



**2022 Nebraska Association of Transportation Providers**

**Manager's Workshop**  
**June 22-23, 2022**


**Divot's Conference Center**  
**Norfolk, Nebraska**

**FTA Region VII Update**



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Transit Administration

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**FTA Region VII Staff Update**

**Jason Pollock, Regional Counsel**


**Gerri Doyle, Environmental Protection Specialist**

**Daniel Nguyen, Community Planner**



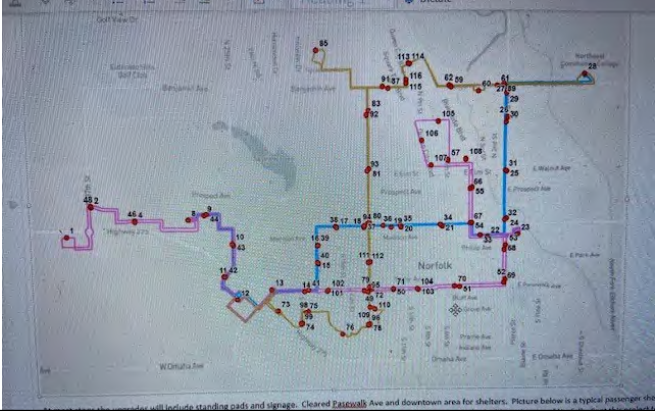
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Transit Administration

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**FTA**  
FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

**Gerri Doing NEPA Review of 105 Proposed Bus Stops  
Right Here In Norfolk!!**



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## Bipartisan Infrastructure Law – Signed by President Biden – 11.15.2021

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) includes five-year reauthorization (FY22-26) of surface transportation programs and direct advanced appropriations.

- Total transportation funding in this five-year package is \$660 billion.
  - Highways / Bridges: \$365 billion
  - **Transit: \$107 billion**
  - Rail: \$102 billion
  - Aviation: \$25 billion
  - Traffic Safety: \$8 billion
  - Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety: \$5 billion
  - Maritime: \$2.25 billion
  - Build America Bureau: \$100 billion (\$30 billion in Private Activity Bonds)
  - \$140 billion in funding for USDOT in FY 2022

Deliberative Draft – Preliminary and Incomplete

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## Projects Not Programs

**“One of the issues that we are working on here in the way we message here at DOT is that we speak in programs and policies, but the American People speak about projects.” – Secretary Pete Buttigieg**

Deliberative Draft – Preliminary and Incomplete

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## BIL: Cathedrals of Infrastructure

- Combined MEGA/INFRA/Rural NOFO: \$1 billion; \$1.55 billion; \$300 million
- NEW: EV Charging Formula Grants - \$5 billion (\$1 billion this year)
  - Alternative Fuel Corridors due by May 13<sup>th</sup>; State Plans due by August 1<sup>st</sup>; Awards expected in September/October 2022
- NEW: EV Charging Station Competitive Grants - \$2.5 billion (3rd Quarter)
- NEW: Build America Bureau - \$100 billion in loan support for virtually anything
- **Transit Funding**
  - **\$107 billion – Largest Investment in Public Transit Ever**
- Capital Investment Grant (CIG) Program
  - \$23 billion – highest funding amount ever; \$2.8 billion included in FY 2022 Omnibus
  - Direct Local Funding Opportunity for light rail, commuter rail, subways and bus rapid transit (BRT)
- Port Infrastructure Development Grants - \$680 Million; Inland Ports and EV Charging
- New: SMART Grants - \$1 billion - September 2022
- New: Reconnecting Communities - \$1 billion – June 2022

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# BUILDING BETTER TRANSIT

TRANSIT.DOT.GOV/BIL

Monday November 15, 2021



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## FTA Priorities for Implementation

FTA Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Priorities



**Safety** – The law will enable FTA to enhance state safety oversight programs by strengthening rail inspection practices to protect transit workers and riders from injuries and to ensure safe access to transit.



**Modernization** – Increased formula and competitive funding will begin to reduce the enormous state of good repair investment backlog in the nation’s transit systems by repairing aging infrastructure and modernizing bus and rail fleets.



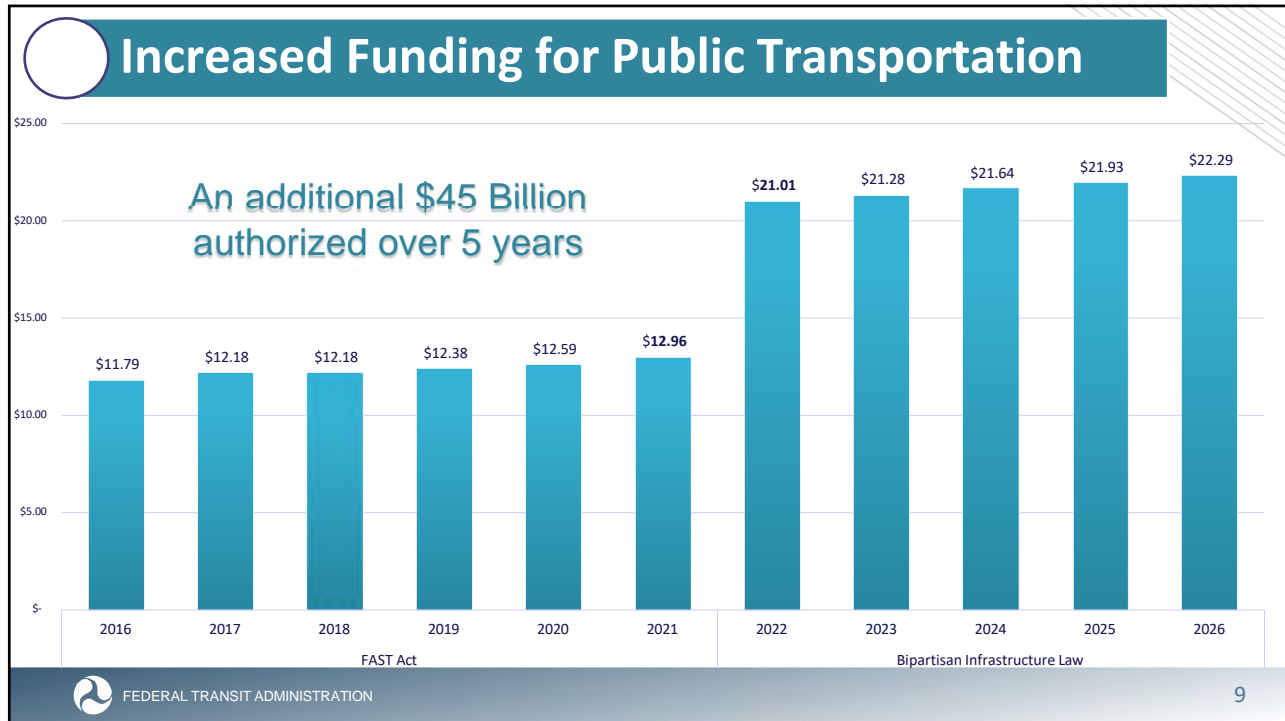
**Climate** – The law includes landmark investments to support the replacement of thousands of transit vehicles, including buses and ferries, with cleaner low- and zero-emission vehicles.



**Equity** – Investments in equity, including Justice40, will help eliminate transit deserts, improve connectivity to economic and social opportunities, ensure universal accessibility for people with disabilities, support minority and women-owned businesses, and reduce the disparity in quality and frequency of service in underserved communities.

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## Formula Programs

Urbanized Area Formula

- 30% increase to program funding levels from FY21 to FY22 (\$4.8B to \$6.3B)**
- Increases the set-aside for Small Transit Intensive Cities from 2% to 3%
- Requires recipients in large UZAs to use at least 0.75% of their funds for safety-related projects eligible under the Urbanized Area Formula program (Section 5307)

Formula Grants for Rural Areas

- 30% increase to program funding levels from FY21 to FY22 (\$601M to \$781M)**
- Provides \$229 million for Public Transportation on Indian Reservations over five years**
- 20% of the Public Transportation on Indian Reservations funds must be distributed on a competitive basis, while the remainder must be apportioned by formula
- 3% of Rural Formula funding is available for the Appalachian Development Public Transportation Assistance program

Buses and Bus Facilities

- 30% increase to program funding levels from FY21 to FY22 (\$461M to \$599M)**
- The Formula National Distribution is increased to \$4 million for each State and \$1 million for each territory
- Encourages use of Innovative Procurement tools, such as cooperative procurement contracts or state cooperative procurement schedules

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## Funding Competitions

- **BIL - Notices of Funding Opportunity for 10 competitive programs**

**Region 7 Tips for Preparing Successful Applications that Receive Awards – Our Collective Experience in Reviewing/Rating Applications – WE WANT YOU TO SUCCEED and RECEIVE AWARDS!!**

**Region 7 Will Immediately Notify You of Posted NOFOs With Our Dear Transit Partner Notices**

**Sign Up for FTA Email Notifications:**

**<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/usdotfta/subscriber/new>**



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## BIL - Notices of Funding Opportunity for 10 Competitive FTA Programs

### Tips Regarding FTA Reviewing Teams Created from Staff Volunteering from HQ and Regional Offices

- Don't Assume Reviewers know your system and your system needs. Be explanatory - set the picture on how your application meets needs of your system and/or needs of your customers, your riders.
- Reviewers Recused from Reviewing Application Submittals from Own Region – also will not be able to brief team on your system and systems needs (see above).
- Reviewers are sequestered and cannot ask questions on your application. Reviewers review only what you submit.



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## BIL - Notices of Funding Opportunity for 10 Competitive FTA Programs

### Region 7 Tips for Preparing Successful Applications that Receive Awards

- Refer to NOFO eligibility criteria in your application. Each NOFO has multiple criteria – meet as many as you can and cite each one you are addressing. (The reviewers reviewing many applications in a short time frame. So make it easy for them – always identify the criteria.)
- State how your application meets the four pillars of BIL: Safety, Climate, Modernization, and Equity. Be direct how application meets a pillar; don't think reviewer will say "oh wow – this application meets modernization."
- If NOFO has page limits; have appendices. (When I reviewed applications with 10 – 15 appendices, I thought this going to be a good one. No appendix, I wondered about.) Also, make sure appendices are logical, just don't attach the MPO long range plan without reference.
- Put letters in appendix, make them stand out. Make sure letters of support are current, don't recycle if repeat application – reviewers notice.
- Highlight your partner agencies, put them in a separate appendix.



## BIL - Notices of Funding Opportunity for 10 Competitive FTA Programs

### Region 7 Tips for Preparing Successful Applications that Receive Awards

- If questions regarding the NOFO or wonder about your application and how it can be improved, call the person listed as a contact at the end of the NOFO. Also, feel free to email us at the region if you have any questions.
- If don't get funded, try again. Call contact person and have session to improve your application.
- Review the NEPA and environmental review sections of your application. Contact our Environmental Protection Specialist regarding your application before you submit it.
- Finally, one more thing, please go to our website sign up for BIL updates and check out the program fact sheets ahead of time before the NOFO is released. Go our website: "Transit.dot.gov"



## Resources and Contacts

- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Website - <https://www.transit.dot.gov/BIL>
- [Program Fact Sheets - https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/fta-program-fact-sheets-under-bipartisan-infrastructure-law](https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/fta-program-fact-sheets-under-bipartisan-infrastructure-law)
- Contact [FTA-IIJA@dot.gov](mailto:FTA-IIJA@dot.gov)
- Contact us at Region 7 for assistance



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The slide features a blue and white color scheme. At the top, the letters "FTA" are displayed in a large, bold, blue font, with "FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION" written in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font directly below it. The main title, "Construction Materials", is centered in a large, bold, blue font. Below the title, the name "Jason Pollock" and his title "Regional Counsel" are centered in a smaller, blue font. At the bottom left, there is a small version of the FTA logo, followed by the text "U.S. Department of Transportation" and "Federal Transit Administration" in a small, blue font.

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## Construction Materials

- Requirements
  - Beginning **May 14, 2022**, FTA-funded infrastructure projects require all of the iron, steel, manufactured products, and **construction materials** used in the project to be produced in the United States. § 70914(a).
    - This requirement does not change FTA's requirements on manufactured products or rolling stock.
    - Agencies must implement new requirements within 180 days. § 70914(a).
- Implementation
  - OMB M 22-11 implemented *preliminary* guidance (April 18, 2022)
    - Defines "construction materials" and "all manufacturing processes" for consideration as U.S. produced
  - DOT issued a temporary waiver for construction materials from 5/14/22 – 11/10/22
    - [Federal Register: Temporary Waiver of Buy America Requirements for Construction Materials](#)
  - Final guidance for construction materials to come

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## Construction Materials Preliminary Guidance

- Definition
    - **Construction Materials** includes: an article, material, or supply—other than an item of primarily iron or steel; a manufactured product; cement and cementitious materials; aggregates such as stone, sand, or gravel; or aggregate binding agents or additives—that is or consists primarily of:
      - non-ferrous metals;
      - plastic and polymer-based products (including polyvinylchloride, composite building materials, and polymers used in fiber optic cables);
      - glass (including optic glass);
      - lumber; or
      - drywall.
- Implementation Guidance at p. 13-14.*

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### Preliminary Standard

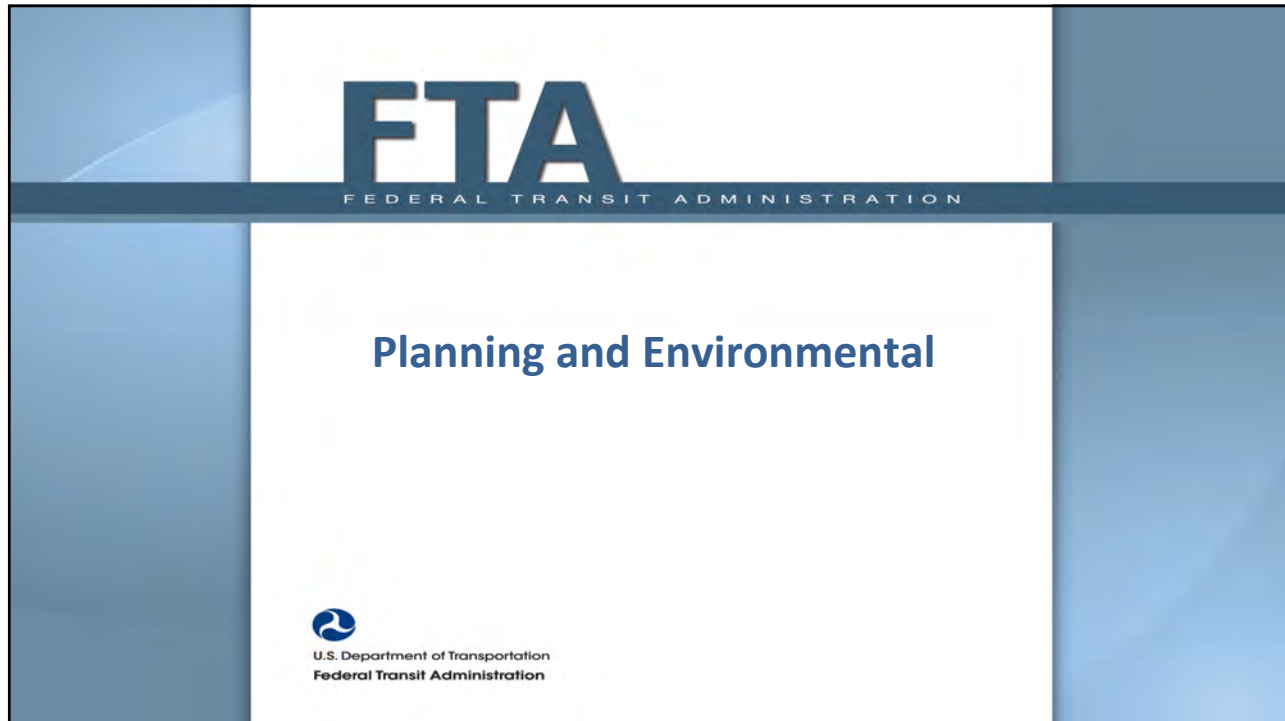
“[A]ll manufacturing processes” for construction materials includes at least the final manufacturing process and the immediately preceding manufacturing stage for the construction material.

### Construction Material v. Manufactured Product

- **Either/or requirement:** an article, material, or supply should not be considered to fall into multiple categories. *Id.* at p. 6.
- Items that consist of [...]
  - **two or more of the listed materials that have been combined together** through a manufacturing process, and
  - **at least one of the listed materials combined with a material that is not listed** through a manufacturing process,
 should be treated as manufactured products, rather than as construction materials.” *Id.* at p. 14.

## Temporary Construction Materials Waiver

- On May 19, 2022, the Department issued a temporary [waiver](#) of the construction materials requirements applicable to awards that are obligated on or after May 14, 2022 and before November 10, 2022.
- Waiver intended to allow time for:
  - Establishing certification processes for construction materials
  - Ensure industry is prepared to meet applicable standards
  - Further data gathering on the domestic availability of construction materials
- During the waiver period, DOT will:
  - Ensure standards, processes, and enforcement for construction materials align with existing program requirements
  - Ensure construction materials requirements are included in NOFOs and T&Cs
  - Review stakeholder input to assess domestic availability



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## FTA Region VII Facility Planning Basis Information Sheet

Replaces previous Feasibility Checklist  
For any new, replacement, or rehab facility project  
    Contact Region 7 planning staff to initiate process and discuss scope if you have questions

Must be completed prior to NEPA (FTA Region 7 Environmental Evaluation Worksheet)

**Please note, planning documentation and NEPA findings must be complete prior to any real estate acquisition/leasing actions**

Include in TrAMS with your grant for the facility and the local Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)/State Department of Transportation (SDoT) Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP)/State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP)

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## FTA Region VII Facility Planning Basis Information Sheet

- **Purpose and Need**
  - The why behind your project- explain the issues and problems your facility project is going to address. Provide a complete picture of the facility to include future expansion.
- **Alternatives Analysis**
  - What sites did you consider and how were they evaluated.
  - Sample evaluation criteria and a template matrix are provided in the worksheet for your use.
- **Preferred Alternative/Scope**
  - Tell us what all you intend to have as part of the project.
- **Project Schedule/Timeline of Project**
- **Project Budget and Financial Plan: (Local/State/Federal Share) and General Estimate**

**FTA Region VII  
Facility Planning Basis Information Sheet**

Purpose of the form: According to FTA Circular 9300.18, there must be a planning basis for every proposed transit construction project. This basis needs to be documented and generally includes a purpose and need statement, determination of existing and future use, identification of alternatives, development of an evaluation criteria matrix, evaluation of alternatives, and selection of the preferred alternative. This form provides a general outline to assist grantees in completing a proposed transit facility planning basis study.

**General Information**

Agency/Sponsor Name:	FTA Development Center		
Project Name:	FTA Development Center		
Project Contact (Name, phone number, and email):	City, State and Zip Code:	County:	Date:
Project Location (City, State, County):	City:	State:	Area Served:
Project Type:	Facility Type and Use:	Area Served:	

**Purpose and Need**

Explain why the project is necessary (the need and what the transportation problem is). Explain how implementing the proposed project will address the need and how the problem is resolved (purpose). Include current transit utilization, ridership information, and estimated future need, as applicable. Explain how implementing the proposed project will affect current and future transit operations. Be sure to include quantity and sizes of current fleet (buses, trolleys, streetcars, etc.), anticipated future fleet, and how the new facility will accommodate both the current and future fleet. Include whether or not any refueling or charging operations will be included on site now or in the future. Will any portion of the facility be open to the public, such as ticket sales or customer service, or will the site be employee access only? Also, remember that when determining how much space will be needed in a new facility, it is important to keep in mind some commonly overlooked space needs such as adequate room for electric charging parts, the bicycle racks on the front of vehicles, or extra rooms to safely perform certain maintenance tasks.

This form may be updated as needed. It is a separate document from the FTA Region VII Form and is not included here if updated.

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## Environmental Review of Bus Shelters

Elements needed for a NEPA review:

- Detailed Project Description
- Exact Street Address
- Photos of shelter type
- Shelter size & dimension
- Location map
- Photos of structures near the shelter site



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## Items to Consider whether Projects will Require Full NEPA Review

1. Will or could the project disturb ANY amount of soil?
2. Is the project near a current or historic manufacturing, maintenance or fueling facility?
3. Does the project involve a structure that is 40+ years old?
4. Is the project near a historic district, known historic site, landmark or culturally important site?
5. Does the project involve or is it near a park?

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FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

## Grants & Program Information

Logan Daniels  
Transportation Program Specialist



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Transit Administration

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## Important Grant Processing Dates

- Complete grant applications should be entered into FTA's grant processing system, TRAMS, for review by June 1, 2022
- Completed feasibility studies/environmental analysis for planned construction projects must be submitted to FTA Region VII office by February 1<sup>st</sup>
- Applications requesting carryover or lapsing funds must be submitted in TRAMS by March 1<sup>st</sup>
- DOL has asked that FTA submit grants to DOL through TrAMS by Monday, July 20, 2022
- All deadlines should be adhered to, in order to ensure grant approval by September 26, 2022
- ECHO-Web will close for year-end processing at 2:00 pm EST on September 28, 2022

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## Important Region VII Contacts

### Applications, Projects & Program questions, please contact:

- Grant Manager, Logan Daniels at (816) 329-3933 or [logan.daniels@dot.gov](mailto:logan.daniels@dot.gov)
- Grant Manager, Shannon Graves at (816) 329-2926 or [shanon.gravers@dot.gov](mailto:shanon.gravers@dot.gov)
- Grant Manager, Jeremiah Shuler at (816) 329-3940 or [jeremiah.shuler@dot.gov](mailto:jeremiah.shuler@dot.gov)
- Planning (including TIP/STIP), Daniel Nguyen at (816) 329-3938 or [daniel.nguyen@dot.gov](mailto:daniel.nguyen@dot.gov)
- Planning (including TIP/STIP), Eva Steinman at (816) 329-3931 or [eva.steinman@dot.gov](mailto:eva.steinman@dot.gov)
- Environmental (NEPA), Gerri Doyle at (816) 329-3928 or [gerri.doyle@dot.gov](mailto:gerri.doyle@dot.gov)
- Civil Rights (DBE, EEO, Title VI, ADA), Morgan Hecht at (303) 362-2416 or [morgan.hecht@dot.gov](mailto:morgan.hecht@dot.gov)
- Legal Matters (Buy America, C&As, Contracts), Jason Pollock at (816) 329-3936 or [jason.pollock@dot.gov](mailto:jason.pollock@dot.gov)
- Construction Projects, Engineer, Cindy Moses at (816) 329-3939 or [cynthia.moses@dot.gov](mailto:cynthia.moses@dot.gov)
- Planning Director, Cathy Monroe at (816) 329-3929 or [cathy.monroe@dot.gov](mailto:cathy.monroe@dot.gov)
- Oversight, Program Management Director, Bill Kalt at (816) 329-3927 or [william.kalt@dot.gov](mailto:william.kalt@dot.gov)

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