



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Highway
Administration**

Wildlife Crossings Program

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Background

Congress found that there are more than 1,000,000 WVCs annually which present a danger to human safety, cost over \$8 billion, and result in approximately tens of thousands of serious injuries and hundreds of fatalities on U.S. roadways. In addition, Congress found that WVCs pose a danger to wildlife survival and are a major threat to the survival of species.



Wildlife Crossings Program Contacts

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For more information:

Website Link:

<https://highways.dot.gov/federal-lands/programs/wildlife-crossings>

Email: wildlifecrossings@dot.gov

Wildlife Crossings Program Components:

- **Discretionary Grant Pilot Program (23 U.S.C. § 171)**
 - Also called the Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program (WCPP)
 - Provides competitive grants for projects that aim to reduce WVCs and improve habitat connectivity for terrestrial and aquatic species
 - \$350 million total available for fiscal years 2022-2026 for construction and non-construction projects
 - Eligible applicants: State DOT; MPO; local government; regional transportation authority; special purpose district or public authority with a transportation function; Indian Tribe; or FLMA
- **Best Practices Study and Report (23 U.S.C. § 172(a))**
 - FHWA will conduct a study of the state of practice of methods to reduce WVCs and to improve habitat connectivity and submit a report to Congress on the results of the study
- **Guidance for Statewide Transportation and Wildlife Action Plans (23 U.S.C. § 172(a)(3)(B)(iv))**
 - FHWA will provide guidance for developing a voluntary joint Statewide Transportation and Wildlife Action Plan, consulting with FLMAs, State DOTs, State fish and wildlife agencies, and Tribal governments that agree to participate in the development of the guidance
- **Collision and Carcass Data Methodology (23 U.S.C. § 172(c)(1))**
 - FHWA will develop standardized methodology for collecting and reporting spatially accurate wildlife collision and carcass data for the National Highway System
- **Collision and Carcass Data Template and Implementation (23 U.S.C. § 172(c)(2))**
 - FHWA will develop a template for State implementation of a standardized national wildlife collision and carcass data system and encourage voluntary implementation of the template



- **Wildlife Crossing Design Standards (23 U.S.C. § 109(c)(2)(F))**
 - FHWA will consider "Wildlife Crossing Structure Handbook: Design and Evaluation in North America" (2011) in developing Design Criteria for the National Highway System (NHS)
- **Wildlife Crash Safety Research Priorities**
 - FHWA must include a representative from a wildlife, land use, or resource management agency in the Advisory Committee (23 U.S.C. § 515(h)(2)(D)), and prioritize projects that enhance safety through improved crash notification, avoidance and protection, vehicle operations, and safety systems, including animal detection systems to reduce the number of WVCs (23 U.S.C. § 516(b)(6)).



- **National Mitigation Threshold Guidance (23 U.S.C. § 172(d))**
 - FHWA will establish guidance containing a threshold for determining whether a highway must be evaluated for potential mitigation measures to reduce WVCs and increase habitat connectivity
- **Bridge and Tunnel Inspection Standards and Training (23 U.S.C. § 144(b)(6))**
 - FHWA will determine if replacement or rehabilitation of bridges and tunnels should include measures for safe passage for terrestrial and aquatic species
- **Workforce Development and Technical Training (23 U.S.C. § 172(b))**
 - FHWA will develop a series of in-person and online workforce development and technical training courses to reduce WVCs and improve habitat connectivity