



CAPABILITIES

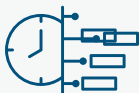
# Grant Assistance

## Project Identification through Implementation

VHB can help you every step of the way—from identifying a project that may qualify for a state or federal grant, to providing grant writing support, and continuing to project planning, design, and construction. As a full-service firm of planners, engineers, and environmental scientists, we have the in-house skills and experience to support grant applications with the requisite technical acumen to demonstrate project readiness and funding viability.

## Our Funding Readiness Approach

The grant funding process is highly competitive. With numerous state agencies and municipalities facing similar challenges, many are contending for the same limited funding opportunities. Based on our experience securing funding for clients across the East Coast, we've identified the following keys to a successful process:



» **Entrust Dedicated Time and Resources.** Tracking funding sources, understanding the nuanced requirements, and crafting a clearly articulated approach with focused objectives and defined outcomes requires dedicated resources with experience navigating this complex process. While this process can be complicated, the upfront investment in engaging the right resources will set the stage for future success.



» **Align Plans with the Funding Priorities and Criteria.** At the core of any successful grant or funding application is a plan that is visionary and practical that clearly demonstrates need and the viability of the project within the community. Grant writers must have a comprehensive knowledge of the program's goals and priorities and the ability to convey how a project aligns with those plans. With a solid strategy in place and viable projects clearly identified and articulated, state and local leaders are armed with the information needed to secure funding in the current competitive environment.



» **Validate Project Feasibility—Supporting Documents and Studies.** While many grants do not specifically require supporting documentation, agencies are more willing to fund a project that has proven need and support through supplemental data and studies. To meet the grant-specific guidelines, applicants must often prepare technically complex feasibility reports, environmental reviews, financing plans, robust economic analyses, and proof of public support. Having this requisite technical data can demonstrate project readiness and improve the likelihood of success.

**In summary, VHB supports clients in need of grant funding through a holistic and inclusive planning process, rooted in comprehensive knowledge of funding priorities and criteria, to help increase the competitiveness of their applications and better position their projects for success.**



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## Services We Provide

VHB has secured millions of dollars to help our clients supplement limited state and municipal budgets to invest in new projects and programs. VHB is familiar with grant and funding application processes for a wide range of needs, including:

- » Infrastructure development and maintenance
- » Safety improvements
- » Environmental protection and sustainability

We work directly with municipalities and state DOTs to determine the best fit for potential funding and how to strategically leverage specific assets in applications to secure the necessary funds. VHB's service offerings include:



### Funding Needs Analysis

identifying key projects and funding requirements



### Grant Funding Research

investigation and reporting of state and federal grant resources



### Capital Improvement Plan Audit

project identification



### Grant Proposal Management and Development

detailed scope, budget, and submission schedule

## A History of Success

VHB has extensive experience working with clients in both the public and private sectors to identify, apply, and win grants. We also have experience preparing the technical data required to validate a grant application. VHB is familiar with federal and state grant processes related to funding the planning, design, construction and operations of transportation services and infrastructure. Our assistance to state agencies, municipalities, non-profits, and private parties in securing federal and state assistance has increased dramatically over the years due in large part to the availability of federal funding opportunities, such as the RAISE Program.

Since 2009, VHB has partnered with our transportation clients in their pursuit of TIGER Discretionary Grant funding, including:

**\$80 million**

Rhode Island  
Department of  
Transportation

**\$71.4 million**

Massachusetts  
Department of  
Transportation

**\$109 million**

Connecticut  
Department of  
Transportation

**\$93.4 million**

Metropolitan  
Washington  
Airports Authority



## U.S. DOT TIGER Discretionary Grant Funding Experience

### Pawtucket/Central Falls Commuter Rail Station, Pawtucket, RI

Working with RIDOT, VHB helped to identify the eligible project and supported the TIGER grant application effort, then went on to lead the planning, permitting, and design through final delivery of RIDOT's \$13M Pawtucket/Central Falls Commuter Rail Station. The new station improved infrastructure along Amtrak's Northeast Corridor and provided a new intermodal connection between commuter rail and local bus service.



### Fast Track New Bedford TIGER Grant Application, New Bedford, MA

VHB assisted MassDOT in the development of a successful \$20 million TIGER Grant application for the reconstruction of three rail bridges vital to the creation of a commuter rail connection to southern Massachusetts. VHB provided assistance with the grant application writing and compilation, including cost estimates and benefit-cost analysis of the rail project.



### MWCOG TIGER Grant Project Management, Washington, D.C.

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) was awarded a \$58.8 million TIGER Discretionary Grant to develop and implement priority bus transit in the National Capital Region. VHB provided management and administration support to MWCOG and its grant sub recipients to timely and accurately draw down on the grant and provide federally required reports. VHB also assisted MWCOG in conducting performance monitoring of 16 projects that were implemented under the TIGER grant for Priority Bus Transit in the National Capital Region.



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## How VHB Can Help

On April 13, 2021 the U.S. DOT announced the availability of \$1 billion in infrastructure funding in FY 2021 through [RAISE Discretionary Grants](#) to modernize and create new American infrastructure. **The Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Program** was formally known as Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) during the Trump administration and Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) during the Obama administration.

**From TIGER to BUILD, and now RAISE—VHB is here to help you understand and navigate potential funding opportunities for your next project.** RAISE Grants will fuel transportation projects that stimulate the economy, improve safety, and focus on sustainability, resiliency, and equity—key areas that VHB has always been focused on.

Contact our Transportation Market Leader, Steve McElligott, to learn more about our future-focused transportation solutions to provide for a sustainable, resilient, equitable future.



**Steve McElligott, PE**

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Transportation Agencies Market Leader*

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[Visit VHB Viewpoints](#) to learn more about VHB's thought leadership on sustainability, resiliency, equity and technology.