Reconnecting Communities: Highways to Boulevards

Application Workshop #1

July 26, 2023. 2:30-4:00pm

RC:H2B

Reconnecting Communities: Highways to Boulevards Program

$149 million was established in the FY 22/23 State Budget to reconnect communities divided by transportation infrastructure. RC:H2B will issue a "Call for Communities" and award to those in 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 Island Freeway in Long Beach, California. Melíndez/CNU

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
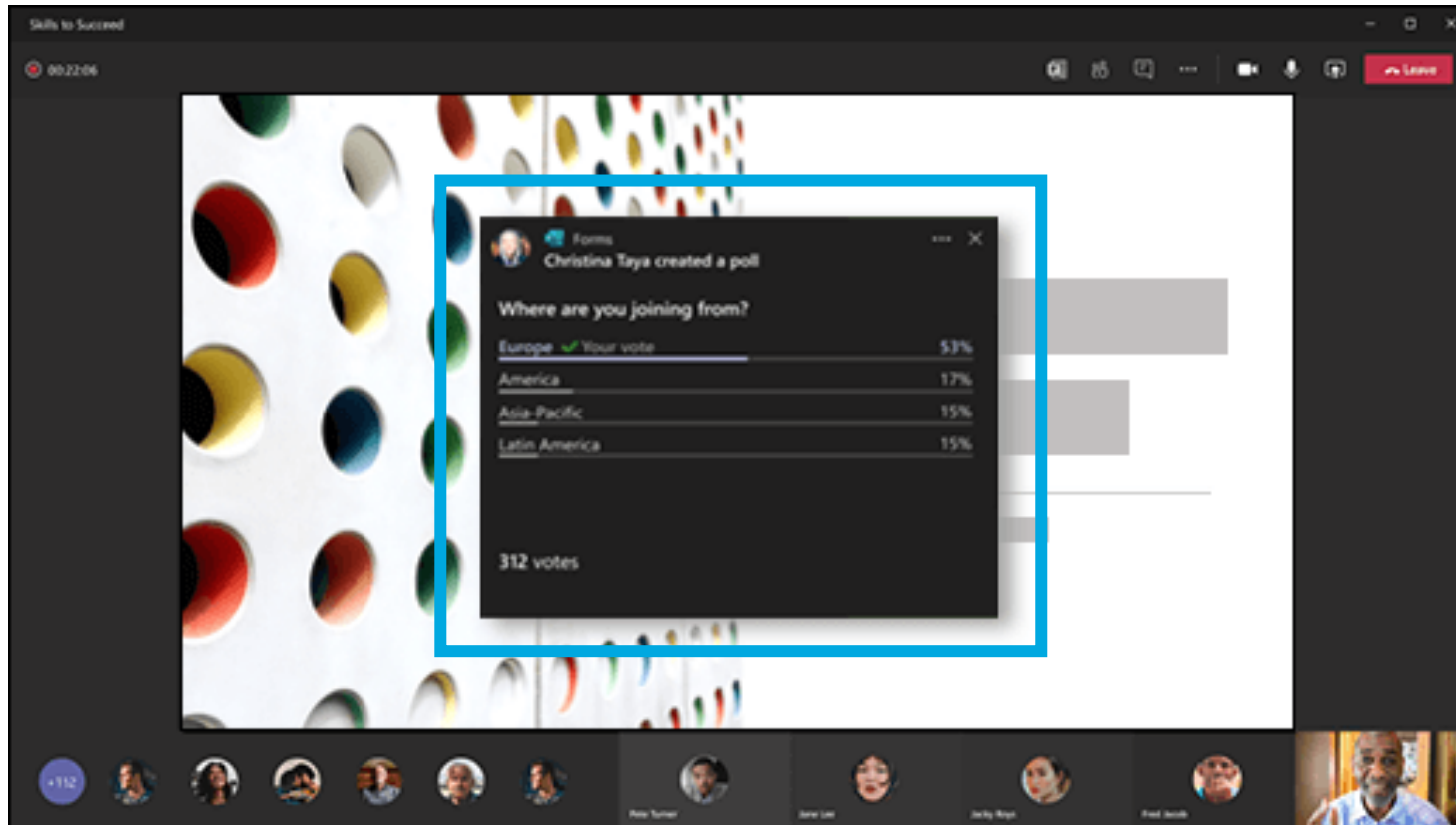
GRETCHEN CHAVEZ

Office Chief Office of Innovative Programs

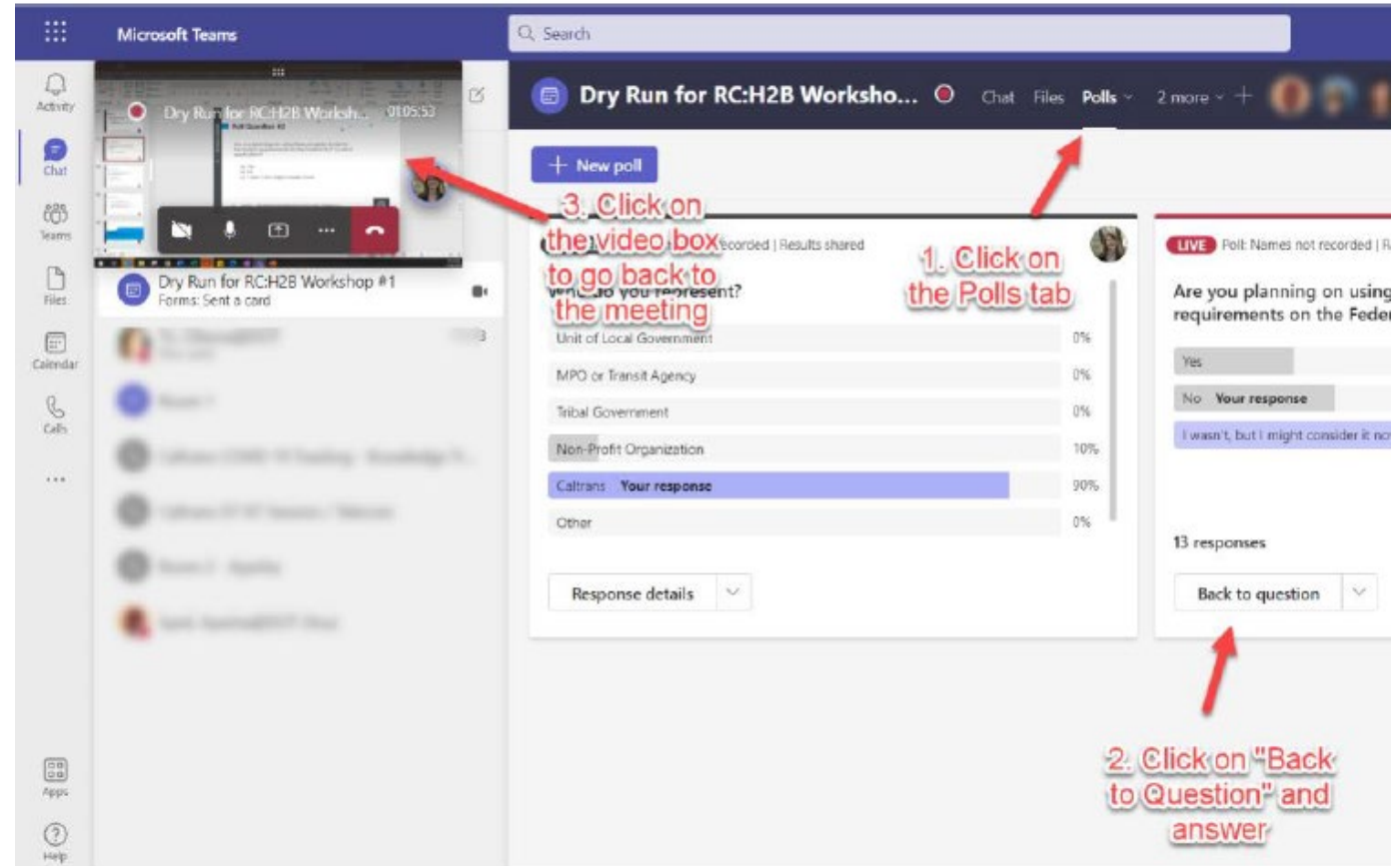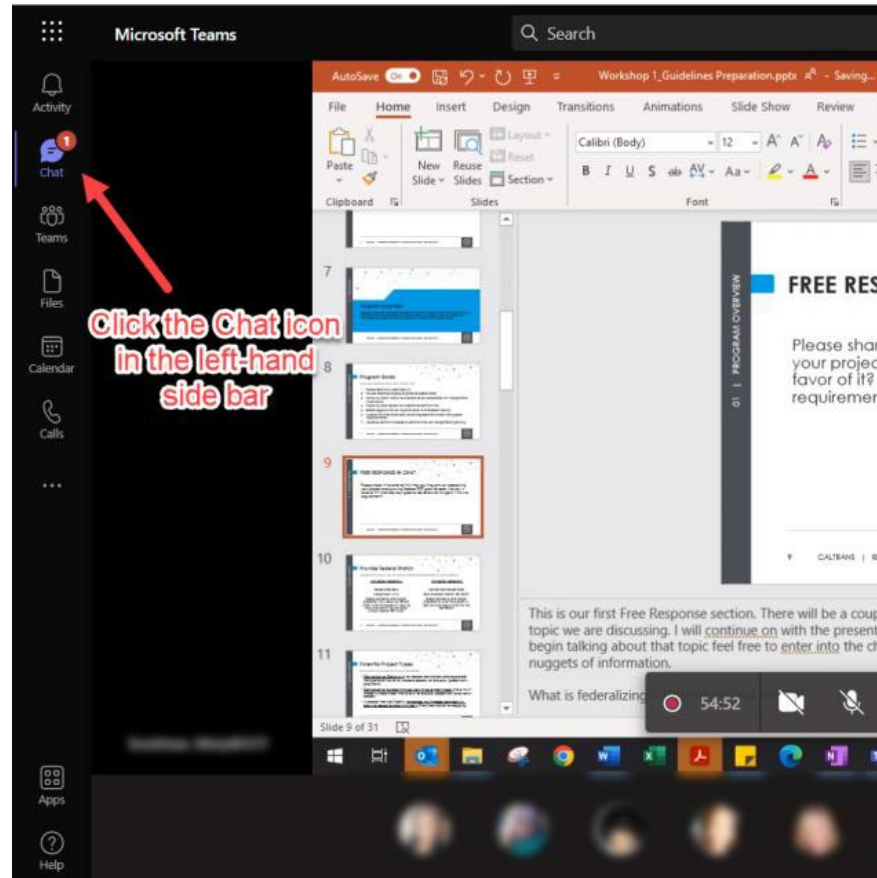Caltrans Division of Local Assistance

MODERATOR:

NAILA SHARMEEN

Active Trans. Planner – Implementation

Office of Active Transportation and Transit Planning

Caltrans Division of Transportation Planning

How to Participate in Polls – Desktop

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How to Participate in Polls – Web

How to Participate in Polls – Mobile

Agenda

01 – Application Process and Materials

02 – Narrative

03 – Determination of Underserved

04 – Summary and Next Steps
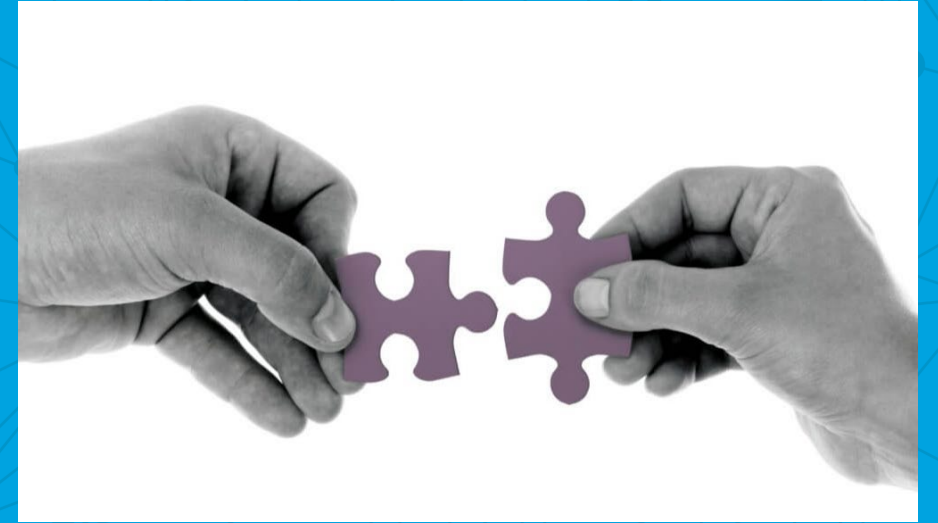
Second Application Workshop

Topics will include:

- Grant Categories
- Proposed Improvement Area (PIA) *[Attachment B]*
- Partnership Structures *[Attachment D]*
- Packaging your Application

What topics would you like to see in the second application Workshop?

Please type your answers in the chat!

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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

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Application Process and Materials

Proposals are due by **September 20th at 5:00PM.** No late submissions will be accepted.

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

Guidelines

RC:H2B Program Guidelines (6/20/2023) (PDF)

FAQ (PDF)

Application Forms and Attachments

- Application Instructions (PDF)
- Application Intake Form (DOC)
- Main Smartsheet Application Form - **Applications due by September 20, 2**
- Proposal Narrative (DOC)

Resources

Resource Document (PDF)

Proposed Improvement Area Visual Aid (PDF)

Guidelines

AVAILABLE ON THE RC:H2B WEBSITE

- Initial Screening Self-assessment tools.
  - Checklist
  - Questions

- Evaluation Scoring Breakdown. Eligibility vs. Alignment.

Application Form and Attachments

- Application deadline: **September 20, 2023, 5PM** PDT.

- Don't need a Smartsheet license to submit this form.

- Don't submit the form without all the required attachments.

- You can't save your progress on the form, which is why we provided the **OPTIONAL** intake form. Do not submit this form.

Application Forms and Attachments

- Application Instructions (PDF)
- Application Intake Form (DOC)
- Main Smartsheet Application Form - **Applications due by September 20, 2023 at 5:00 PM PDT. Note that application link will be disabled after 5:00 PM PDT.**
- Proposal Narrative (DOC)
- Proposed Improvement Area Map (DOC)
- Determination of Underserved Spreadsheet (XLS)
- Summary Partnership Structure Spreadsheet (XLS)
- Application Checklist (PDF)

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Application Instructions and Intake Form

Application Forms and Attachments

- Application Instructions (PDF)
- Application Intake Form (DOC)
- Main Smartsheet Application Form - **Applica**
- Proposal Narrative (DOC)

Application Instructions:

- Review and follow instructions.
- Walk you through with some notes and additional details how to answer the questions in the online Smartsheet Application Form.

Intake Form:

- Document containing all the questions in the online Smartsheet Application Form.
- Since the online Smartsheet Form will not allow you to save progress, this can be your tool to prepare answers ahead of time.
- **Do not** submit the intake form.

Poll Question #2

What is your primary role in the Application Process?

a. I am the person completing the application

b. I am with the Lead Applicant and will assist the main person In completing the application.

c. I am with a partner applicant and will assist the main person in completing the application.

d. I am not filling out the application but want to be informed of the process.

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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) Self Screening Checklist and Questions
c) Application Key Points
d) Smartsheet Application Form

Narrative

Attachment A

Lead Applicant: _____   Project Name: _____

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Attachment A: Proposal Narrative

Directions:

1. Complete all sections in this form. Even if a section is not applicable to your project, write "N/A". Do not leave any sections blank.
2. Provide succinct and complete responses in each section. Do not assume that the application reviewer is familiar with your community. The Narrative should include all pertinent information not already stated or explained sufficiently in other application sections.
3. **THIS FORM SHALL NOT EXCEED 15 PAGES.** If you need additional space, you can delete these directions or the grey italicized directions within the question fields below. <u>Do not</u> change the font size in this form to include more information.
4. 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.**

REMOVING BARRIERS AND RECONNECTION
1. What is the transportation barrier in the proposed improvement area, and how has it impacted the community and caused historical harm?
2. With a focus on transportation and community development solutions, how would the community like to be reconnected?

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Attachment A: Narrative

Application Forms and Attachments

- Application Instructions (PDF)
- Application Intake Form (DOC)
- Main Smartsheet Application Form - **Applications due b**
- Proposal Narrative (DOC)
- Proposed Improvement Area Map (DOC)
- Determination of Underserved Spreadsheet (XLS)
- Summary Partnership Structure Spreadsheet (XLS)
- Application Checklist (PDF)

Download the Word Document (DOC) **updated on 7/18** from the website.

Key Points:

- It should answer "Why should we award to your community?"
- **Tell your story!**
- Don't assume that the person reviewing your application is already familiar with your community.
- Answer each question with unique information.
- Concise answers are appreciated!
- Competitive proposals will be based **on need and alignment with the program goals**.

Attachment A: Narrative

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Attachment A: Proposal Narrative

Directions:

1. Complete all sections in this form. Even if a section is not applicable to your project, write "N/A". Do not leave any sections blank.
2. Provide succinct and complete responses in each section. Do not assume that the application reviewer is familiar with your community. The Narrative should include all pertinent information not already stated or explained sufficiently in other application sections.
3. **THIS FORM SHALL NOT EXCEED 15 PAGES.** If you need additional space, you can delete these directions or the grey italicized directions within the question fields below. Do not change the font size in this form to include more information.
4. 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.**

REMOVING BARRIERS AND RECONNECTION

1. What is the transportation barrier in the proposed improvement area, and how has it impacted the community and caused historical harm?

2. With a focus on transportation and community development solutions, how would the community like to be reconnected?

Follow the Directions at the top of the Attachment A and instruction in the Smartsheet online form to attach to application:

- You will PDF the document. (i.e. Print to PDF)
- Ensure the page limit and file size requirements are met (no larger than15 pages and 15MB).
- Name the file "Attachment A: Proposal Narrative"
- Upload/attach the PDF to Section 8 (bottom) of the Main Smartsheet Application Form.

Community Readiness

FIRST PHASE AFTER AWARD

Begin or Continue Community Involvement

Establish or Refine Partnerships

Community Readiness

Create a framework and draft financial plan for future phases

Prepare a Scope Schedule and Budget for next Phase

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Poll Question #3

For your proposal, have you completed any of the preliminary phases of work? Select all that apply.

a. No early work completed
b. Planning
c. PA&ED
d. Design / PS&E
e. ROW

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Questions

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

- Key Points of the Narrative

- Community Need / Community Driven Approach

- Community Readiness Phase

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Determination of Underserved Criteria

Attachment C

Underserved Community

COMBINATION OF BOTH STATE AND FEDERAL TOOLS/DEFINITIONS

FEDERAL METRICS

More than or equal to half of all census tracts must be defined by at least one of the following to be eligible;

- By environmental justice disparity (Historically Disadvantaged Census Tracts/Justice40)

- By income disparity (Areas of Persistent Poverty)

- Many other federal metrics endorsed by the federal RCP

STATE METRICS

Not required to be eligible. Points assigned on sliding scale.

- By income disparity (80% AMI or less)

- By health disparity (Healthy Places Index 3.0)

- By environmental justice disparity (CalEnviroScreen)

- Native American Tribal Lands

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Evaluation Criteria

Type of Score	Factor	Max Score per Factor
Eligibility	Applicant Role	0 (Pass/Fail)
	Benefit to Underserved Community – FEDERAL	0 (Pass/Fail)
	Benefit to Underserved Community - STATE	10
Alignment	Removing Barriers and Reconnection	25
	Partnership	25
	Community Involvement, Justice, and Prosperity	30
	Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) and Addressing Housing Needs	10
	Climate Action and Resilience	5
	Displacement Avoidance	5
Sum of Total Possible Points		110

Attachment C: Determination of Underserved

Download the Excel Document (XLX) from the website.

Example

EXAMPLE OF UTILIZING THE TOOLS FOR DETERMINING THE METRICS AND FILLING OUT THE ATTACHMENT

Census Tract Number (1)	Underserved Census Tract State Definition 1 (2)	Underserved Census Tract State Definition 2 (3)	Underserved Census Tract Federal Definition (4)	Census Tract Underserved? Federal Definition (5)	[1] PIA Qualification of Underserved (6)	
			Proposed Improvement Area "A"			
1111	Income Disparity-Priority Population Investment 4.0	Healthy Places Index 3.0	Historically Disadvantaged Community	Yes	Total No. of Census Tracts within PIA:	8
2222	Healthy Places Index 3.0		Areas of Persistent Poverty	Yes	FEDERAL: No. of Disadvantage Census Tracts Required:	4
3333	Income Disparity-Priority Population Investment 4.0		Areas of Persistent Poverty	Yes	FEDERAL: No. of Disadvantage Census Tracts:	4
4444	Healthy Places Index 3.0		Areas of Persistent Poverty	Yes	FEDERAL: PIA defined as Underserved?	Yes
5555					STATE: % of potential underserved metrics	43.8%
aaaaaa	Healthy Places Index 3.0	CalEnviroScreen				
6666						
77777						
			Proposed Improvement Area "B" (corridor categories only)			
					Total No. of Census Tracts	

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Attaching Proof

Historically Disadvantaged Communities
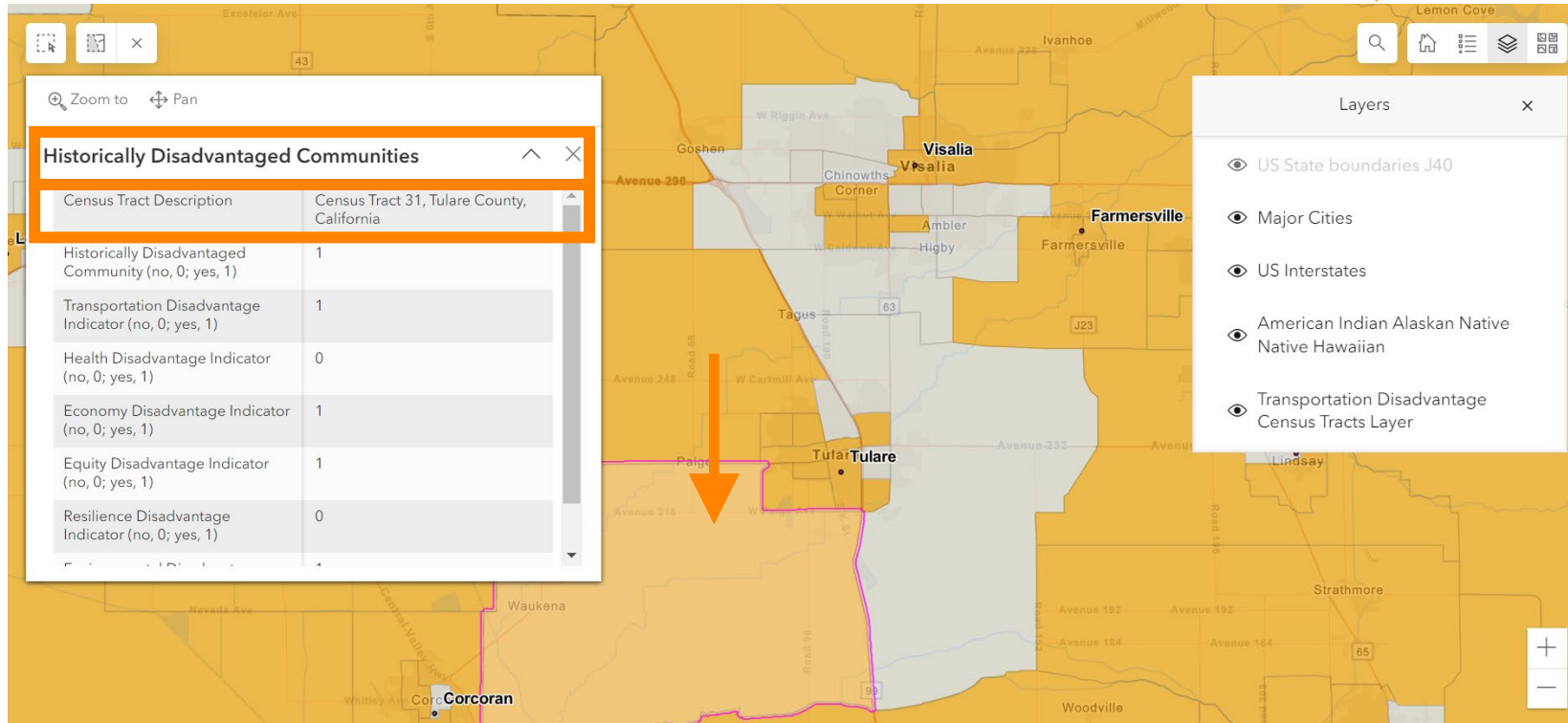
Attaching Proof

Areas of Persistent Poverty

ser Guide   Developers   Request Access

Areas of Persistent Poverty Project (APP) and Historically Disadvantaged Community (HDC) List

Last Updated January 10, 2023

Use this tool to determine if your grant project is within an Area of Persistent Poverty or a Historically Disadvantaged Community.

Area of Persistent Poverty Definition: "Area of Persistent Poverty" is defined for the grant program as:

1) Any **County** that has consistently had greater than or equal to 20 percent of the population living in poverty during the last 30-year period, as measured by the 1990 and 2000 decennial census and the most recent (2021) annual Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates as estimated by the Bureau of the Census.

2) Any **Census Tract** with a poverty rate of at least 20 percent as measured by the 2014–2018 5-year data series available from the American Community Survey of the Bureau of the Census.

3) Any U.S. Territory.

▼ Filters (3)	✕
	Clear All
A. State	
California	⌄
B. County	
Tulare County	⌄
C. Census Tract Name	
Census Tract 31	⌄

A. State	B. County	C. Census Tract Name	E. APP - COUNTY Meets ...	F. APP - CENSUS TRACT ..	G. HDC - CENSUS TR..
California	Tulare County	Census Tract 31	No	Yes	Yes

Key Points

ATTACHMENT C: DETERMINATION OF UNDERSERVED CRITERIA

- **Follow all the instructions** listed in the spreadsheet.

- Every census tract within the Proposed Improvement Area shall be listed in the first column of Attachment C.

- Add as many rows as needed to capture all census tracts but add them between the appropriate rows and **carry down the formula in Column (5).**

- Ensure the grey formula cells are populating appropriately. If any discrepancies, **contact the RC:H2B email before the submission deadline** for troubleshooting. Late submittals will not be evaluated.

- **Attach your proof** to the PDF of the spreadsheet.

Poll Question #4

What Grant Category will you apply for?

a. Urban

b. Rural

c. Corridor (Urban)

d. Corridor (Rural)

e. Corridor (Spans urban and rural areas)
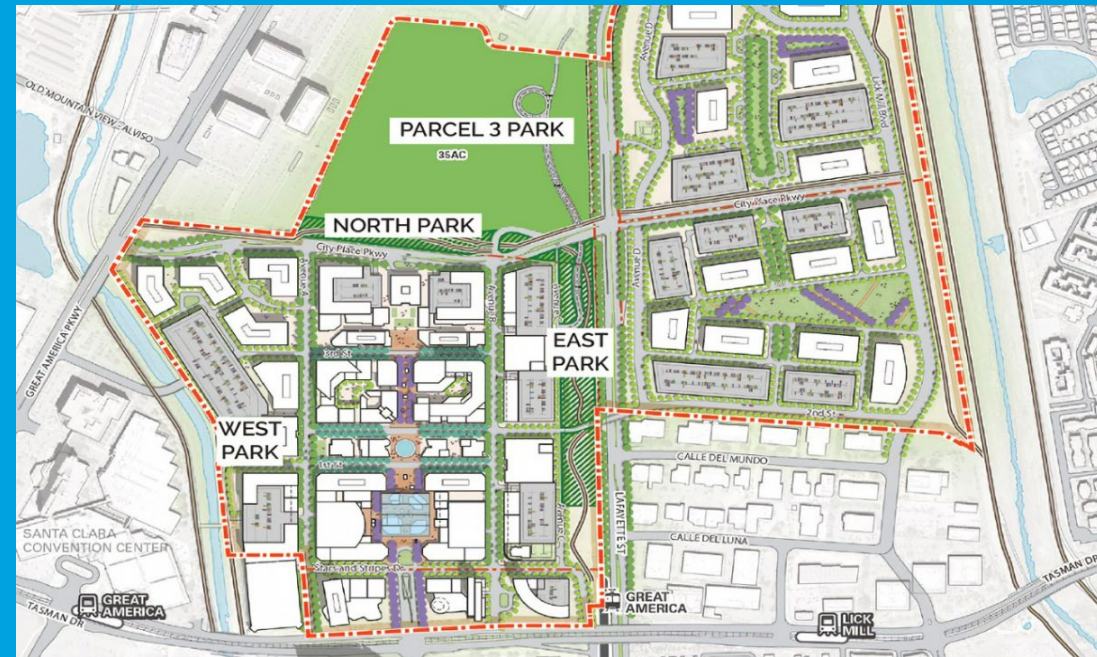
f. Unknown

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:

a) Determination of Underserved
b) How to fill out Attachment C
c) Required Proof

Summary and Next Steps

Next Steps

DRAFT Milestone	Date
Open Office Hours – Session 1	Late July 2023
Application Workshop #1	**July 26, 2023**
Application Workshop #2	Late August 2023
Open Office Hours – Session 2	August/September 2023
Proposal Application Submittal Deadline	**Late Summer/Early Fall 2023**
Awards Announcement	Late 2023/Early 2024
Federal RCP Cycle 3 Applications Due	Fall 2024 (estimate)

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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

Summary

Takeaways and Items to Consider:

- Review application materials and resources. (Program Goals and Self Screening Criteria)
- Community driven approach.
- Get partnerships and potential co-applicants on board.
- Early submission is recommended in order to address technical issues prior to the submission deadline.

Next Steps:

- Recording and slides from this workshop will be posted to the RC:H2B website.
- Notify CRCP@dot.ca.gov of interest in second session of Office Hours.

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Important Links

- The Reconnecting Communities: Highways to Boulevards Program webpage: https://dot.ca.gov/programs/local-assistance/fed-and-state-programs/rc-h2b

- Join our mailing list to receive information on the RC:H2B Program: https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/ruSZ8zX

- The Federal Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program Website: https://www.transportation.gov/grants/reconnecting-communities

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