



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of Grants and Research
Highway Safety Division

FFY26 Municipal Road Safety Technical Assistance Webinar Q+A

Q: Has NHTSA responded to inquiries about drone purchases with MRS funding?

A: NHTSA has specific guidance regarding the use of drones and currently have only received feedback regarding allowability for specific crash reconstruction projects which are not currently under the scope of the MRS grant.

Q: Will you be sharing this presentation with attendees?

A: Yes, a copy of the PowerPoint can be found here – [Municipal Road Safety Grant Program](#) – under – Resources for MRS Grant Recipients – Additional Materials.

Q: Why do you not allow departments the opportunity to purchase cruiser mounted radar units?

A: NHTSA guidance does not currently allow for cruiser mounted radar units to be purchased under this grant. Equipment purchased under this grant is intended for specific enforcement campaigns and/or project use and not for everyday use.

Q: I have had an issue where the Cognito link has not reopened the application, or an activity report and I had to start all over again.

A: Please reach out to your coordinator or OGR.MRS@mass.gov. They will be able to troubleshoot this issue and re-send the link.

Q: When looking at the crash data portal our numbers are skewed due to the inclusion of fatalities on a stretch of 495 that goes through town. Should those numbers be excluded from the grant request or included?

A: Yes, please include the totals provided via the available data sources (such as the IMPACT crash portal) but you may further clarify the data provided within your department narrative/overview that would be helpful for grant reviewers. If you use more localized data for goals/objectives, just be sure to highlight that within your proposal as well.

Q: Can we purchase a message board for media campaigns?

A: Message boards may be allowable to purchase but must be grant-specific and used only for related grant and/or program activities such as promoting awareness of National Traffic Safety Campaigns or Mobilizations such as Drive Sober, Click it or Ticket, etc.

Q: Can we purchase lawn signs for a campaign for different related traffic issues in our community?

A: Yard signs may be allowable to purchase as they qualify under "advertising media" intended to reach a large audience, such as a sign telling drivers to "Watch for Motorcycles," etc.

Q: Can communities use a portion of funds for drivers ed? Like we could in FY 2025?

A: Yes, this type of activity may be allowable under Element III if it ties into current community needs/problem ID.

Q: I would like to buy traffic cones as part of the equipment, they will help during our bike rodeo that we do and notify the public of road hazards, block streets, etc. Is this possible as it's not one of the qualified equipment purchases?

A: Yes, this type of purchase would be considered allowable as a component of the bike rodeo activity. However, please note that all items purchased under this grant must be used only for the approved grant activity that it supports and are not intended for general use.

Q: Are campus police departments eligible for this grant?

A: This grant program is currently only open to municipal police departments.

Q: Does the General Subrecipient Grant Conditions need to be submitted with the application?

A: No – the General Subrecipient Grant Conditions document is just included on the website for your reference as it contains additional information for applicants to be aware of when putting together proposals. Awardees are required to adhere to the condition listed and will be asked to review, and complete the grant conditions during the contracting process if you are selected for funding

Q: If you don't use all budgeted Traffic Enforcement Overtime funds for a certain month, can you roll these funds over to another month for additional enforcement overtime?

A: Yes, traffic enforcement funds may be rolled over to another month/campaign period, however, please note that funds should remain in the same budget category (e.g. Traffic Enforcement). For example, if planning to conduct 40 hours of Traffic Enforcement (TE) in May and were only able to conduct 20, the remaining funds may be over the remainder of the grant period for future TE campaigns.

Q: Can we purchase accessories, such as solar panels, for equipment we already have?

A: No, accessories for prior equipment purchases or equipment purchased with other funds is not allowed.

Q: Can grant funds be used to pay for an officer to attend training pertaining to traffic safety?

A: Yes, overtime costs for officers to attend trainings is an eligible expense. Please note that this only applies for costs related to officers attending a training outside of their regular shift or straight time schedule.

Q: Who needs to sign the application?

A: The application states that the Authorizing Official Contact is the agency head, and they will be the one who will sign the application.

Q: Do we need to mail, or hand deliver a signed copy of the application to your office?

A: OGR does not require a hard copy to be delivered to our office. You will sign and submit the application online via the Cognito platform. After submission, you will receive a confirmation email along with a copy of the completed application including any attachments that were uploaded. Be sure to save these files for your grant records!

Q: I am having trouble seeing all the information in the crash by town report.

A: Please download the report to view all columns. Once downloaded, you should be able to open the file and view eight (8) columns starting with *5-Year Totals (2020 – 2024)* to *Distracted Driving Involved*.