

Rural, Planning

STEP UP Alabama: Safe Transportation for Every Pedestrian in Underserved Communities Program in Alabama

Auburn University

Barbour, Butler, Coffee, Covington, Dallas, Greene, Macon, Marengo, and Pike Counties, Alabama

Grant Funding: \$1,303,972

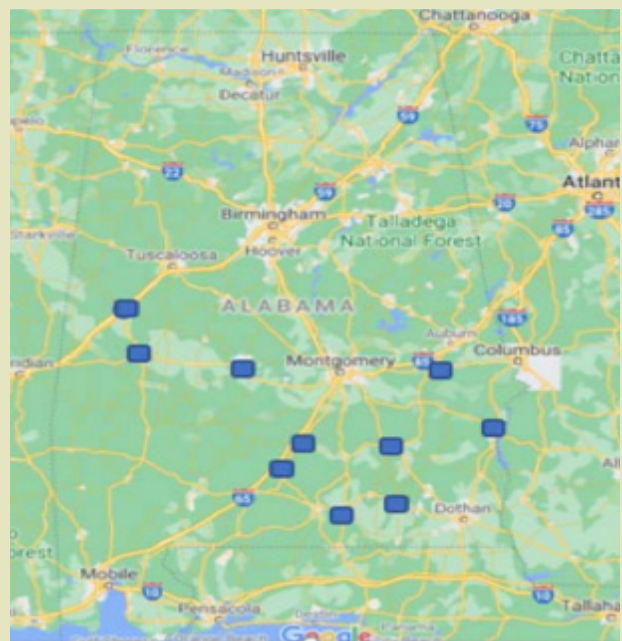
Estimated Total Project Costs: \$1,303,972

Description:

This planning grant will fund community outreach and subsequent construction plans for pedestrian improvement projects at 11 sites within 10 communities in Alabama's rural Black Belt region. The project sites are all located within Areas of Persistent Poverty and were selected due to the existence of nearby public housing, the number of pedestrian trip generators, and the relative absence of adequate pedestrian infrastructure.

Benefits:

Seven of the 11 project sites are located in counties ranked in the top 25% of pedestrian involved crashes in Alabama. The construction plans will be developed with pedestrian safety as the highest priority. The project plans will also enhance accessibility for wheelchair users, and provide more safe options for residents in these communities, enhancing quality of life. Where sidewalks do exist, the plans developed with this grant will address their poor condition. Finally, the project emphasizes community outreach as part of the development process, working with non-profit partners to ensure local participation.



The Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity, or RAISE Discretionary Grant program, provides a unique opportunity for the DOT to invest in road, rail, transit and port projects that promise to achieve national objectives. Previously known as BUILD and TIGER, Congress has dedicated nearly \$10.1 billion for 13 rounds of National Infrastructure Investments to fund projects that have a significant local or regional impact. The President's Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill will add \$1.5 billion per year to this program.