



GRANT ALERT

October 5, 2026

Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program (WCPP)

DEADLINE

Monday, November 16, 2026, 11:59 p.m. EST

(Applicants must complete the Grants.gov registration process before submitting the final application; the process usually takes 2-4 weeks to complete.)

PROGRAM NAME & LINK

[Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program | US Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration](#)

DESCRIPTION

The Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program (WCPP) is a competitive grant program with the goal of reducing Wildlife Vehicle Collisions (WVCs) while improving habitat connectivity for terrestrial and aquatic species. The WCPP provides funding for construction and non-construction projects.

What's New this Round?

- Removed references to rescinded Executive Orders (E.O.s).
- Aligned the NOFO with current E.O.s and current administration priorities.
- Updated application evaluation criteria.
- Changed the use of the application template from optional to mandatory.
- Rescinds the WCPP multi-year NOFO and opens the final application period for FY 2026 funds.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants

- State Departments of Transportation
- Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)
- Units of local government
- Regional transportation authorities
- Special purpose districts or public authorities with a transportation function
- Indian tribes
- Federal Land Management Agencies (FLMA)
- A group of any of the above entities

Projects

Construction and Non- Construction Projects

All projects should seek to protect motorists and wildlife by reducing the number of WVCs and improve habitat connectivity for terrestrial and aquatic species.

FUNDING

General

- The total amount of funding available for award for FY 2026 is approximately \$80 million.
- There is no minimum or maximum award size.

Cost-Sharing

- The federal share of a WCPP grant may not exceed 80% of total eligible activity costs.
- Recipients are required to contribute a local matching share of no less than 20% of eligible activity costs. All local matching funds must be from non-federal sources.
- Pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 120(c)(1), the Federal share for certain safety projects may be 100 percent of the cost of such construction projects.
- A minimum of 60 percent of funds each fiscal year must be awarded to rural areas (23 U.S.C. 171(g)).

APPLICATION & SELECTION CRITERIA

Primary Merit Criteria

Pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 171(e)(1) and to further the purpose of this program, there are two primary merit criteria. Each of the primary merit criteria are of equal importance.

- **Criterion # 1: Reduction of Wildlife Vehicle Collisions.** FHWA will assess the extent to which the proposed project is likely to protect motorists and wildlife by reducing the number of WVCs.
- **Criterion #2: Improvement of Terrestrial and Aquatic Habitat Connectivity.** FHWA will assess the extent to which the proposed project is likely to improve terrestrial and aquatic habitat connectivity.
- **Criterion #3: Secondary Statutory Selection Considerations.** FHWA will take into consideration, secondarily, the extent to which the proposed project is likely to accomplish the following:
 - Leverage investments by encouraging non-Federal contributions.
 - Supporting economic development and visitation opportunities.
 - Incorporating innovative technologies.
 - Provision of educational and outreach opportunities.
 - Incorporates monitoring and research.

Project Readiness Assessment

To assess the likelihood of a successful project, DOT will consider project readiness for eligible applications.

- **Technical Assessment** - will evaluate the applicant's capacity to successfully deliver the project in compliance with applicable Federal requirements and assesses the technical feasibility of the project as described in the application.
- **Financial Completeness** - evaluates the availability of matching funds and whether the applicant presented a complete funding package
- **Permitting Risk Assessment** - evaluates the status of the environmental approvals required for the proposed project and the likelihood other necessary approvals, permits, or public engagement will affect project obligations.

PROJECT TIMEFRAME

WCPP funds are available for obligation for a period of 3 years after the last day of the fiscal year for which the funds are authorized. **FY 2026 funds must be obligated by September 30, 2029.** Following obligation, WCPP funds are available until expended. The total period of performance for WCPP awards is anticipated to be between 1 and 4 years.

US DOT anticipates announcing awards under this NOFO in March 2027.

ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

[Application Template](#) – All applicants must use and complete the WCPP application Template

PENNDOT ROLE

PennDOT Emphasis

PennDOT emphasizes the importance of reducing impacts to wildlife and improving, or at the very least, maintaining habitat connectivity. However, the priority for public safety is paramount and cannot be overstated. As a transportation agency, the function of PennDOT is first and foremost to provide a safe and efficient transportation infrastructure for the traveling public. These projects can lead to improved roadway safety and habitat connectivity for terrestrial and aquatic species within the Commonwealth.

PennDOT Support

Transportation Federal Funding Opportunities
Resource Account:

RA-PDTRANSFEDFUNDOPP@pa.gov

Per this NOFO and 23 U.S.C. 171(d)(2), PennDOT is required to administer grants for local/regional partners. As such, PennDOT must review and approve all applications for this program to ensure the project can be delivered for the budget and within the schedule being proposed by the applicant.

**The deadline for requesting PennDOT's approval:
November 2, 2026**