CITY OF CLEVELAND
Mayor Justin M. Bibb

Regional Infrastructure Accelerator (RIA)

2024-2025 Grant Program

923-2026

Development, Planning and Sustainability Committee

Tuesday, October 6, 2026

About the RIA Program

- **Grantor**: U.S. Department of Transportation - Build America Bureau

- **Program Description**: Authorized in the 2015 Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST), the Regional Infrastructure Accelerators (RIA) Program assists entities in developing improved infrastructure priorities and financing strategies for the accelerated development of a project that is likely eligible for U.S. Department of Transportation credit assistance.

- **Accelerators** serve defined geographic areas and act as resources to:
  - Evaluate and promote innovative financing methods for local projects.
  - Build the capacity of state, local, and tribal governments to evaluate and structure projects involving private investment.
  - Provide technical assistance and information on best practices for infrastructure financing.
  - Increase transparency in infrastructure project analysis and innovative financing for public infrastructure projects.
  - Facilitate creation of pipelines of investment-ready infrastructure projects.

RIA Grant Award Details

- **Award amount**: $1,150,000
  - *Cleveland among 20 award recipients; $20M total grant awards*
- **Grant term**: 36 months performance period
- **Purpose of grant**: This grant will allow the City to identify potential projects eligible for additional funding under the TIFIA and RRIF programs as well as support the ongoing project of creating an accessible lakefront and riverfront.
- **No match required** for this grant
- **DOT may provide additional time and/or resources** to closeout upon expiration or termination of Cooperative Agreement
- **No increment (fee or profit)** above cost may be paid to the recipient or subrecipient under this award

RIA Grant Scope

Technical experts working in consulting capacity from specialized financing, design, engineering, and other relevant firms will supplement City staff knowledge and capacity to compressively deliver services.

- Build financial models, financial plans, and obtain credit opinions necessary to structure deals
- Develop cost-benefit analyses for various project delivery methods for projects
- Assist in formalizing public-private partnerships
- Manage pre-construction activities to ensure projects are TIFIA and RRIF eligible
- Assist with project bundling and phasing
- Conduct market analyses to support promotion of transit-oriented development opportunities
- Develop communications and engagement strategies to engage developers, financial partners, and the public

Legislation Request (923-2026)

- Authorization for the Directors of Development and/or Finance to apply for and accept the $1,150,000 RIA Grant

- Employ by contract(s) one or more consultants or consultant firms for the purpose of supplementing the regularly employed City of Cleveland staff in order to provide professional services necessary to implement the scope of the grant

Thank You

Department of Development