

Equity in Infrastructure

Strategy, Influencers, & Data

May 16, 2023





Agenda

01 Infrastructure Legislation Overview

02 Communities & Mobility

03 Digital Infrastructure

04 Equity in Action

05 Implementing Accountability & Change

Infrastructure Legislation → Opportunity

“Recent infrastructure legislation creates opportunity to expand economic resources and quell disparities in many areas”



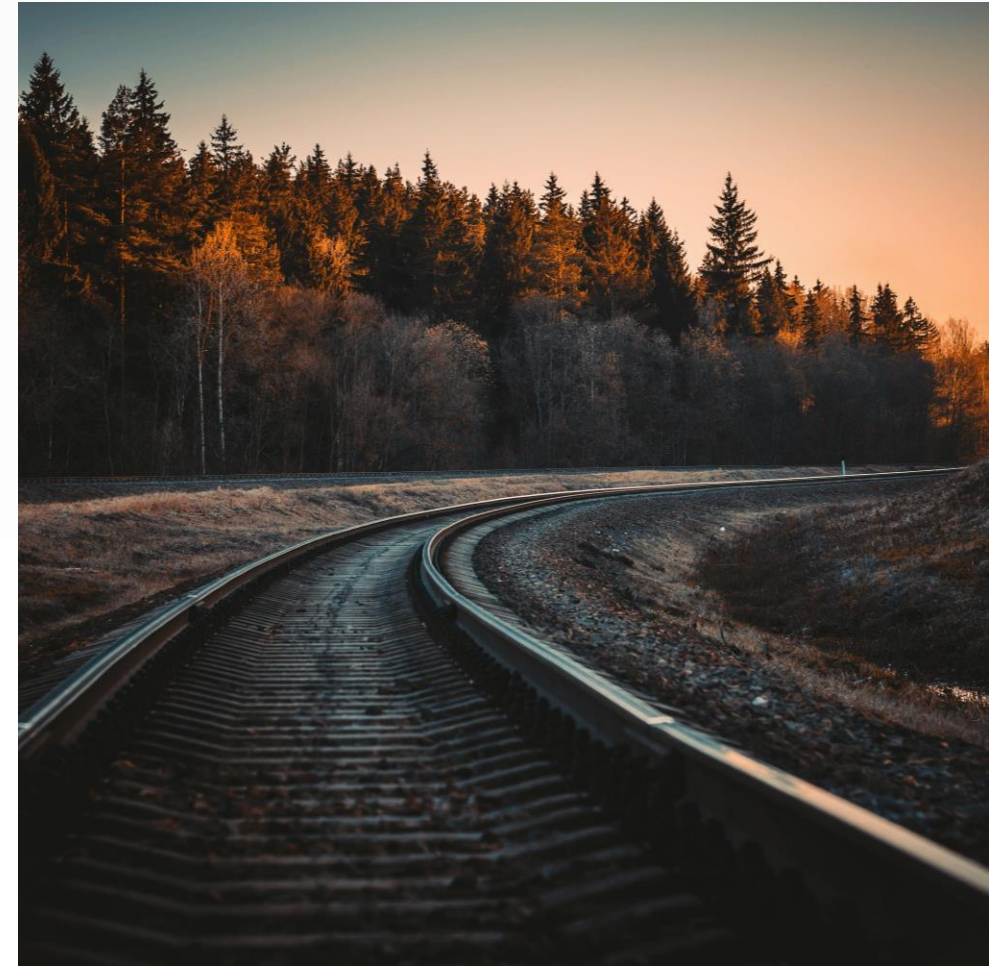
\$1.2 Trillion in Infrastructure Funding



Sound Strategy, Influencers, and Data



More Equitable Communities



Funding Distribution

The White House Infrastructure Implementation Team has released a state-by-state fact sheet, as well as an interactive funding map which highlights awarded funding to date.

The following locations that have already been announced for infrastructure funding programs can be seen here.



Current Funding Updates

- To date, the Administration has announced over \$185 billion in funding and over 6,900 specific projects, reaching over 4,000 communities across all states and territories.

Key Highlights (at the one-year mark):



Launched 2,800 bridge repair and replacement projects across the country








Awarded funds for over 5,000 new clean transit and school buses



Approved state plans for water funding, EV charging networks and high-speed internet deployment

Communities & Mobility Overview

- The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law makes the largest investment in transit ever – with investments in a multitude of areas which provide opportunity to support disadvantaged communities and promote equity.

Key Investment Areas		To Date
	Roads & Bridges <i>USDOT and FHWA announced \$120 billion in appropriations for highways and bridges for FY22 and FY23</i>	Over 2,800 bridge projects launched
	Public Transit <i>USDOT announced \$20.4 billion in FY22 transit funding and a recommendation of \$4.45 billion through Capital Investment Grants program to advance public transit projects across the nation.</i>	
	Accessibility <i>USDOT announced \$1.75 billion to improve accessibility at transit stations across the country.</i>	The first \$343 million was released in July 2022
	Land Ports of Entry <i>GSA awarded \$3.4 billion to build and modernize 26 land ports of entry across the northern and southern borders.</i>	Work has begun at all 26 locations slated for modernization, including preliminary site acquisition activities, environmental reviews, design, and community engagement
	Water Infrastructure <i>EPA announced over \$9 billion in funding in FY22 and FY23 for states, tribes, and territories to upgrade America's water infrastructure. Targeting resources to disadvantaged communities, making progress on lead-free water for all.</i>	

Snapshot - Reconnect Communities

- The *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* includes *\$1 billion* to reconnect communities. (Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program)
- As a result of work programs like the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956, Black and Latino communities across the country were severely impacted due to the creation of new highways.

Some Communities Impacted:



Boyle Heights, Los Angeles

Previously impacted by neighborhood demolition to make new highways, will now benefit from proposals to counteract this harm and reconnect many Latino residents back to schools, churches, etc.



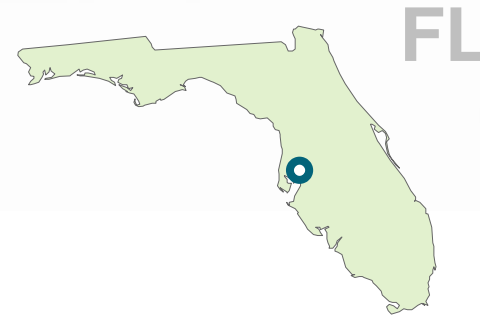
Houston, Texas

Independence Heights neighborhood of Houston, TX is one of the oldest black communities in TX with over 165 more homes impacted by interstate expansions.



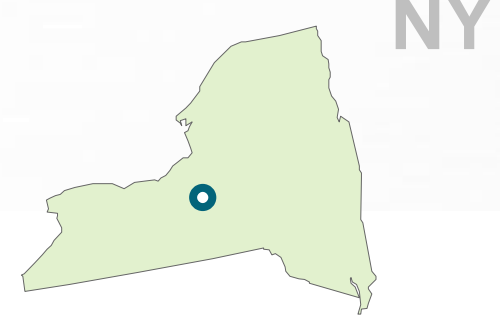
Atlanta, Georgia

Received \$900,000 to study a project to help residents who live by interstates 75 and 85. This project will build a platform over both interstates to create a park and pedestrian walkways.



Tampa, Florida

750 families largely in communities of color, have been displaced in recent decades to widen Interstates 4 and 275 through downtown.





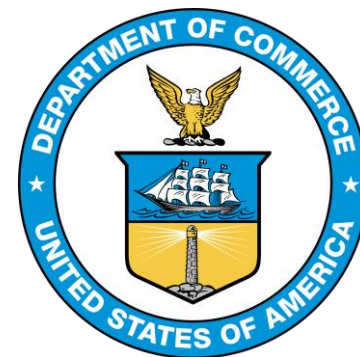
Syracuse, New York

New proposals underway stand to benefit areas like the 15th Ward in Syracuse, NY, which disappeared under the shadows of Interstate 81.

Digital Infrastructure Overview

- The digital infrastructure investments provide the opportunity to better facilitate broadband service to vulnerable populations, including individuals with low incomes and unemployed and elderly people.

Key Investment Areas		To Date
	<p>Affordable Connectivity Programs</p> <p><i>FCC launched the Affordable Connectivity program, which lowers the cost of high-speed internet service for eligible households.</i></p>	More than 14.8 million households have enrolled in affordable, high-speed internet plans.
	<p>Internet for All</p> <p><i>Department of Commerce launched this initiative, releasing NOFOs for three of its major programs.</i></p> <p><i>Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program, the Middle-Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program, and the Digital Equity Planning Grant Program.</i></p>	FCC has since published a map and launched a public challenge process so that public input can inform the ultimate map that will determine how BEAD program funding will be allocated.



Snapshot - Improve Broadband

- According to the Federal Communications Commission, nearly 17 million school children lack internet access at home.
- Urban and rural communities have been disproportionately impacted by this digital divide.

Programs looking to Bridge the Broadband Gap:



Federal Communications Commission

Emergency Broadband Benefit – First and largest program in the US to address broadband affordability to connect eligible applicants to resources such as jobs, health care, and classrooms.

Emergency Connectivity Fund – Helps schools and libraries by funding the costs of laptops, tablets, hotspots, modems, routers, etc.

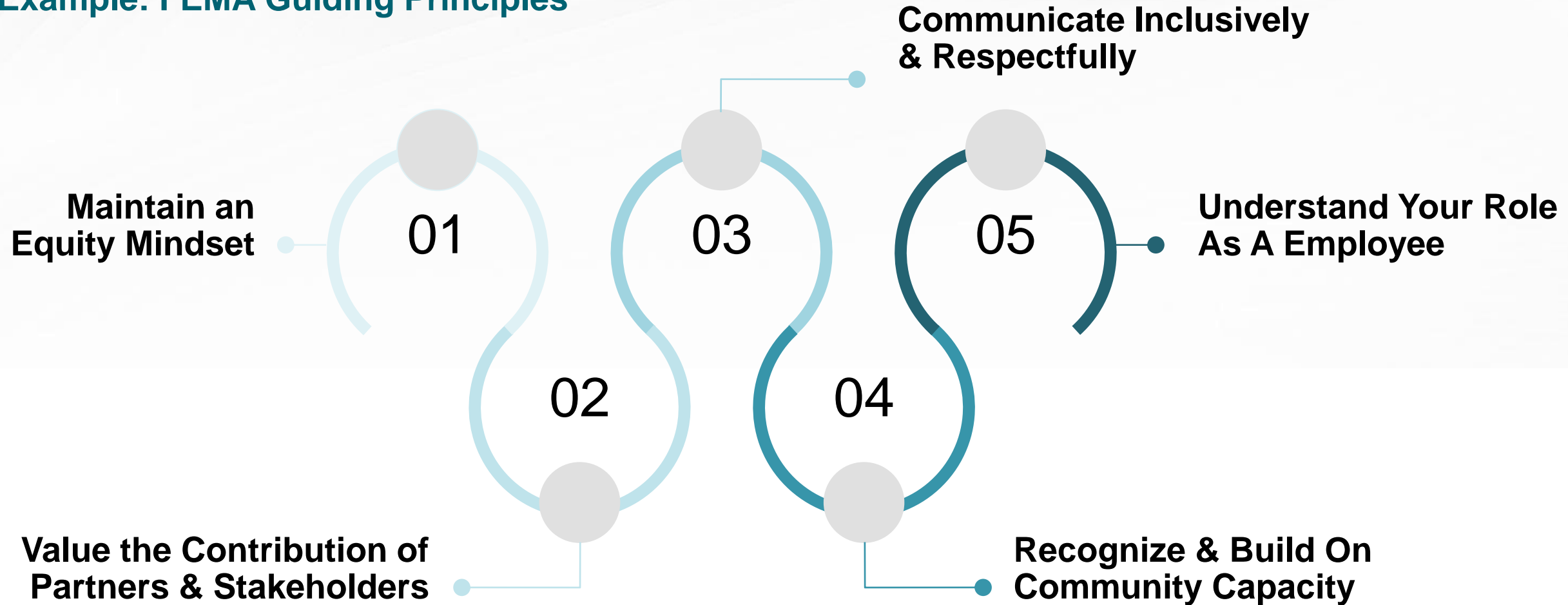


National Telecommunication and Information Administration

Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment Program – 42.45 billion dollar program for state broadband deployment grants to connect unserved and underserved communities.

Equity in Action - Community Engagement

Example: FEMA Guiding Principles



Equity in Action – Challenges

Barriers are conditions or obstacles that prevent someone from using or accessing knowledge and resources.

01

Communication Barriers

Obstacles to finding, understanding, and using information.

02

Physical Barriers

Obstacles to physically navigating a space

03

Administrative Barriers

Obstacles to accessing services and amenities

04

Personal/Social Barriers

Obstacles caused or increased by harmful stereotypes, stigma, socioeconomic states, religion, race, ethnicity, or gender



Accountability in Infrastructure

- Prudent implementation requires effective administration, management, and evidence-based reporting of funds and outcomes.
- With that in mind, state and local leaders might consider the following suggestions to help effectively address longstanding inequity and mitigate management challenges.

Implementing Change:



Promote & Measure Equitable Outcomes

Measure Program Equity with Requirements of Four Areas:

01

Goals

Is the intention to serve historically underserved, marginalized or adversely affected groups?

02

Awareness

Is it practical to make all residents or businesses equally aware of the services funded?

03

Access and Distribution

Do targeted groups face differences in levels of access to benefits and services? Will administrative requirements result in disparities in the ability to complete applications or meet eligibility criteria?

04

Outcomes

Are intended outcomes focused on closing gaps, reaching universal levels of service or making progress toward equity?



“Equality is leaving the door open for anyone who has the means to approach it; *equity* is ensuring there is a pathway to that door for those who need it.”

- *Caroline Belden, Writer*

Thank you for your time!

Q&A Portion

About the Speaker



Wendy Morton-Huddleston

Partner

wmortonhuddleston@guidedhousefederal.com

(202) 960-1353

Wendy Morton-Huddleston, CGFM, PMP is a Partner at Guidehouse in the Defense & Security Segment. Wendy provides strategic insights in risk advisory, finance transformation, strategic planning and process optimization. Wendy served as the AGA 2020-2021 National President. Wendy has a Master of Business Administration and Master of Science in Finance from the University of Maryland, Bachelor of Science in Business from Norfolk State University and an Executive Leadership Certificate from Cornell University.



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