

AZ SMART Applications

State Transportation Board, February 21, 2025

Lisa Danka

Multimodal Planning Division

AZ SMART Eligibilities

- **Eligible applicants** - any entity eligible for a *federal discretionary grant for surface transportation projects*
- **Eligible Projects** - surface transportation projects eligible under the specified *federal discretionary grant*. Projects must be related to a public facility and be continuously available for use by the public.
- **Eligible Uses** - fund or reimburse:
 - Design and other engineering services (DOES)* *that meet federal standards*. Federal discretionary grant application must be submitted within 2 years of the Date of Award
 - Required Match on a federal discretionary grant; *must meet federal standards*.
 - Reimbursement of up to 50% of costs to development and submission (GDS) a federal discretionary grant; not required to meet federal standards. Limited to projects located in municipalities with population of less than 10,000 and counties less than 100,000.

AZ SMART Program Update

- [AZ SMART dashboard](https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/2cb2262a861c43bbb535c8660277b484/?org=adot)
(<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/2cb2262a861c43bbb535c8660277b484/?org=adot>)
- New Applications (New Applications link on dashboard)
- Funding Redistribution approved 1/17/24 (Available Funds on dashboard)
- New Process
- Priority Criteria

New Process

Phase 1 (Applicant):

- Council/Board approval
- Sign Offer

Phase 2 (ADOT):

- Administrative Review
- Eligibility Review
- Courtesy Technical Review
- Score and rank applications

Phase 3 (PPAC): no changes

Phase 4 (Board): no changes

**RFGAA is the contract -
Project can begin work
shortly after Board approval**

1

Application Development

Applicants determine the schedule

(ARS §28-339.H)

- Identify appropriate Federal Grant opportunities
- Ensure procurements and solicitations meet Federal Standards
- Review RFGAA, any AZ SMART Pre-application webinar recording and Questions and Answers page on the AZ SMART website
- Prepare well-developed Scope, Schedule and Budget
- Obtain Governing Body approval and executed resolution
- Obtain COG/MPO approval letter
- Assemble all required documents
- Submit Administratively Complete application

2

Application and Courtesy Technical Review, Application Evaluation

Up to 8 weeks or more for DOES; GDS and Match may proceed sooner

(ARS §28-339.H and I)

- Review for Administrative Completeness
- Determine eligibility for Federal Grant
- Conduct Courtesy Technical Review of Project scope, schedule and budget
- Review and negotiate exceptions and contractual issues
- Send Review Recap to Applicant
- Applicant responds to Recap and revises application
- Score and rank applications when Ready to Proceed
- Refer Applications to PPAC

3

PPAC Recommendation

2-4 weeks after Scoring and Ranking

(ARS §28-339.I)

- Meets monthly
- Reviews applications, scores and rankings, and makes recommendation to Board

4

Board Action

Up to 45 days after receiving PPAC recommendation

(ARS §28-339.K)

- Meets monthly
- Approve
- Deny
- Modify
- Request more information

Priority Criteria

- 6 criterion total listed in order of importance
- No minimum score required, no good or bad score
- Board may use scores or not at their discretion

PRIORITY CRITERIA, ORDER OF IMPORTANCE AND SCORES		
<i>Priority Criteria</i>	<i>Evidence or Source</i>	<i>Points</i>
1. Project includes safety improvements		
a. Project addresses more than one of the below	Demonstrated by scope of work provided by the Applicant and based on the definitions in the Strategic Highway Safety Plan ("SHSP")	15
b. Project addresses safety of vulnerable road users		10
c. Project addresses intersection safety		5
d. Project addresses roadway lane departures		5
e. Project address other safety factors		5
f. Project does not address safety improvements		0
2. Evidence of public support for Project		
a. Project is included in the approved regional TIP for the jurisdiction in which the Project is located	Page from regional or tribal TIP	15
b. Project is included in an adopted planning document of the jurisdiction in which the Project is located	Page from General Plan or CIP	10
c. Project has been discussed in public meetings or study sessions	Minutes of meeting/study session	5
d. Project is not in an adopted planning document and has not been discussed in public meetings or study session	NA	0

Priority Criteria, cont.

PRIORITY CRITERIA, ORDER OF IMPORTANCE AND SCORES		
<i>Priority Criteria</i>	<i>Evidence or Source</i>	<i>Points</i>
3. Population of city/town or county in which Project is located – Points will be based on the jurisdiction in which the Project is located. If project spans multiple jurisdictions, the one in which the largest percentage of the Project is located will be used.		
a. Projects located in a Municipality of less than 10,000 population		
1) Municipalities 0 to 4,999 population		10
2) Municipalities 5,000 to 9,999 population		5
b. Projects located in a Municipality with population of 10,000 or more		
1) Municipalities 10,000 to 49,999 population		10
2) Municipalities 50,000 and above		5
c. Projects located in a County of less than 100,000 population		
1) Counties under 40,000 population		10
2) Counties 40,001 to 100,000 population		5
d. Projects located in a County with population of 100,000 or more		
1) Counties over 100,000 to 149,999 population		10
2) Counties over 150,000 and above		5
e. ADOT Projects (applies only to ADOT applications)		
		NA
4. Long-term Impacts		
a. Infrastructure project - Description of life cycle costs is included with application	Identified in application questions	5
b. Non-infrastructure project - Description of long-term impacts is included with application		5
c. Estimate is not included with application		0

Priority Criteria, cont.

PRIORITY CRITERIA, ORDER OF IMPORTANCE AND SCORES		
<i>Priority Criteria</i>	<i>Evidence or Source</i>	<i>Points</i>
5. The percent (whole numbers only) of cash monies provided by Applicant		
a. 51% to 75% or higher	Calculated based on answer to application questions	3
b. 26% to 50%		2
c. 25% or less		1
d. 0%		0
6. Extent that Applicant will partner with other entities to deliver Project		
a. Five Letters of Support	Based on the number of Letters of Support uploaded with the Application (maximum of 5)	5
b. Four Letters of Support		4
c. Three Letters of Support		3
d. Two Letters of Support		2
e. One Letter of Support		1
f. No Letters of Support		0

Priority Criteria and Scores		Points
<i>Project addresses safety improvement(s)</i>	Safety of non-motorized users, Intersection safety, Roadway lane departures	15
<i>Evidence of public support for the Project</i>	Current approved Regional or Tribal Transportation Improvement Program	15
<i>Population Score</i>	Apache County	5
<i>Life Cycle costs or Long-term impacts</i>	The US 191 Safety Corridor Study aims to significantly improve road	5
<i>% cash monies from Applicant</i>	0%	0
<i>Partnering (maximum of 5 letters of support can submitted)</i>		5
Total points		45
Application Rank		1

Priority Criteria Scores and Application Rankings

- Along with PPAC approval, serves as evaluators' recommendations to Board
- Scoring based on application responses
- Evaluated by three qualified individuals (engineers)
- Application Rank based on total points within applicable Funding Category (Muni over 10K, County under 100K, etc.)

ARS §41-2701.I: [Board] may:

- Affirm, modify or reject the evaluators' recommendations in whole or in part.
- Modify the budget on any or all awards by an amount or percentage.
- If recommendations are modified or rejected, justification for action taken is required in writing (Board minutes will serve this purpose).

New Information to Inform Board Decisions



ARS §28-339.H - Board may determine determine the extent to which an applicant has the technical and financial capacity to successfully complete the project.

Federal Grant		
<i>Grant Pursued</i>	Safe Streets and Roads for All Program (SS4A)	
<i>Grant Status</i>	We plan to apply for the Federal Grant within the next 6 months.	
<i>Submitted how?</i>	Applicant or Consultant will submit directly	
<i>Intended Administration</i>	Be a direct recipient if allowed in the NOFO	
<i>Technical Capacity (previous federal grants or formula funded projects?)</i>	No but NACOG worked closely with Yavapai County on it's 2023 SS4A grant, prepared the application materials, and is responsible for carrying out grant activities.	
<i>Financial Capacity (>1.0 = applicant can meet short term obligations)</i>	<i>Most current audit year</i>	<i>Ratio</i>
	FY 23	3.17
	FY 22	3.72
	FY 21	3.76

- Applies to Direct Recipients or those requesting self-administration
- These applicants are responsible for:
 - Procuring their own consultants and contractors to federal standards
 - Making payments directly to consultants and contractors
 - Requesting reimbursement from federal agency and/or AZ SMART
 - Reporting requirements
- Technical Capacity - measured by experience with previous federal grants or formula funds
- Financial Capacity - Quick Ratio indicates ability to meet short-term financial obligations
- Highlighted in orange when applicable

County < 100K

Pursuing Safe
Streets For All

Direct Recipient

AZ SMART \$:
\$46,000 for
Match

Project Estimate:
\$230,000

Applicant \$: 0

Proceed without
assistance? No

Score: 45

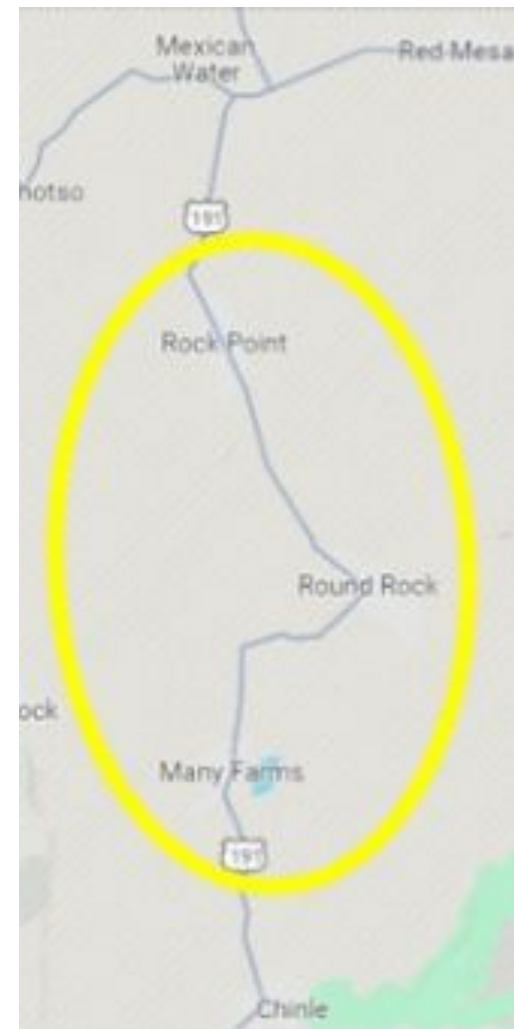
Rank: 1

NACOG

US 191 from MP 453 to MP 499

Project Purpose: Plan/Study

- Update and build on 2012 RSA for 191.
- Identify and prioritize safety issues, develop strategies to reduce fatal crashes, and secure funding for long-term safety improvements. Address numerous requests of NE district for improvements.
- Analyze crash data collected by Navajo DPS, road conditions, environmental hazards and community concerns to pinpoint critical safety issues.
- Collaborate with Navajo Nation, ADOT, Apache County and local communities to build consensus and strategies for safety priorities.
- Targeted public and stakeholder meetings to address disadvantaged and underserved communities.
- Federal grant application expected to be submitted within next 6 months.
- Study area has no dedicated transportation tax



County < 100K

Pursuing Safe
Streets For All

ADOT
administration

AZ SMART \$:
\$1,204,452 for
DOES

Project Estimate:
\$14,142,344

Applicant \$: 50K

Proceed without
assistance? No

Score: 44

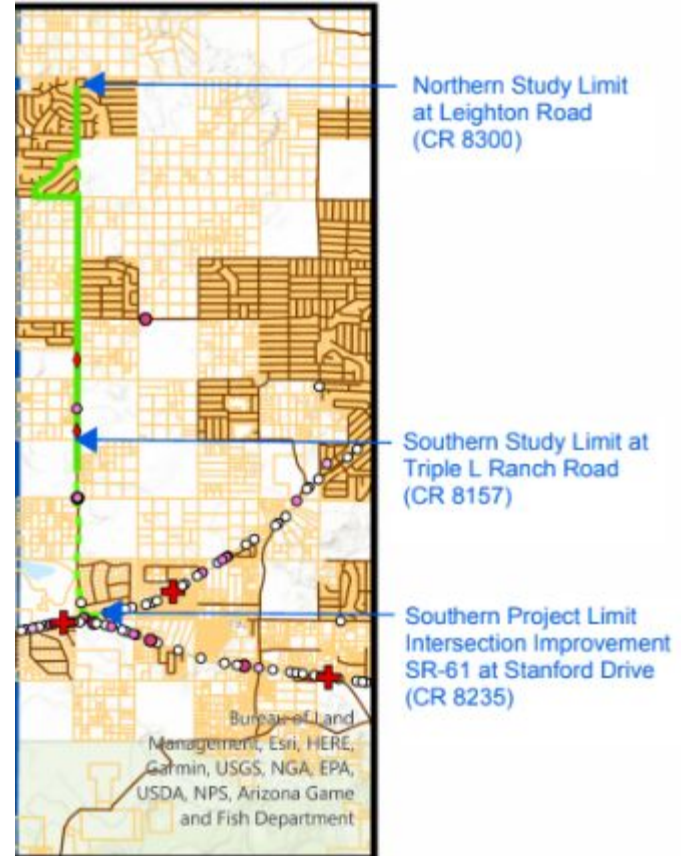
Rank: 2

Apache County

Stanford Drive (CR 8235), SR 61 to
Leighton Rd

Project Purpose: Road

- Addresses safety and design deficiencies in a 10-mile corridor: 90 vertical curves, 3 horizontal curves, 28 steep grades, and 15 areas lacking recovery zones.
- Design of highways/streets in every segment, spot improvements in PAR and the additional intersection safety enhancements at Stanford Drive at SR-61.
- Grading, Subgrade Preparation and paving on Stanford Drive (CR 8235) from Triple L Ranch Road to Leighton Road.
- Incorporates countermeasures like reflective markings, and rumble strips.
- Apache County has no dedicated transportation tax but is contributing \$50K



Priority Criteria Scores and Application Rankings

Applicant				
<i>Applicant</i>	Northern Arizona Council of Governments		Apache County	
<i>Project</i>	US 191 corridor from mile post 453 to mile post 499		Stanford Drive (CR 8235), SR61 to Leighton Rd	
Priority Criteria and Scores		Points	Points	
<i>Project addresses safety improvement(s)</i>	Safety of non-motorized users, Intersection safety, Roadway lane departures	15	Intersection safety, Roadway lane departures, Improve sight distance deficiencies	15
<i>Evidence of public support for Project</i>	Current approved Regional or Tribal Transportation Improvement Program	15	Current approved Regional or Tribal Transportation Improvement Program	15
<i>Population Score</i>	Apache County	5	Apache County	5
<i>Life Cycle costs or Long-term impacts</i>	<i>Extract:</i> The US 191 Safety Corridor Study aims to significantly improve road safety and quality of life for the three communities. The long-term impacts include reduced fatalities and injuries, enhanced infrastructure, economic benefits, community well-being and sustainable safety practices.	5	<i>Extract:</i> In the last 5 years, Apache County has spent an average of \$174,858 per year on maintenance for Stanford Dr, and the ADT continues to rise. If this project gets awarded and constructed, the pavement will require minimal maintenance for the next 20 years. Therefore, the long-term impact of this project would be a \$3.5 million savings to Apache County.	5
<i>% cash monies from Applicant</i>	0%	0	0.35%	1
<i>Partnering - based on # of support letters (maximum 5)</i>		5		3
	Total points	45		44
	Application Rank	1		2

Technical and Financial Capacity and Other Information

Applicant				
<i>Applicant</i>	Northern Arizona Council of Governments		Apache County	
<i>Project</i>	US 191 corridor from mile post 453 to mile post 499		Stanford Drive (CR 8235), SR61 to Leighton Rd	
<i>Board District</i>	5		5	
<i>COG/MPO</i>	NACOG		NACOG	
<i>County</i>	Apache		Apache	
<i>Can project proceed if awarded less?</i>	No		No	
<i>Grant Pursued</i>	Safe Streets and Roads for All Program (SS4A)		Safe Streets and Roads for All Program (SS4A)	
<i>Intended Administration</i>	Be a direct recipient if allowed in the NOFO		Request ADOT administration (PDA and/or construction administration fees will	
<i>Technical Capacity (previous federal grants or formula funded projects?)</i>	No but NACOG worked closely with Yavapai County on it's 2023 SS4A grant, prepared the application materials, and is responsible for carrying out grant activities.		NA	
<i>Financial Capacity (>1.0 generally means applicant can meet short term obligations)</i>	<i>Most current audit year</i>	<i>Ratio</i>	<i>Most current audit year</i>	<i>Ratio</i>
	FY 23	3.17	FY 23	NA
	FY 22	3.72	FY 22	NA
	FY 21	3.76	FY 21	NA

Revised Financial Report

- Reflects impact of January redistribution and January interest
- Only acting on projects in red box; both are in Apache County
- Match application anticipated for March consideration

As of 1/31/2025

Cumulative AZ SMART Fund Report

Funding Category	ADOT	Muni < 10K	Muni 10K+	County < 100K	County 100K+
Revenue					
Legislative Appropriations /1	\$ 12,500,000	\$ 12,500,000	\$ 12,500,000	\$ 12,500,000	\$ 12,500,000
Interest Earnings to Date	\$ 1,057,410	\$ 1,055,536	\$ 1,052,141	\$ 1,058,721	\$ 1,056,486
Total Revenues	\$ 13,557,410	\$ 13,555,536	\$ 13,552,141	\$ 13,558,721	\$ 13,556,486
Approvals					
Grant Development		\$ 4,600		\$ 50,000	
Match Awards	\$ 5,371,724	\$ 31,212	\$ 12,207,413	\$ 3,300,000	\$ 4,242,642
Design & Engineering	\$ 3,750,000	\$ 10,010,257	\$ 7,639,320	\$ 4,241,199	\$ 6,670,000
1% Program Administration	\$ 100,000				
Match Released	\$ (1,250,000)	\$ -	\$ (6,277,008)	\$ -	\$ -
Design Recovered	\$ -	\$ (807,500)	\$ (433,772)	\$ -	\$ -
Net Approvals	\$ 7,971,724	\$ 9,238,569	\$ 13,135,953	\$ 7,591,199	\$ 10,912,642
Redistribution					
January Available for Awards	\$ 5,539,767.29	\$ 4,272,125.40	\$ 372,790.54	\$ 5,921,501.82	\$ 2,598,836.57
January Redistribution	\$ (1,798,762.96)	\$ (531,121.08)	\$ 3,368,213.78	\$ (2,180,497.49)	\$ 1,142,167.76
Current Available for Award	\$ 3,786,923	\$ 3,785,846	\$ 3,784,401	\$ 3,787,024	\$ 3,786,011
Pending Requests					
Grant Development		\$ -		\$ -	
Match Awards	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,044,750	\$ 46,000	\$ -
Design & Engineering	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,204,452	\$ -
Total Pending Requests	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,044,750	\$ 1,250,452	\$ -
After Approval of Pending Requests	\$ 3,786,923	\$ 3,785,846	\$ 1,739,651	\$ 2,536,572	\$ 3,786,011

Geographic Distribution Impact

(if current applications are awarded)

By County

County	AZ SMART Apps Received	AZ SMART Awards	AZ SMART Award \$	AZ SMART Award %
Apache	2	2	\$1,250,452	2.50%
Cochise	4	4	\$4,608,500	9.20%
Coconino	7	7	\$12,295,640	24.54%
Gila	2	2	\$1,072,411	2.14%
Graham	1	1	\$367,760	0.73%
Greenlee	1	1	\$595,000	1.19%
La Paz	2	2	\$3,608,264	7.20%
Maricopa	3	2	\$437,407	0.87%
Mohave	3	3	\$250,000	0.50%
Navajo	8	7	\$5,031,200	10.04%
Pima	0	0	\$0	0.00%
Pinal	1	1	\$1,113,613	2.22%
Santa Cruz	3	3	\$6,550,000	13.07%
Yavapai	6	6	\$1,461,133	2.92%
Yuma	5	5	\$10,774,492	21.51%
Statewide	4	4	\$684,667	1.37%
Totals	52	50	\$50,100,539	100.00%

By COG/MPO

COG/MPO	AZ SMART Apps Receive	AZ SMART Awards	AZ SMART Award \$	AZ SMART Award %
BHMPO	0	0	\$0	0.00%
CAG	2	2	\$1,072,411	2.14%
CYMPO	0	0	\$0	0.00%
MAG	3	2	\$437,407	0.87%
MetroPlan	2	2	\$5,402,998	10.78%
NACOG	21	20	\$14,635,427	29.21%
SCMPO	1	1	\$1,113,613	2.22%
SEAGO	8	8	\$12,121,260	24.19%
SVMPO	1	1	\$0	0.00%
WACOG	5	5	\$3,858,264	7.70%
YMPO	5	5	\$10,774,492	21.51%
Statewide	4	4	\$684,667	1.37%
Totals	52	50	\$50,100,539	100.00%

By Board District

Board District	AZ SMART Apps Received	AZ SMART Awards	AZ SMART Award \$	AZ SMART Award %
1	3	2	\$437,407	0.87%
2	0	0	\$0	0.00%
3	8	8	\$11,753,500	23.46%
4	4	4	\$2,553,784	5.10%
5	17	16	\$18,577,292	37.08%
6	16	16	\$16,093,889	32.12%
Statewide	4	4	\$684,667	1.37%
Totals	52	50	\$50,100,539	100.00%

Yellow highlights identify geographies impacted by, and assume approval of, current applications.

Requested Action

- Approve \$1,204,452 for DOES to Apache County for the Stanford Drive, SR 61 to Leighton Rd project. Applicant is required to submit a federal discretionary grant application for this project on or before 2/21/27.
- Approve \$46,000 for Match to the Northern Arizona Association of Governments for the US 191, MP 453 to 499 safety study project.