

So Now What...?

Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan

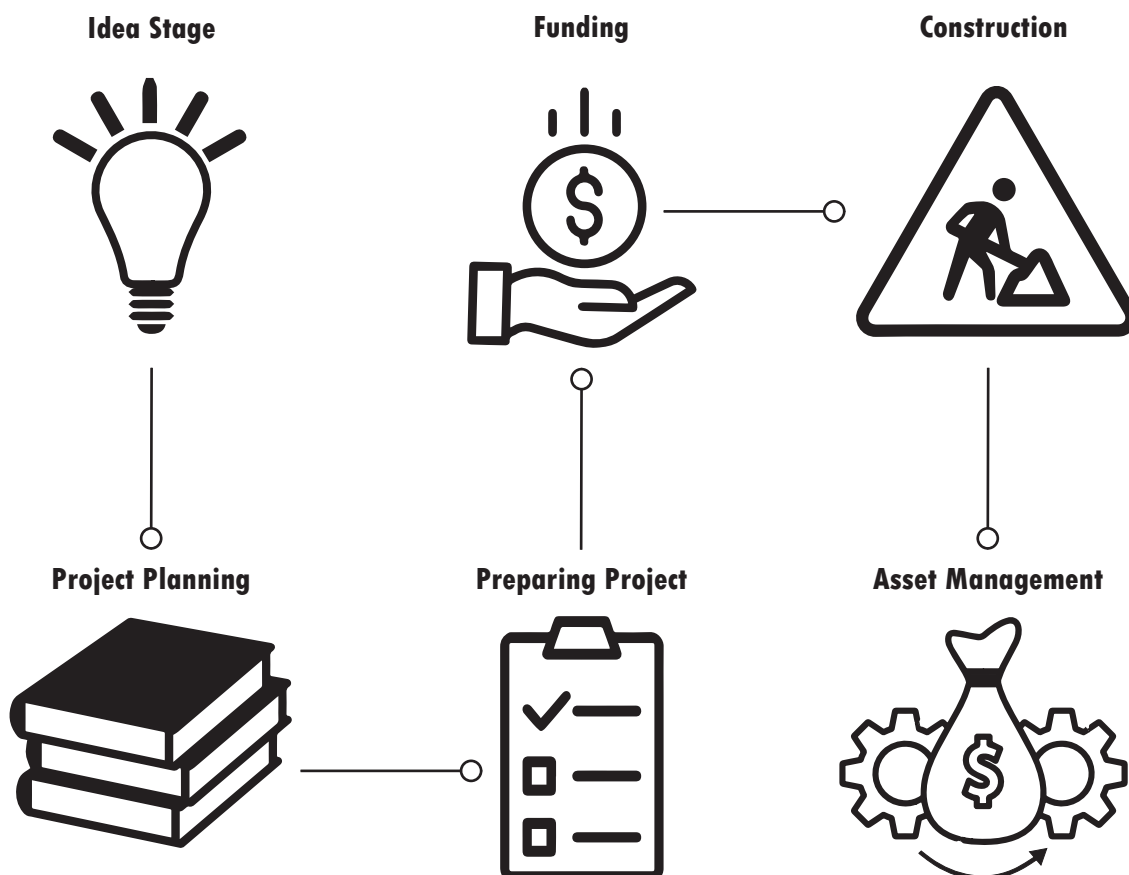
If your community has completed and submitted its Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) – the question becomes, SO NOW WHAT?

We all realize that the ICIP is only a planning tool and a per-requisite for applying for funding. It really is a process to help policy officials focus and select their top priorities. It is also a way to create a financing strategy and year-round game-plan to attract project resources through various local, State, Federal, and other sources by applying and gaining funding. Each program has different timelines and application processes. The same type of information is used by most grant and loan sources, but no universal application has really been implemented with much success.

Projecteering

Since it is unlikely to get a major project completed with only one source of funding or in one year these days, "Projecteers" need to systemically plan and time a strategy to pull together a portfolio of investors and sources to get full project funding.

'Projecteers' are basically the folks or staff in your community that lose sleep over the "Projecteering" process and successfully completing community projects. 'Projecteering' is the process of getting a project from:



Timing a Project

So, to be a successful Projecteer, the COG recommends that folks live by a full cycle planning and full circle funding philosophy. Basically, this philosophy is that Projecteers plan and update projects on an ongoing basis and work on landing project funding from various sources -- 365 days a year.

So, Projecteers need to be well versed on program time-frames, parameters, and nuances.

Next is a list of the normal and routine funding sources and the major due dates – please note there are usually more than meets the eye in terms of what it takes to qualify and be successful.

Transportation Projects - there are various sources and programs within the Federal Highway Administration and NM Department of Transportation depending on project type. To make it easier, the Northwest Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) conducted a comprehensive "Call for Projects" April 2021. Whether it's a bridge, trail, transit, safe route to school, or any other type of transportation project – there is one universal way into the process, the Project Feasibility Form, which was due June 11th. This will be for funding typically in years FY22-23 and is biennial process. Work through your local RTPO representative for more information.
www.nwnmcog.com/rtpo

Water Projects - the Water Trust Fund's Board is soliciting water projects currently. Again, whether it's a storage, flood control, conservation, or restoration type of water project – there is one universal way into the process, the Initial Application, which is due October 8, 2021. Water Trust Fund program information.
<https://www.nmfa.net/financing/water-programs/water-project-fund/>

Capital Outlay - New Mexico is one of only a handful of States that utilizes its severance tax bonds to fund local, regional, and Statewide infrastructure and major equipment projects, including roads, facilities, water, wastewater, etc. Here is a link to the Legislative Council Services background paper on the program:
https://www.nmlegis.gov/Publications/Info_Bulletins/2017/Capital_Outlay_Primer_For_2018.pdf
Requests are submitted via local Legislators, using the Legislative Council Services capital outlay request form.
https://www.nmlegis.gov/Legislation/BillFinder/Capital_Outlay_Request_Forms

Senior Center Facilities - The Aging and Long-Term Services Department (ALTSD) administers an application process to fund senior center facilities statewide. Such projects include those awarded to both local government and tribal government providers for renovation and construction of senior centers, and for the purchase of vehicles and large commercial kitchen equipment. A capital outlay legislative request for senior center projects is submitted annually by ALTSD.
<http://www.nmaging.state.nm.us/capital-outlay.aspx>

Tribal Infrastructure Fund - TIF was created by the Tribal Infrastructure Act in 2005. This act recognizes that many of New Mexico's tribal communities lack basic infrastructure, including, but not limited to water and wastewater systems, roads, and electrical power lines. All tribes, nations and pueblos in the State of New Mexico have an opportunity to submit project proposals for plan, design and construction. <http://www.iad.state.nm.us/>

Community Development Block Grant - a Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD) program that is available to invest funding into various planning and construction projects in low income communities. Applications through the NM Department of Finance's Local Government Division for their small cities and communities program is September 3, 2021. Current Application guidelines.
<https://www.nmdfa.state.nm.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/2021-CDBG-Application-5-2021.pdf>

Local Government Budgets - annually counties, cities, and other governmental entities put together budgets that should support matching funds for critical and prioritized projects. Most entities start putting budgets and holding budget meetings in April/May each year.

New Mexico Finance Authority - offers various grant and loan programs for both planning and construction on an ongoing and periodic basis. More information on programs. <http://www.nmfa.net/>

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) - offers various grant and loan programs for both planning and construction on an ongoing and periodic basis. More information on programs. <https://www.rd.usda.gov/nm>

New Mexico Environment Department - offers various grant and loan programs for projects related to water, wastewater, and solid waste system improvements on an ongoing and periodic basis. There is one universal way into the process, the Project Interest Survey or <https://www.env.nm.gov/wit/>
More information on water and wastewater programs: <https://www.env.nm.gov/cpb/FinanceServices.htm>
More information on solid waste programs: <https://www.env.nm.gov/swb/GrantandLoanPrograms.htm>

Economic Development Projects- there are several sources and tax incentives that can be packaged or provided for public works projects and/or business development opportunities to create a fertile business climate. Multiple sources that can be leveraged go through the FUNDIT program, which includes Economic Development Administration's Public Works program and the State's Local Economic Development Act capital outlay program. To learn more, please contact us or Lorraine Ruggles, Regional Representative, NM Economic Development Department at (505) 490-7662 or go to: <https://gonm.biz/business-resource-center/edd-programs-for-business/finance-development/fundit/>

Need assistance with projecteering, please contact:
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