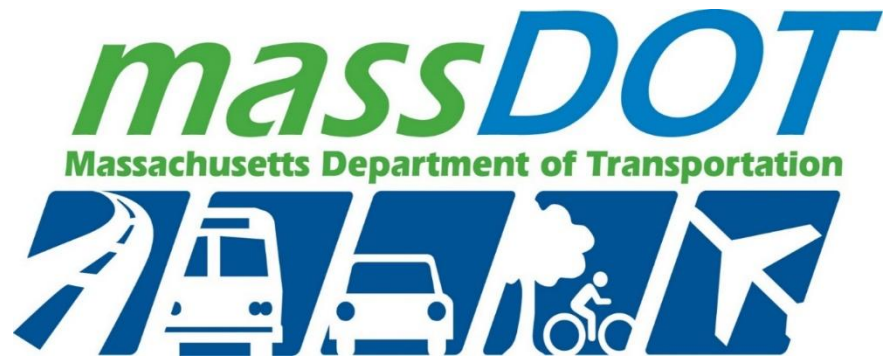




MMA Webinar: Grant Central Updates, New Programs Launch & the LEAP Program

November 6, 2025





Session Objectives

- Understand the **two new grant programs**
- Understand **what is changing** on Grant Central
- The **Fully Integrated Application (FIA)**
- Meet the new **Municipal Planning & Support Group**
- Understand **MassDOT Local Early and Actionable Planning (LEAP) Program**



Agenda

Two New Grant Programs

Grant Central: What is and isn't changing

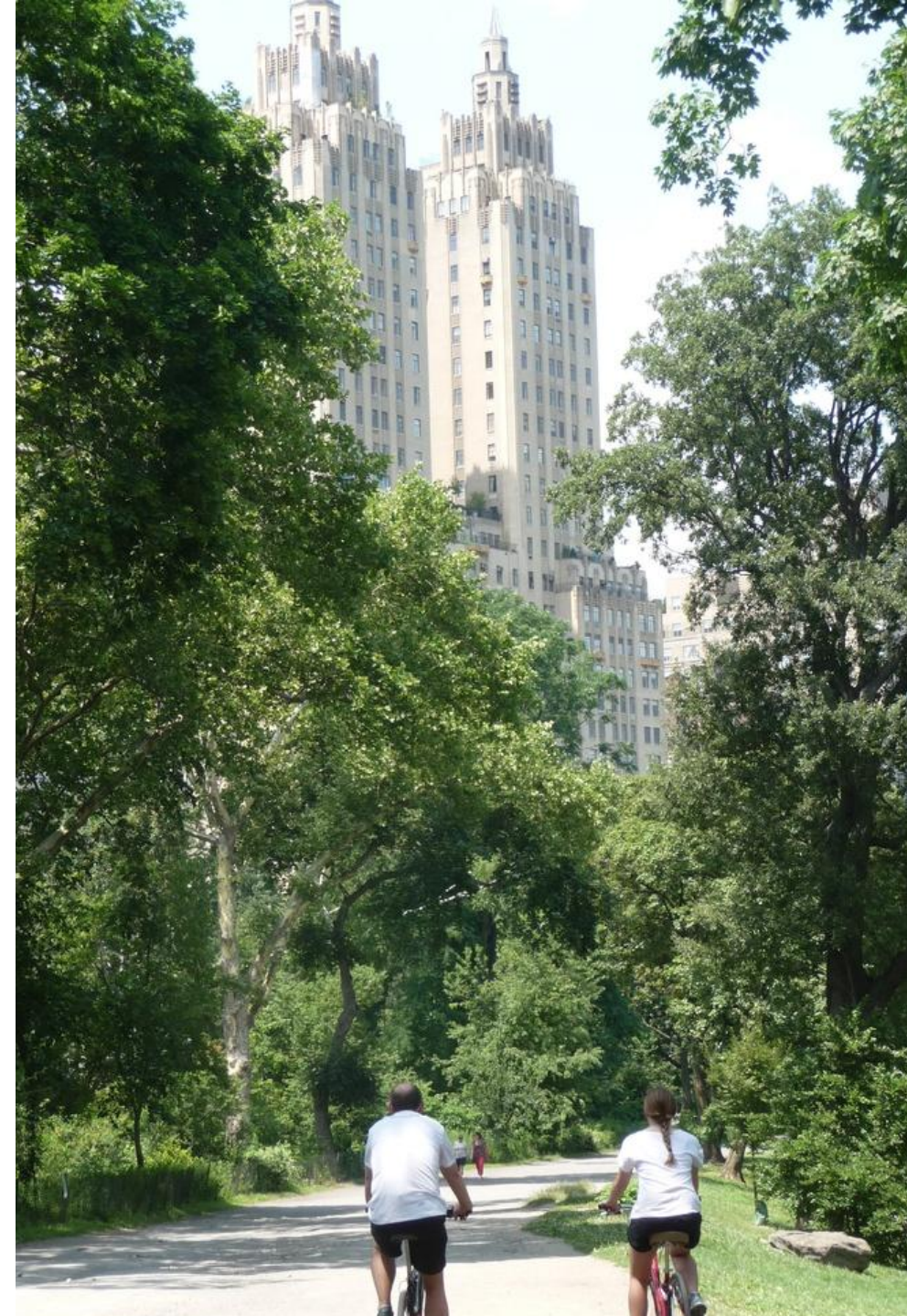
Submitting a Fully Integrated Application (FIA)

What's Next

Municipal Planning & Support Group

Local Early and Actionable Planning (LEAP) Program

New Grant Programs



Background

- \$200M authorized for MassDOT to administer a grant program that funds:
 - Culvert repair, replacement, removal, modernization, and resiliency improvements
- 10-year investment
- Program developed in consultation with EEA
- Funds design and construction

Program Structure

- Competitive application program via Grant Central
- Grants awarded in two phases:
 - Design
 - Construction
- Design awards are advanced by MassDOT-led consultants:
 - Design fully funded
 - Designer assists with permitting
- ***Up to \$150K provided in cases where design has already begun**
- Projects with completed designs may apply for construction:
 - Construction grants up to \$1M
 - Construction implemented by municipality

Eligibility Criteria

- Culverts are defined as existing road or waterway crossing structure 10 feet or less in span
- Culvert must be municipally owned and maintained
- Roadway must be open to public
- Only municipal officials may submit applications
- Eligible expenses include design and construction costs related to:
 - Culvert replacement, removal, repair, modernization, and resilience
 - ROW acquisition and permitting costs
 - Replacing a culvert with a structure greater than 10 feet in span

Ineligible Projects/Expenses

- Projects not associated with a public roadway
- Culverts over coastal tidal waterway crossings
- Municipal administrative costs
- Legal costs
- Traffic or police details
- Insurance premiums
- Ongoing maintenance or operating costs

Community Culvert Grant Program Cont.

Selection Criteria

Community Impact	Ecological	Resilience	Transportation
• Access to Essential Services • Access to Economic Activity • Financial Efficiency • Local Support • Support for Underserved or Rural Communities	• Barrier Removal, Habitat Connectivity, and Stream Function Restoration • Watershed and Riparian Impact	• Community Resilience Planning • Flood Risk Reduction	• Active Transportation Improvements • Detour Length if Road Closed • Functional Roadway Classification • Structural Condition

Application Information

- Program will accept applications on Grant Central
- Applications will be accepted through the **Fully Integrated Application (FIA)** for the Community Culvert Grant Program from November 6, 2025, to January 9, 2026.
- Email the shared inbox with any questions regarding the program or eligibility - CulvertGrantProgram@dot.state.ma.us
- Stay updated and learn more on Grant Central:
<https://madothway.my.site.com/GrantCentral/s/community-culvert-grant-program>

Community Culvert Grant Program Cont.



Background

- This is a pilot program funding equipment and improvements to municipally owned dirt and gravel roads created after its passage in the Massachusetts Supplemental Budget Bill in June 2025.
- Provides up to \$1 million in funding to support the maintenance, repair and improvement of locally owned dirt and gravel roads.

Program Structure

- Competitive application program via Grant Central.
- After a grant is awarded, MassDOT and the municipality will enter into a contractual agreement for the municipality to complete the approved project.
- Unpaved Roads grants are reimbursement-based, which means municipalities are reimbursed for approved costs after expenses are incurred.
- Municipalities can request reimbursement at any time during project implementation.

Eligibility Activities

Funding may support a wide range of maintenance and repair activities, including but not limited to:

Road surface work:

- Reconstruction, Surface grading, Crown and shoulder restoration, Removal of washboarding, Repair of potholes

Safety improvements:

- Guardrail repair or replacement, and Signage repair or replacement

Drainage improvements:

- Installation or restoration of swales

Equipment acquisition:

- Purchase or lease of equipment (such as graders, rollers, and loaders) to be used for the maintenance or repair of unpaved roads

Ineligible Activities

- Construction of new roadways
- Paving or converting unpaved roads to paved surfaces
- Landscaping or removal of vegetation not related to an eligible project
- Construction or repair of culverts or retaining walls
- Costs for police details or municipal employee payroll
- Costs related to right of way acquisition or easements
- Projects which are on unaccepted roadways within MassDOT's road inventory

Selection Criteria

Projects will be evaluated for funding based on the following criteria

- Current condition of roadway as described through text and photos
- Frequency of closures due to seasonal weather or storm events
- Critical locations accessed via the roadway, such as housing, schools, or hospitals
- Impacts of road conditions or closures on residents, emergency responders, school bus routes, service providers or other critical users
- Demonstrated feasibility to complete the project within one construction season and within the proposed budget
- Demonstrated ability to secure any additional funding necessary for the project if the project budget exceeds the \$1 million grant maximum
- A municipality's designation as a rural and/or an underserved community

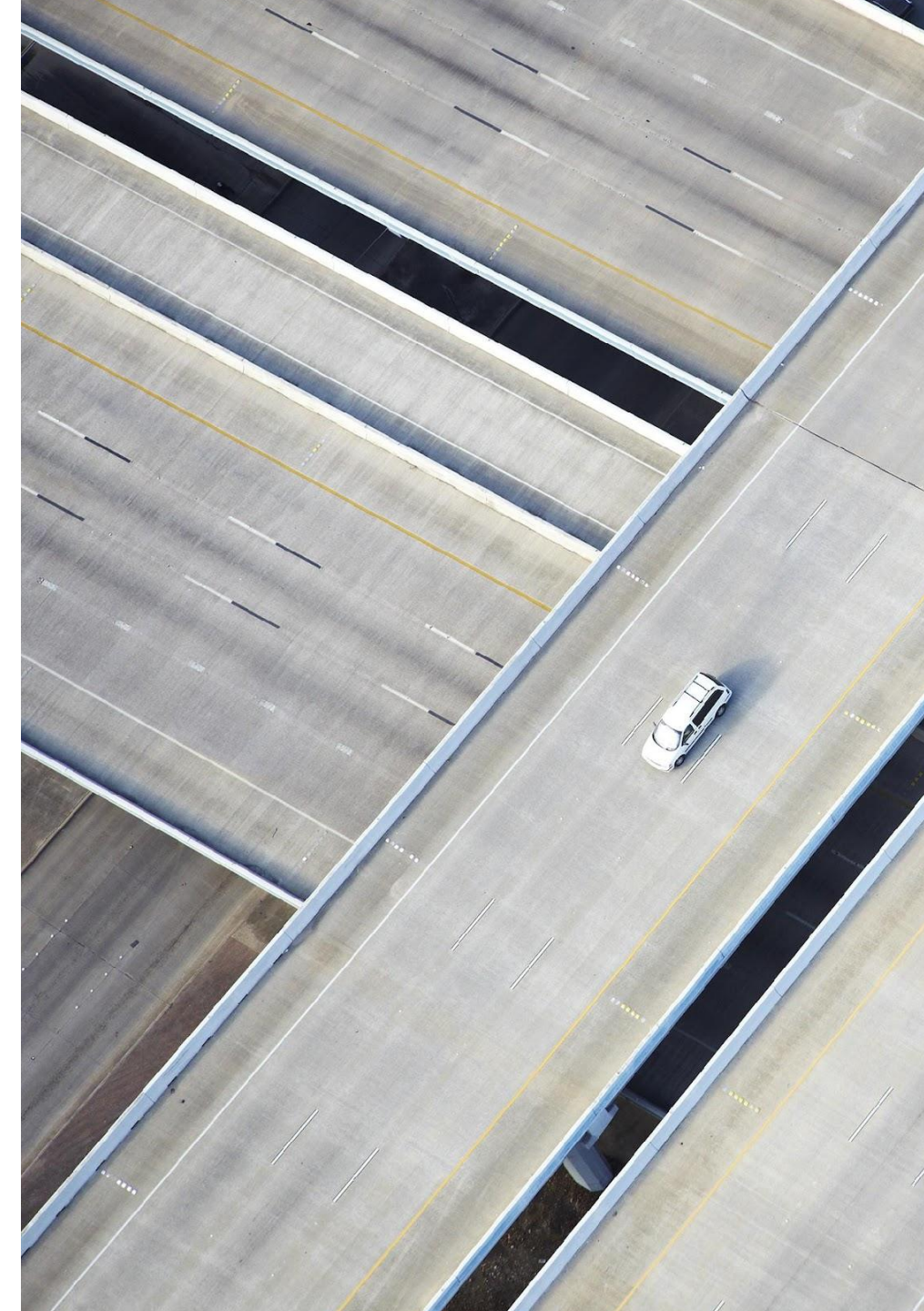
Application Information

- Applications will be accepted through the **Fully Integrated Application (FIA)** for the Unpaved Roads Program from November 6, 2025, to January 9, 2026.
- Only municipal officials may apply, and official municipal Grant Central accounts must be used.
- Stay updated and learn more on Grant Central: [Unpaved Roads Grant Program](#)

Unpaved Roads Grant Program Cont.

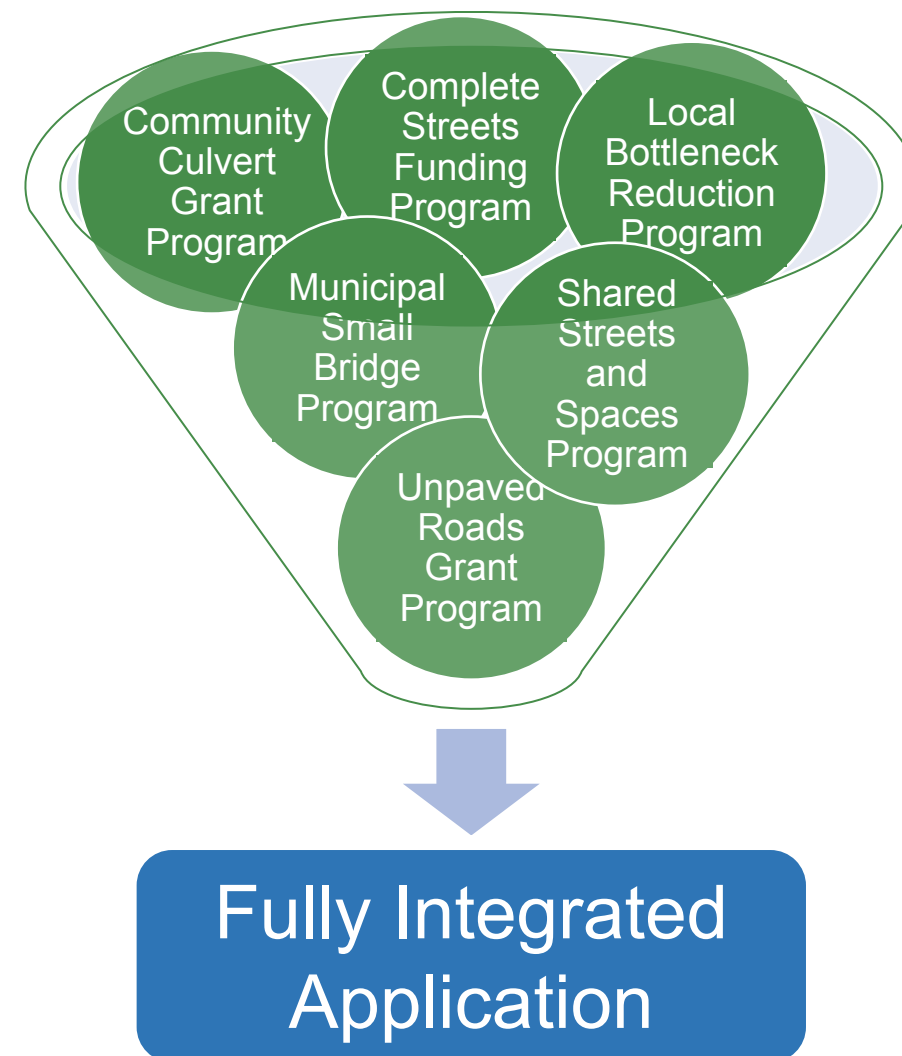


Grant Central: What is and isn't changing



★ New Fully Integrated Application (FIA) on November 6!

- You will no longer need to know which program best suits your project!
- Submit a FIA and MassDOT staff will assign your project to the most applicable grant program.
- New, simplified, and consistent application questions have been developed across all six programs.
- Design is now an eligible expense and construction grants have doubled across all FIA programs.
- Communities with active transportation projects no longer need to adopt a Complete Streets Policy & Prioritization Plan prior to submission. However, applicants that meet these criteria will receive additional consideration in the selection process.



Simpler Application Interface on November 6!

- Everything related to your grant applications – attachments, funding awards, funding reimbursements, and close out forms – is in one easy-to-access place!

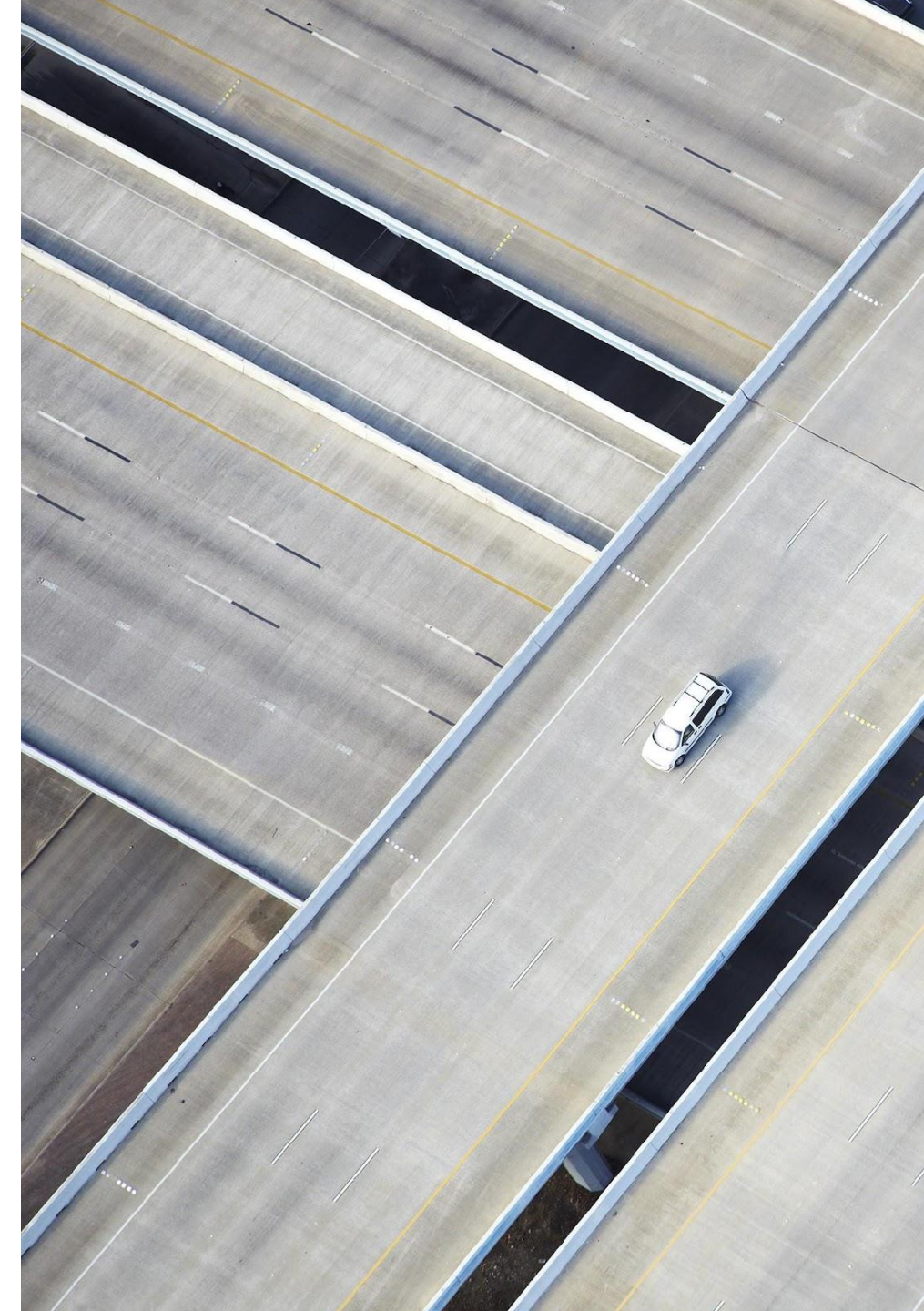
- **Design grants** now available up to \$150,000 through the Unpaved Roads, Complete Streets, and Shared Streets and Spaces programs.
 - MassDOT-led design consultants will continue to support communities in the Community Culvert, Local Bottleneck Reduction, and Municipal Small Bridge Programs.
- **Construction Grants** up to \$1,000,000 through all programs noted above.
 - A \$500,000 increase from the prior grant maximum!
- **Equipment Grants** up to \$250,000 through some programs.

Program Guidance

Updated guidance for each program are now available on Grant Central which reflect the above changes and help applicants prepare for success.

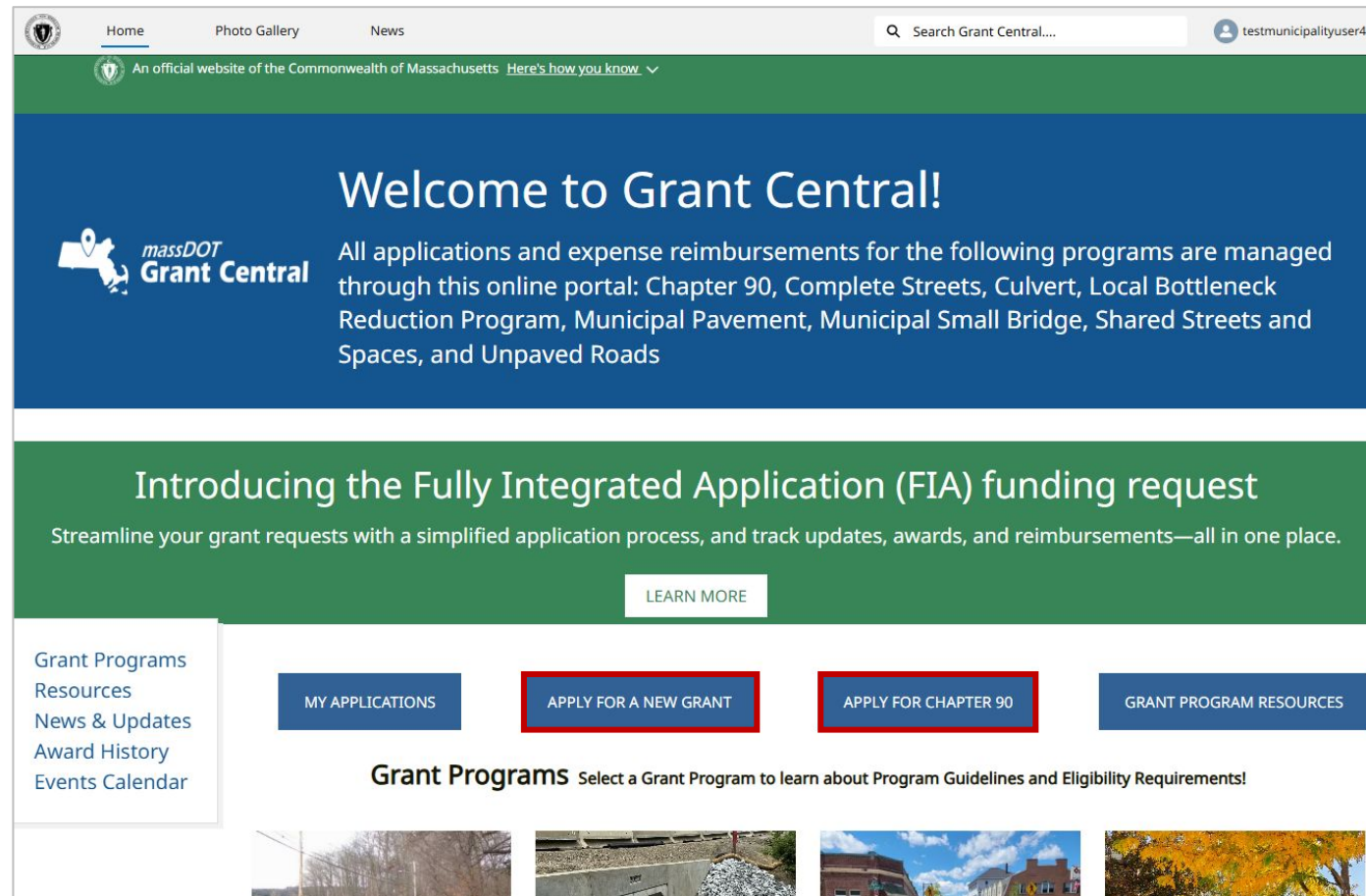
- ☒ **Chapter 90 & Municipal Pavement Applications are not included in FIA**
- ☒ **The purpose of each individual grant program remains consistent**
- ☒ **Individual program requirements are still important to consider**
- ☒ **The grant administration process for awarded projects within & outside of Grant Central remains unchanged**
- ☒ **MassDOT-led design teams will still advance most design awards**
- ☒ **The same prequalification and procurement rules apply to all state funded transportation projects**

Submitting a Fully Integrated Application (FIA)



1 After logging in as a registered user, start a FIA by **Clicking Apply for a New Grant**.

*Alternatively, to apply for the Chapter 90 Program, **Click Apply for Chapter 90**. The application layout for Chapter 90 will be refreshed, but the rest of the application is the same.*



Submitting a FIA Cont.

2 After clicking on Apply for New Grant, you will be taken to the FIA guidance page. **Click Apply Now.**

3 Now, you will begin the FIA. The steps of the application are listed on the right pane.

Fully Integrated Application

Introduction

Overview

Program Eligibility

Selection Criteria

Project Implementation

Fiscal Year 2026 Important Dates

What's the Same?

Introduction

Grant Central's new Fully Integrated Application (FIA) is an all-in-one funding request used for all of the MassDOT Highway Division's competitive grant programs. Municipalities may apply for up to \$1,000,000 in construction funding in one easy place regardless of the grant program. Municipalities no longer need to research which grant program to apply to or track multiple deadlines. Applications are accepted twice per year. Applications may be submitted for the 2026. FIA does not apply to the Chapter 90 or the Municipal Pavement Program. The application process remains unchanged.

Overview

MassDOT's Highway Division administers six distinct competitive grant programs:

- Community Culvert Grant Program *(new!)*
- Complete Streets Funding Program
- Local Bottleneck Reduction Program
- Municipal Small Bridge Program
- Shared Streets and Spaces Program
- Unpaved Roads Grant Program *(new!)*

2 **Apply Now**

Fully Integrated Application

Program Details

Municipality and User Information

Municipality: Test Municipality

Is the community designated as an Environmental

Justice (EJ) Community?: Yes

Community Type: Rural

MassDOT Highway District Number: 1

Name: Municipality User

Title: Municipality Official

Email: municipality.user@municipal.gov

Phone: 1234567890

Mailing Address: Test, Test, MA 02123

Authorized Signatory Name: Municipality User

Authorized Signatory Title: Municipality Official

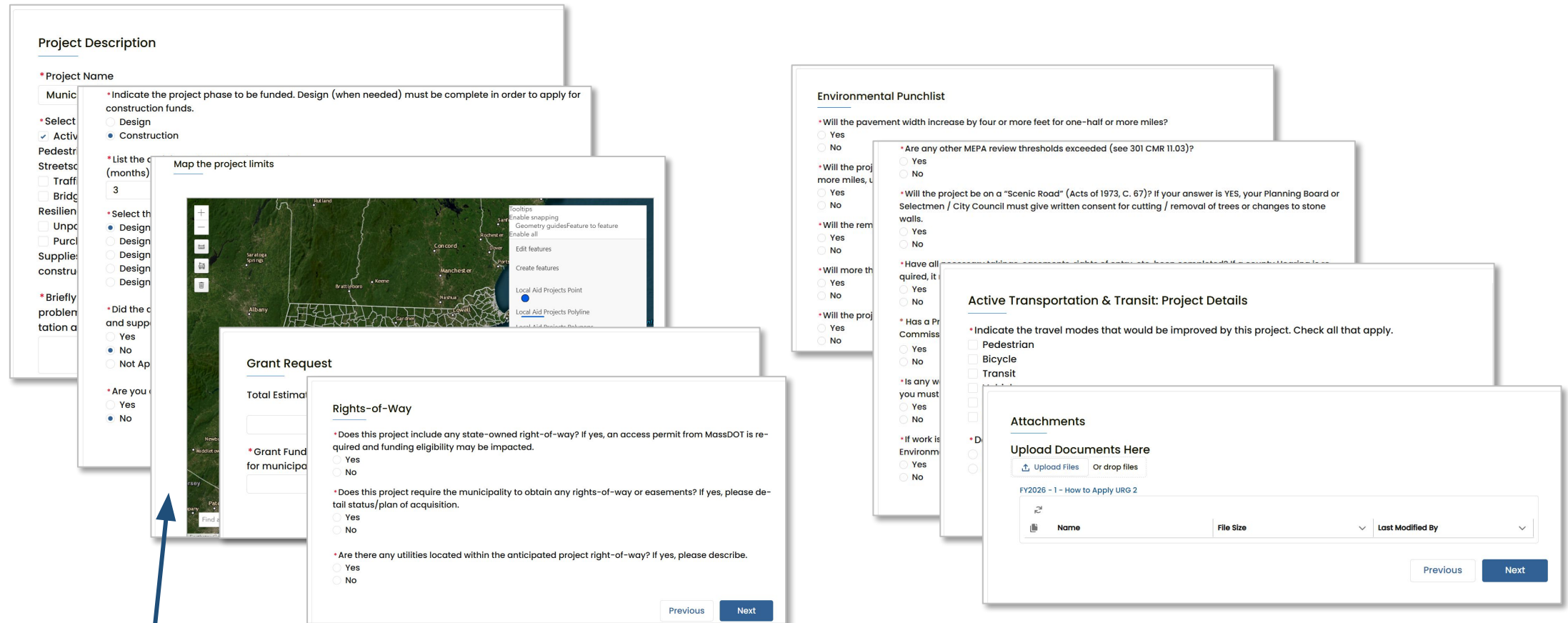
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Next

Steps

- Municipality and User Information
- Project Description
- Map the project limits
- Grant Request
- Rights-of-Way
- Environmental Punchlist
- Attachments
- Attestation
- Confirmation

- 4** Complete each step of the FIA by filling out all fields and **Clicking Next** to proceed. Some steps are populated based on the project type(s) selected in the beginning of the application because each grant program has criteria specific to its application process.



Quick Tip! Municipal users do not have to complete the geoprocessing step anymore!

- 5** When you've reached the end of the application, **check the box** and **type your name** to confirm you have read and agree to the terms. Then, **Click Submit**.

Attestation

Please read and agree to the following:

It is recognized that the purpose of this information is to assist the MassDOT Highway Division in approving the project request. Accordingly, the information provided here is intended to be complete and correct with no intentional errors or material omissions. Any action taken by MassDOT Highway Division on the basis of this information shall not legally or financially obligate MassDOT Highway Division to support or defend the municipality, and the municipality shall save harmless MassDOT Highway Division for any action.

The design, engineering, construction, and future performance of the project, including maintenance, is the responsibility of the Municipality. The proposed work will conform to recognized engineering and construction methods. I/We hereby certify under penalty of perjury the following: that the project is on a public way, and any necessary takings have been made; that all materials will comply with approved established specifications; that all weights and quantities will be accurate; that equipment rental rates are those established by MassDOT Highway or the advertised low bid; that all documentation will be checked for accuracy, and will be endorsed in accordance with municipal procedures for accountability.

☐ I/We have read and agree to the terms

* Type your name

[Previous](#) [Submit](#)

Confirmation

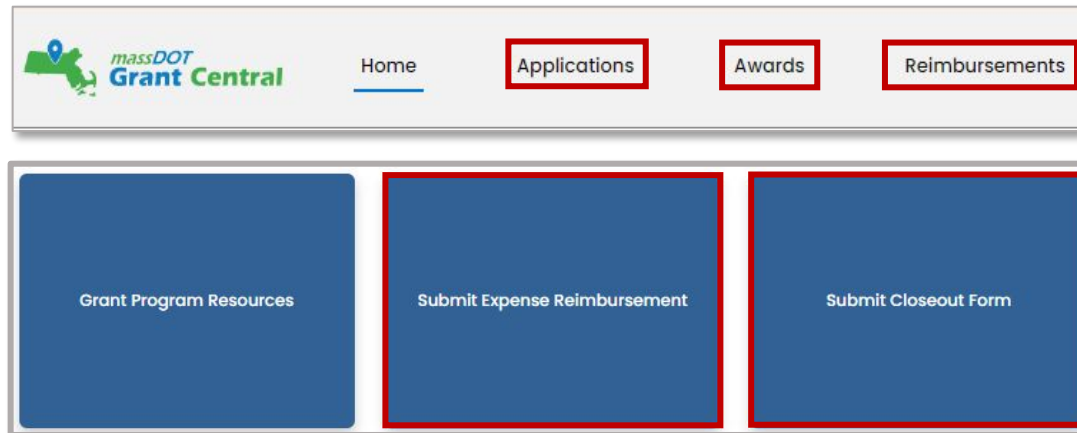
Thank you for your submission!

Before



Previously, accessing your application and everything associated with it spanned across separate pages of Grant Central, causing confusion.

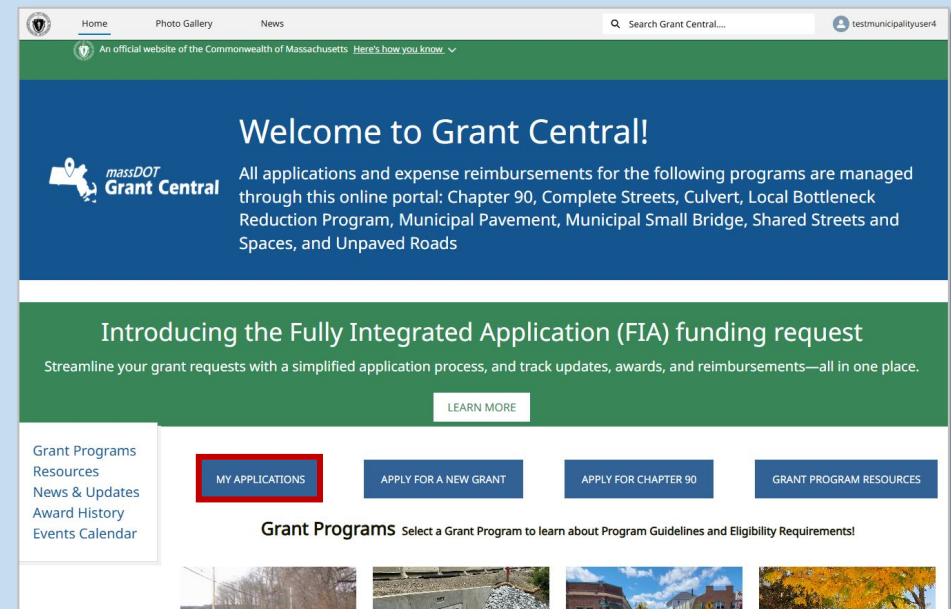
- Users accessed the grant application from Applications
- Users accessed Funding Awards from Awards
- Users accessed Expense Reimbursements from the button or the banner tab
- Users accessed Closeout Forms from the button.



After

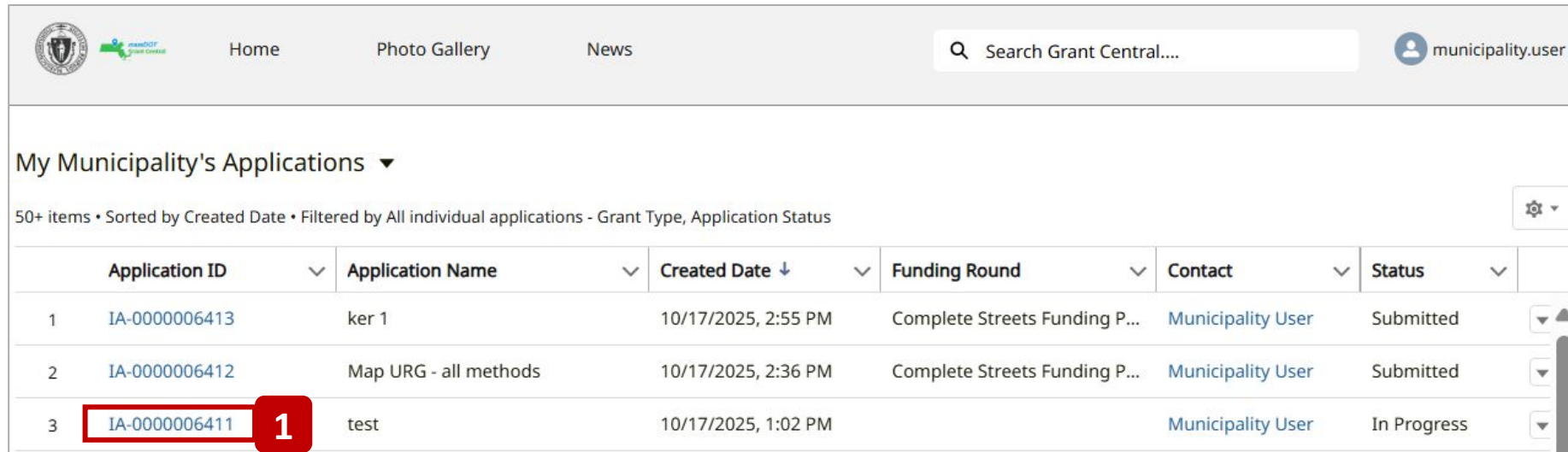
Now, everything related to your application (FIA & Non-FIA) can all be accessed in one place from the home page.

- Submitted or saved applications, funding awards, funding reimbursements, and closeout forms all accessible from **My Applications** button.



A Simpler Portal Experience Cont.

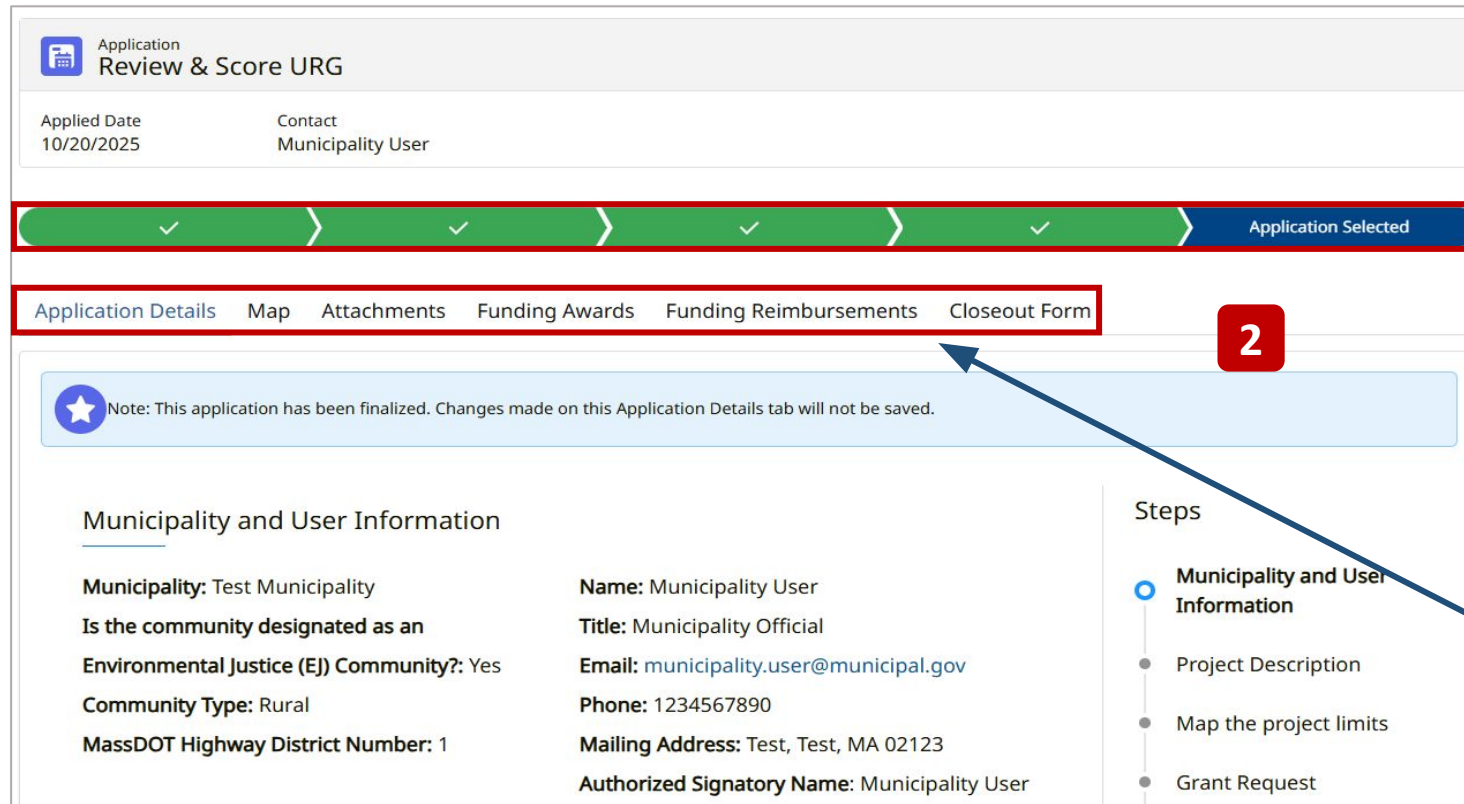
- 1 Once you are on your My Applications page, **Click on the application** you'd like to review.

The screenshot shows a web application interface. At the top is a navigation bar with the MassDOT logo, a search bar labeled "Search Grant Central...", and a user profile icon labeled "municipality.user". Below the navigation bar is a section titled "My Municipality's Applications" with a dropdown arrow. Under this title, it says "50+ items • Sorted by Created Date • Filtered by All individual applications - Grant Type, Application Status". There is a settings icon in the top right of this section. Below this is a table with 7 columns: Application ID, Application Name, Created Date, Funding Round, Contact, Status, and an empty column. The table contains 3 rows of data. The first row has Application ID "IA-0000006413", Application Name "ker 1", Created Date "10/17/2025, 2:55 PM", Funding Round "Complete Streets Funding P...", Contact "Municipality User", and Status "Submitted". The second row has Application ID "IA-0000006412", Application Name "Map URG - all methods", Created Date "10/17/2025, 2:36 PM", Funding Round "Complete Streets Funding P...", Contact "Municipality User", and Status "Submitted". The third row has Application ID "IA-0000006411", Application Name "test", Created Date "10/17/2025, 1:02 PM", Contact "Municipality User", and Status "In Progress". The Application ID "IA-0000006411" in the third row is highlighted with a red box, and a red square with the number "1" is placed next to it.

	Application ID	Application Name	Created Date	Funding Round	Contact	Status	
1	IA-0000006413	ker 1	10/17/2025, 2:55 PM	Complete Streets Funding P...	Municipality User	Submitted	
2	IA-0000006412	Map URG - all methods	10/17/2025, 2:36 PM	Complete Streets Funding P...	Municipality User	Submitted	
3	IA-0000006411	test	10/17/2025, 1:02 PM		Municipality User	In Progress	

A Simpler Portal Experience Cont.

- 2** On the Application page, you will see a **progress bar**, the **Application Details**, **Map**, **Attachments**, **Funding Awards**, **Funding Reimbursements**, and **Closeout Form**.



Application Review & Score URG

Applied Date: 10/20/2025 | Contact: Municipality User

Progress Bar: Application Selected

Navigation: Application Details | Map | Attachments | Funding Awards | Funding Reimbursements | Closeout Form

Note: This application has been finalized. Changes made on this Application Details tab will not be saved.

Municipality and User Information

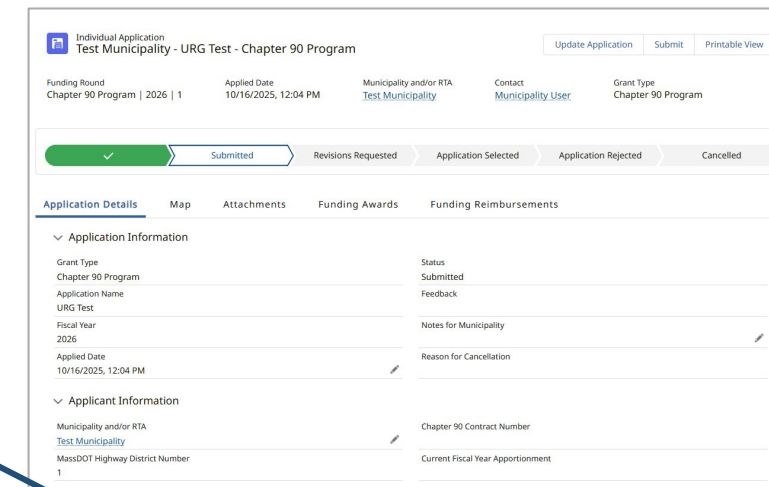
Municipality: Test Municipality
Is the community designated as an Environmental Justice (EJ) Community?: Yes
Community Type: Rural
MassDOT Highway District Number: 1

Name: Municipality User
Title: Municipality Official
Email: municipality.user@municipal.gov
Phone: 1234567890
Mailing Address: Test, Test, MA 02123
Authorized Signatory Name: Municipality User

Steps

- Municipality and User Information
- Project Description
- Map the project limits
- Grant Request

- 3** Applications submitted before Nov 6, Chapter 90 and Municipal Pavement applications will look slightly different from FIA, as shown in this image.



Individual Application Test Municipality - URG Test - Chapter 90 Program

Funding Round: Chapter 90 Program | 2026 | 1 | Applied Date: 10/16/2025, 12:04 PM | Municipality and/or RTA: Test Municipality | Contact: Municipality User | Grant Type: Chapter 90 Program

Progress Bar: Submitted

Navigation: Application Details | Map | Attachments | Funding Awards | Funding Reimbursements

Application Information

Grant Type: Chapter 90 Program
Application Name: URG Test
Fiscal Year: 2026
Applied Date: 10/16/2025, 12:04 PM
Municipality and/or RTA: Test Municipality
MassDOT Highway District Number: 1

Status

Status: Submitted
Feedback
Notes for Municipality
Reason for Cancellation
Chapter 90 Contract Number
Current Fiscal Year Apportionment: 1

Quick Tip! Expense Reimbursements are now called Funding Reimbursements.

- Grant Central will be updated on November 6th
- The MassDOT Grants Team will continue to share updates via email and Grant Central news posts
- New learning resources will be available on Grant Central for on-the-job learning
- Additional training with the same content from today will be held on the following dates and times:

Date	Time
Thursday, November 13	1:00 PM – 2:00 PM
Thursday, December 4	11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

A recorded version of a training will be available on Grant Central in November.

For questions about Grant Central please contact the MassDOT Grants Team at

MassDOTGrantCentral@dot.state.ma.us.



Questions?

Municipal Planning & Support (MP&S) Team

LEAP

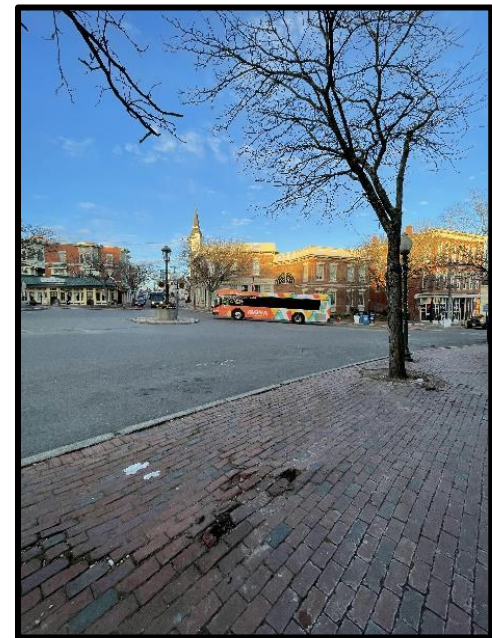
Local Early Actionable Planning



Introduction and Available Services

Background

- MassDOT's Municipal Planning & Support Group's mission is to **connect municipalities with federal funding opportunities** to advance local and regional transportation needs.
- The group will also **provide technical assistance** to Massachusetts communities, with a focus on rural areas and Gateway Cities, to **prepare projects for the receipt of federal funding, develop discretionary grant applications, and assist with coordination efforts** across MassDOT, municipalities, and our partner agencies.

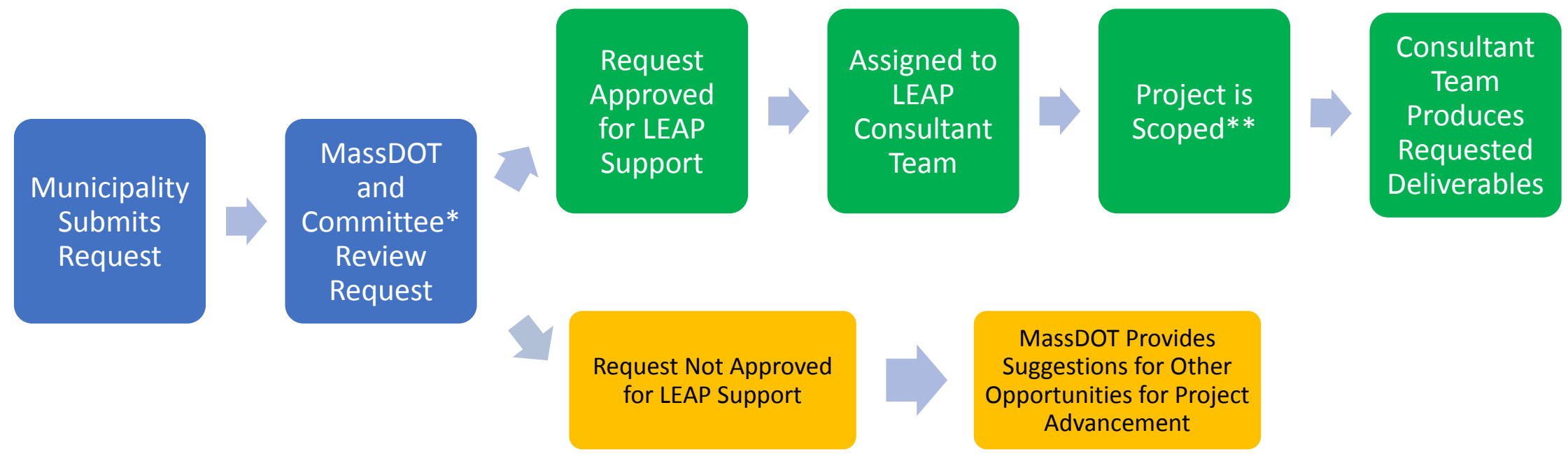


LEAP Program Overview

- **Overview:** MassDOT's Municipal Planning & Support Team have procured consultant support to provide early-stage planning and project development activities for underserved municipalities in Massachusetts.
- **Cost of Available Services:** \$1 million is available in State Fiscal Year 2026. Individual tasks will be roughly between **\$25,000 – \$100,000 for the first round.**
- **Eligible Projects:** Alternatives Analyses to Inform Project Scope, Conceptual Designs, Safe Streets Network Strategy, Grant Application Development, Safety Analysis, Traffic Analysis, Visual and Mapping Support, Cost Estimation, etc.
- **Timing:** Requests are accepted on a rolling basis, but priority deadline was 9/30/2025. **MassDOT received 52 total submissions and is reviewing these now.**
- **How to Request Assistance:** LEAP is not part of the FIA system, you can find the request form on Grant Central [LEAP Page](#)
- **Contact:** Derek Krevat, MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning, Derek.Krevat@dot.state.ma.us



LEAP Program Process Flow



*The Review Committee are made up of MassDOT HQ and District Staff as well as RPAs

** Scoping process will define consultant staffing hours, finalize project budget, and outline specific tasks

Eligible Activities

Concept Development

- ☐ Develop conceptual designs or sketch plans
- ☐ Provide high-level alternatives for short-term improvements
- ☐ Provide high-level alternatives for long-term improvements

Complete Streets Engineering & Design

Safe Streets Network Strategy

- ☐ Identification of priority streets for improvement and development of strategies to support the creation of a safe network for all users, with an emphasis on walking, biking, and taking transit.
- ☐ For an example, please see the [Lynn Safe Streets for People Playbook](#)

Grant Application Development

- ☐ Draft technical components of federal or state grant application

Safety Analysis

- ☐ Create crash diagrams
- ☐ Conduct hot spot/crash pattern analysis

Traffic Analysis

- ☐ Conduct a traffic study
- ☐ Conduct a traffic impact assessment



Eligible Activities (cont.)

Site Investigation and Data Collection

- ☐ Perform field reconnaissance of the project area / Field measurements
- ☐ Collect traffic volume data
- ☐ Conduct speed studies
- ☐ Automatic Traffic Recorder (ATR) counts

Design Documentation Support

- ☐ Assist with completing a Design Justification Workbook (DJW)
- ☐ Provide guidance on required documentation for project development

Cost Estimation

- ☐ Develop preliminary cost estimates for proposed improvements

Visual and Mapping Support

- ☐ Create maps to support project understanding or communication
- ☐ Provide graphic design for outreach materials or plan illustrations

Technical Analysis

- ☐ Conduct geotechnical analysis (e.g., soil and subsurface conditions)
- ☐ Conduct hydraulic analysis (e.g., drainage or flood impacts)



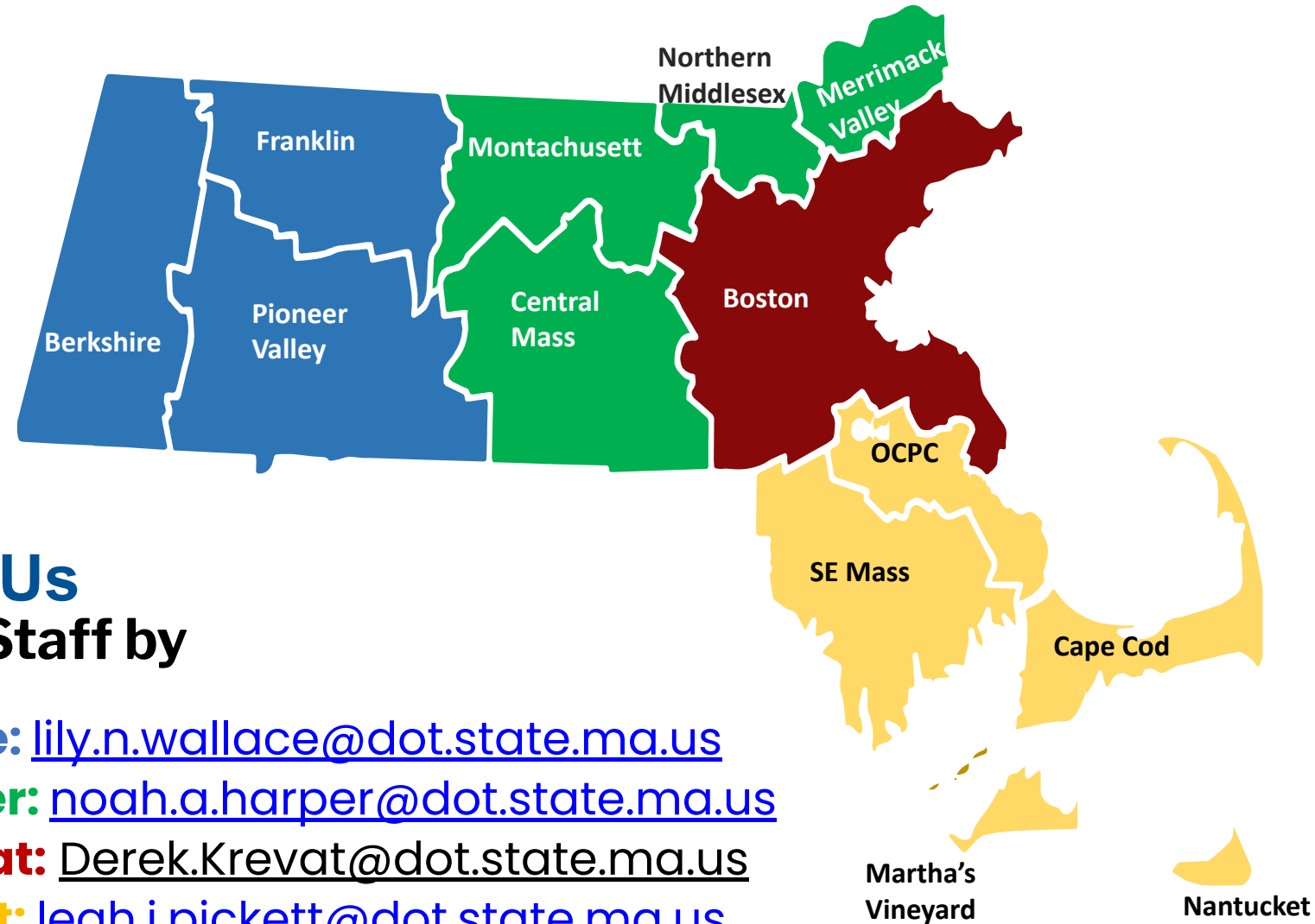
Review Process and Criteria

MassDOT will work **in partnership with Regional Planning Agencies (RPAs) and MassDOT District offices** to review and score each request on a recurring (likely quarterly) basis.

A review team specific to each region will evaluate submissions based on the following criteria:

Scoring Criteria:

- **Community Designation (30%)**
Prioritizes **Rural and Gateway Cities**; also considers similar high-need communities.
- **Community Needs (30%)**
Assesses **municipal capacity** based on request form responses.
- **Project Momentum (20%)**
Favors projects with a **clear, realistic path to implementation** following LEAP Program assistance.
- **Availability of Alternative Funding (20%)**
Considers **local funding constraints** and how program support fills gaps.



Contact Us Program Staff by Region

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Noah Harper: noah.a.harper@dot.state.ma.us

Derek Krevat: Derek.Krevat@dot.state.ma.us

Leah Pickett: leah.i.pickett@dot.state.ma.us

Questions?