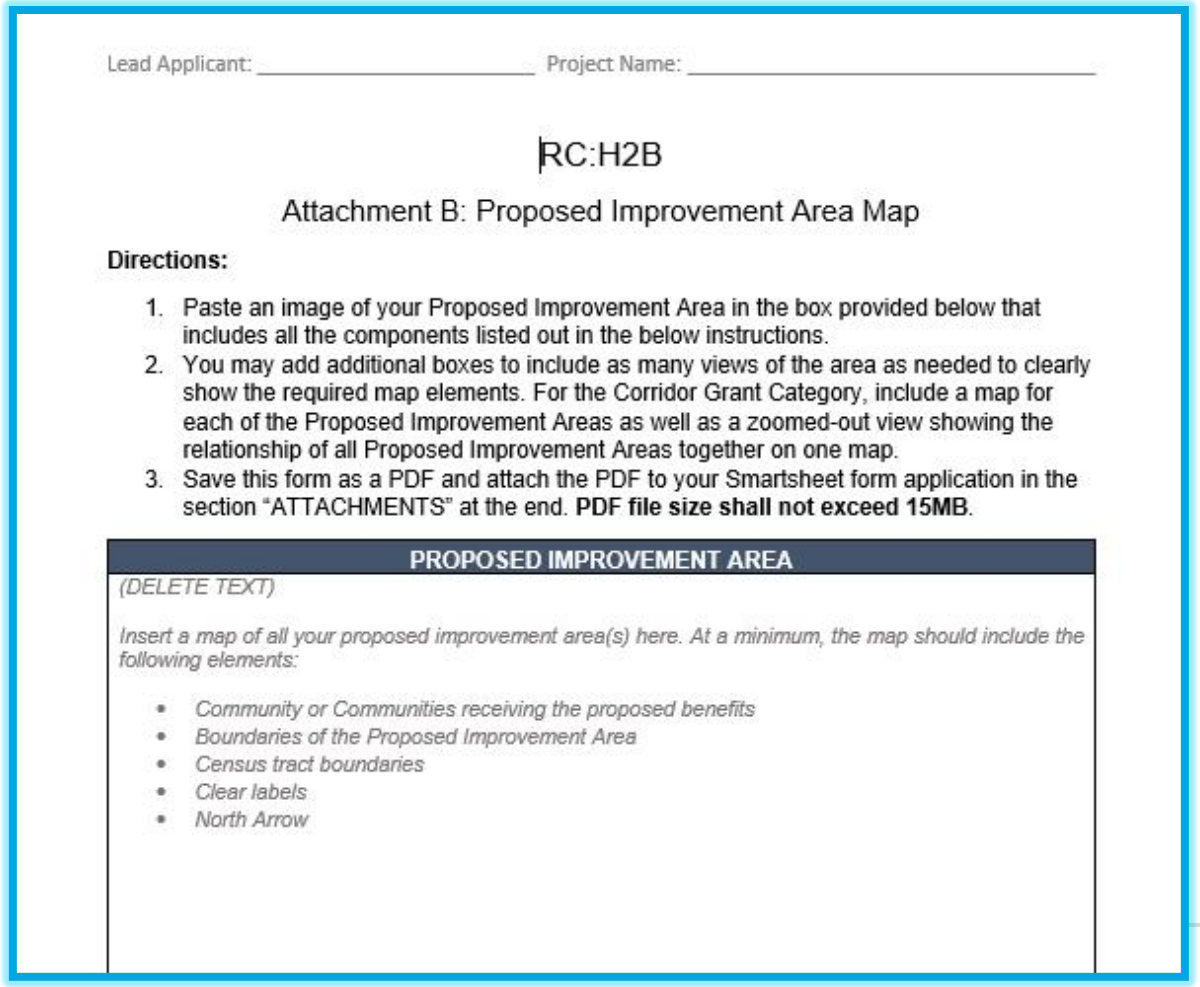
Example of ***Corridor***



To Start:

- Have a map of the area.
- Identify the proposed corridor.
- Show each Community along the linear Corridor
- Create your Proposed Improvement Area for **EACH** community (5 sq.mi. in Urban, 10 sq.mi. Rural)
- Look at what census tracts are within your Proposed Improvement Areas.
- Add north arrows and any necessary labels to clarify key landmarks or facilities

Attachment B: Preparation of the Map



Lead Applicant: _____ Project Name: _____

RC:H2B

Attachment B: Proposed Improvement Area Map

Directions:

1. Paste an image of your Proposed Improvement Area in the box provided below that includes all the components listed out in the below instructions.
2. You may add additional boxes to include as many views of the area as needed to clearly show the required map elements. For the Corridor Grant Category, include a map for each of the Proposed Improvement Areas as well as a zoomed-out view showing the relationship of all Proposed Improvement Areas together on one map.
3. Save this form as a PDF and attach the PDF to your Smartsheet form application in the section "ATTACHMENTS" at the end. **PDF file size shall not exceed 15MB.**

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT AREA

(DELETE TEXT)

Insert a map of all your proposed improvement area(s) here. At a minimum, the map should include the following elements:

- *Community or Communities receiving the proposed benefits*
- *Boundaries of the Proposed Improvement Area*
- *Census tract boundaries*
- *Clear labels*
- *North Arrow*

Key Points:

- Proposed Improvement Areas (PIA) can be any shape as long as they don't exceed the area of 5 or 10 sq.mi.
- For Urban and Rural applications place your PIA map image into the box on the first page.
- For Corridor application, have the fully zoomed out image on the first page to see the relationship of all the Communities being proposed.
- Also for Corridor, you may use additional pages and zoom in on each Community/PIA as needed.
- PDF the document prior to submitting.

Poll Question #3

Which Grant Category will you be applying for?

a. Urban
b. Rural
c. Corridor (in an urban area)
d. Corridor (in a rural area)
e. Corridor (spans both urban and rural areas)
f. Unknown

Please note, there is only one Corridor Grant Category. The breakdown shown here is for information purposes only.

Questions

Please place any questions in the chat at this time for any of the topics we just discussed:

- The three Grant Categories
- Proposed Improvement Area
- Preparing Attachment B

Partnership Structures

Attachment D

Attachment D: Partnership Structure

DEFINITIONS

- **Partner**- May include, but not limited to state agencies, units of local government, MPOs, community groups, non-profit organizations, and CBOs who play a crucial role in defining the needs and developing the scope of proposal.

- **Co-applicant**-An eligible applicant who is jointly involved in the submittal of the program application. Multiple co-applicants are encouraged to establish partnerships between agencies to address barriers in underserved communities caused by a transportation facility. Caltrans must be a co-applicant if the eligible facility is located on the **State Highway System (SHS).**

- **Partnership Structure-**The process or model in which active partnerships are developed or established. Examples include *community advisory boards/steering committees, a partnership agreement, letter of support or commitment, MOU, and budget resolutions or letters.*

Attachment D: Partnership Structure

RC:H2B
Attachment D: Summary Partnership Structure

Additional Partnering Organization Information				
Partnering Organization Name (1)	**Parterning Organization Type (2)**	**Partnering Organization Role (3)**	**Confirmation of Partnership Structure (4)**	**If "Other" on Coulmn 4, provide document type (5)**
Local non-profit A	Community-based organizations	Local non-profit for the region advocating for affirmatively and furthering fair housing. Will provide technical assistance on community driven partnerships (e.g., advisory boards, land trusts)	Memorandum of Understang (MOU)	
Local non-profit B	Community-based organizations	Local non-profit for city within proposed improvement area focused on environmental justice issues for impacted neighborhoods. Advisory board will be established to inform applicants on decisions on community involvement.	Community Advisory Boards	
Regional MPO	Local government agencies	Reponsible for developing and updating transportation plans, allocating state/federal funds, and looking at regional issues that affect the entire region including improving equity, transportation, air quality, clean energy, economic development, goods	Letter of Support	

** Make sure to follow the instructions at the top of Attachment D**

Poll Question #4

How confident are you with understanding the definition/requirements for partnerships?

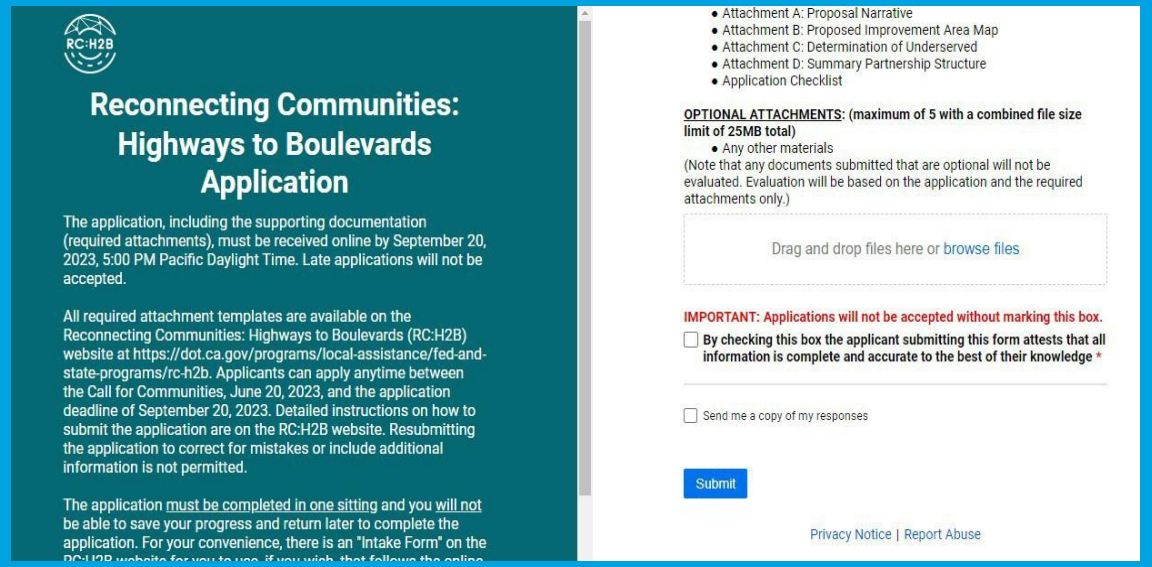
a. Very Confident
b. Somewhat Confident
c. Not Very Confident
d. Not Confident At All

Questions

Please place any questions in the chat at this time for any of the topics we just discussed:

a) Roles of Applicants (Lead, Co-Applicant, Partner)
b) Preparation of Attachment D
c) Proof of Partnership

Packaging and Submitting Applications



Reconnecting Communities: Highways to Boulevards Application

The application, including the supporting documentation (required attachments), must be received online by September 20, 2023, 5:00 PM Pacific Daylight Time. Late applications will not be accepted.

All required attachment templates are available on the Reconnecting Communities: Highways to Boulevards (RC:H2B) website at https://dot.ca.gov/programs/local-assistance/fed-and-state-programs/rc-h2b. Applicants can apply anytime between the Call for Communities, June 20, 2023, and the application deadline of September 20, 2023. Detailed instructions on how to submit the application are on the RC:H2B website. Resubmitting the application to correct for mistakes or include additional information is not permitted.

The application must be completed in one sitting and you will not be able to save your progress and return later to complete the application. For your convenience, there is an "Intake Form" on the

- Attachment A: Proposal Narrative
- Attachment B: Proposed Improvement Area Map
- Attachment C: Determination of Underserved
- Attachment D: Summary Partnership Structure
- Application Checklist

OPTIONAL ATTACHMENTS: (maximum of 5 with a combined file size limit of 25MB total)

- Any other materials

(Note that any documents submitted that are optional will not be evaluated. Evaluation will be based on the application and the required attachments only.)

Drag and drop files here or browse files

IMPORTANT: Applications will not be accepted without marking this box.

☐ **By checking this box the applicant submitting this form attests that all information is complete and accurate to the best of their knowledge** *

☐ Send me a copy of my responses

Submit

Privacy Notice | Report Abuse

Application Checklist

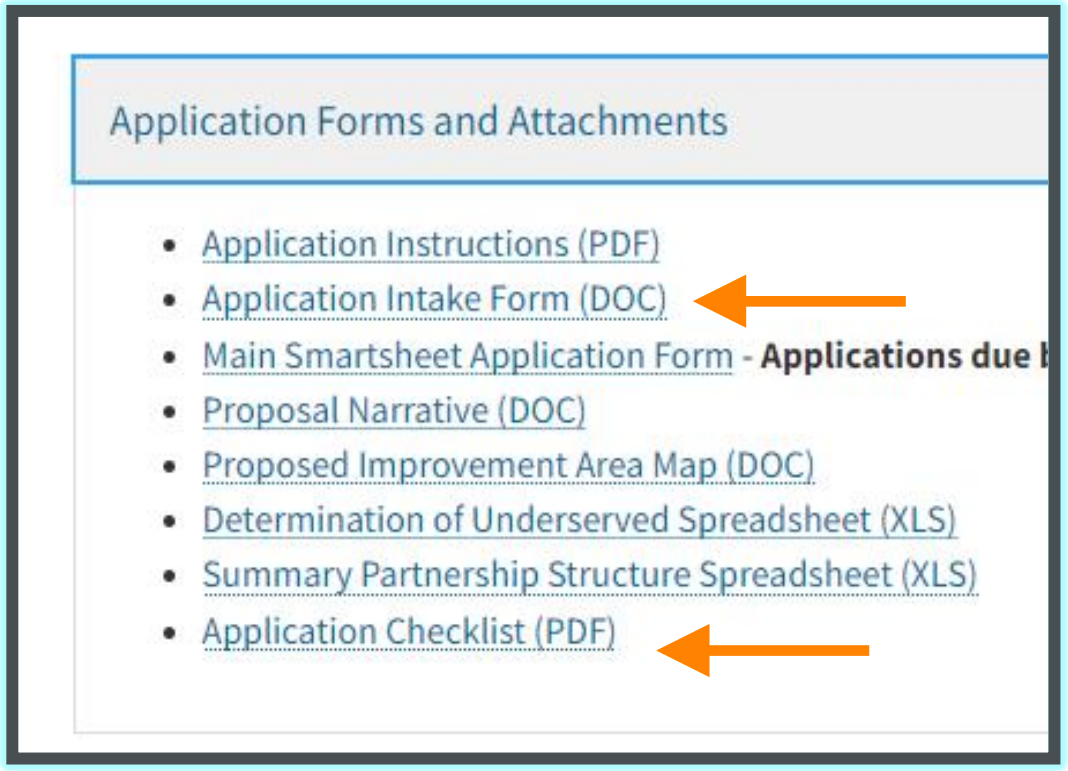
- Download and print out the Application Checklist.
- Lead Agency signatory to wet sign checklist.
- Caltrans District Signature if on the SHS:
  - Reach out to your Caltrans District point of contact **at least 2 weeks** prior to the submittal deadline to coordinate Caltrans signature on the Checklist.
  - Caltrans District point of contact will return to you the fully signed checklist prior to the submittal deadline.
- Upload the signed Checklist with the Smartsheet application.

Please note, we are revising the checklist. **A revised checklist** will be available for download from the website shortly.

Signatures Required on Checklist:

- Lead Applicant Agency Representative
- Caltrans Deputy District Director (if on SHS)

Summary



Applications Due Wed, September 20, 2023 at 5:00PM

When Ready to Submit!

- Download and print out the Application Checklist. Signatures may take time to obtain.
- Submit early to allow time for technical difficulties or unforeseen hurdles prior to the deadline.
- Ensure you have all the answers ready to insert into the Smartsheet Form. Use the Intake Form Word Doc!
- Have all of the attachments PDF'd and ensure it conforms to size limits.

Next Steps

DRAFT Milestone	Date
Application Workshop #2	Late August 2023
Open Office Hours – Session 2	August/September 2023
Reach out to District Point of Contact to coordinate Caltrans signature on checklist (if needed)	September 6, 2023
Proposal Application Submittal Deadline	**September 20, 2023 5:00PM**
Awards Announcement	Late 2023/Early 2024
Federal RCN Cycle 3 Applications Due	Fall 2024 (estimate)

District Contact List

District	Contact Name	Contact Email
1	Alexis Kelso	Alexis.kelso@dot.ca.gov
2	Brett Ditzler	Brett.ditzler@dot.ca.gov
3	Sukhvinder (Sue) Takhar	Sukhvinder.Takhar@dot.ca.gov
4	Mark Leong	Mark.leong@dot.ca.gov
5	Max Yin Matt Welker	Zhexin.yin@dot.ca.gov matthew.welker@dot.ca.gov
6	Michael Navarro	Michael.Navarro@dot.ca.gov
7	Paul Marquez	Paul-albert.marquez@dot.ca.gov
8	Ray Desselle	Ray.desselle@dot.ca.gov
9	Adam Weitzmann	Adam.Weitzman@dot.ca.gov
10	Silvia Dayak	Silvia.Dayak@dot.ca.gov
11	Ann M. Fox	Ann.fox@dot.ca.gov

12	Jonathan Lawhead	Jonathan.lawhead@dot.ca.gov

Poll Question #5

How confident do you feel about applying based on the information you have available?

a. Very Confident. Ready to Submit!
b. Somewhat confident.
c. Not very confident.
d. Not confident at all. Need Help.

Poll Question #6

What do you anticipate your need will be from Caltrans after award?

a. Implementing Agency
b. Oversight
c. Technical Support
d. Preparing Grant Applications
e. Other

Questions

Please place any questions in the chat at this time for any of the topics we just discussed:

a) Application Checklist
b) Packaging and Submitting Application