

IDAHO FEDERAL LANDS ACCESS PROGRAM MEETING

September 26, 2012

Idaho Department of Transportation

Division of Aeronautics

3483 Rickenbacker Street

(next to the Boise Airport)

Boise, ID 83705

Conference Room

1:00 – 4:00

Agenda

Telephone Conference Number: 1-866-859-0785

Passcode: 9115754

Objectives:

- Common understanding of the Access Program
 - Understanding of roles and responsibilities
 - Short and long term strategies for moving forward
1. Introductions
 2. Review and adjust agenda
 3. Overview of MAP-21 and Federal Lands Access Program
 4. Roles and Responsibilities
 - a. Role of Programming Decisions Committee
 - b. Role of Federal Land Management Agencies
 - c. Role of Western Federal Lands
 5. Short Term Strategy for Moving Forward
 - a. FY13 Program – decision needed
 - i. Projects to fund
 1. Construction for FY 13 Programmed Projects
 2. Project Development for FY13 Programmed Projects
 6. Long Term Strategy
 - a. Call for projects – decision needed
 - i. Which projects re-compete
 - ii. Timing
 - iii. Goal areas
 7. Next Steps
 8. Schedule next meeting

Idaho Federal Lands Access Program Meeting

September 26, 2012

Idaho Transportation Department Division of Aeronautics Building
Boise, ID

1) Introductions

Welcome to the first Idaho Programming Decisions Committee meeting for the new Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) that was established from the Transportation Bill Reauthorization (MAP-21). The objective of this program is to improve access to federal lands on Public Roads, Highways, Trails, and Transit systems on transportation facilities that are under non-federal jurisdiction or maintenance.

Objectives of the meeting:

- Develop a common understanding of the Access Program
- Understand roles and responsibilities of the parties involved
- Discuss short and long term strategies for moving forward

The meeting was attended by the PDC and representatives of the NPS, US Forest Service, US Army Corps of Engineers, and BLM. The Fish and Wild Service was contacted but could not attend. An Attendee List is attached.

On the Phone:

- Gary Hunter (BLM)
- Diane Croal (NPS)
- Heather Burke (USACE)

2) Review and Adjust Agenda

- Agenda was adopted as presented

3) Overview of MAP-21 and Federal Lands Access Program

Western Federal Lands (WFLHD) gave an overview presentation on the portions of MAP-21 that apply to the FLTP and FLAP programs.

Discussion:

- TRIP program (Paul Sarbanes) has not been reauthorized. Alternative Transportation projects are now eligible under the Access program.

4) Roles and Responsibilities

a) Programming Decisions Committee (PDC)

- The PDC by statute is composed of representatives from the State DOT, FHWA and an appropriate local political subdivision of the state.
- The PDC will composed of the following representatives:
 - Tom Cole, Idaho Transportation Department (ITD)
 - Jerry Flatz, Local Highway Technical Assistance Council (LHTAC)
 - Phyllis Chun, Western Federal Lands Highway Division, FHWA (WFLHD)
- The PDC is responsible for decisions related to the programming of projects for the FLAP.

b) Federal Land Management Agencies

- Purpose is to provide access to federal lands and thus the FLMAs need to be consulted. The PDC is required to consult with all appropriate Federal Land Management Agencies before programming decisions are made.
- MAP-21 specifies that preference be given to High Use Recreation Sites and Federal Economic Generators. Each FLMA will need to define these terms as to how it applies to their agency. Most of the FLMAs are working on those definitions at a national level.
- Work with the appropriate public road agencies for project application and development.

c) Western Federal Lands

- Represent interests of all FLMAs
- Lead the PDC, coordinate the meetings, and lead development of program of projects.
- WFLHD has a full complement of expertise to deliver projects including planning, environmental, design and construction. WFLHD hopes to deliver much of the program.
- Receives the funding allocation from the Federal Lands national office and provides stewardship and oversight of the funds.

d) Counties and DOT

- You own and operate the routes that are eligible
- Work with the FLMAs directly on project submittals and provide information needed for the call.

5) Short Term Strategy for Moving Forward FY 2013 Program

The group discussed that we need to keep the delivery of projects going through the transition to the full program.

Discussion:

- Even though MAP-21 is only a two year bill for 2013 -2014, we expect it to continue. We need to plan for both the short term (2 years) and long term (4-5 years)
- All funds after 10/1/2012 will need to be approved by the PDC

- It appears that Idaho will receive a small amount of additional funding compared to the Forest Highway allocation.
- There was an approved program of projects in the Forest Highway program. We want to be able to have the new players participate but it takes time to develop projects.
- We want to be able to include needs expressed by the new FLMAs (NPS, FWS, BLM, USACE).
- Need to deliver projects in 2013

What do we want to do in 2013 to allow the new FLMAs to participate?

- We should keep projects moving if there has been a significant investment in them already
- If a new call for projects is done this winter, additional projects could be considered both in the short and long term.
- We would like to continue the 2013 program which is focused on Ketchum/Challis Warm Springs section and Manning Crevice Bridge.
- Phyllis explained the existing Forest Highway program sheet as a possible place to start and went over what was on the program for delivery in 2013. Additional things to consider:
 - There will be some additional funds based on non-federal match (7.34%) which will free up some funds available for new projects
- County Match Ability
 - Boise County has no funding available for match. It will be very difficult to find funding in this county.

Projects Programmed:

The following projects were discussed with decisions as noted:

- **FY 2013**
 - Ketchum Challis Highway – Warm Spring Section (ID PFH 26-1(1))
 - Project was programmed for \$16M CN (\$8.67M of FH and \$4.33M State funds in 2013 and \$3.0M of FH funds in 2014). Match is provided through \$4.33 M from ITD. ITD will need to ensure that their funds are non Title 23/49 funds. FH program has already spent \$3.8M of PE on this project.
 - Can we combine all the pieces together for this road (Pebble beach and the ID PFH 26-1(1))?
 - It's possible from an environmental perspective as the entire route has been addressed under one NEPA doc.
 - Project was chunked up due to funding. We could reduce cost if we could combine all the projects together. Another alternative is to use options in the bid package.
 - We should consider the match from ITD as the match for all the projects (ID PFH 26-1(1), ID PFH 26(3) and CE for ID PFH 26(2)).

Decisions:

- Fund remaining PE and CN/CE/CMs from Access funds
- Consider all three projects discussed above as one project for the non-federal match. The \$4.33M provided by the State will cover all necessary non-federal match.
- State funds will need to be non Title 23/49 funds.

○ Ketchum-Challis Rock Scaling (ID PFH 26(2))

Discussion:

- Funds for CN have been obligated from Forest Highway funds in 2012
- Need \$133K for CE in 2013

- **Decision:**

- Program Access funds to cover needed CE

○ Manning Crevice Bridge (ID PFH 60(2))

- Background – Very old bridge that is structurally deficient
- Is a CMGC project
- Approximately \$5.9M of Forest Highway carry over funds are available to contribute to the project.
- Remaining funding needed to cover PE, CN, CE, and contingency is approximately \$3.2 M which will need to be funded from Access funds. The non-federal match required is approximately \$236,000 as shown below:

Estimated CN	\$7,000,000
Best Estimate Remaining PE and CE	\$1,445,000
Construction Contingency (10%)	\$700,000
Total Funds Needed:	<u>\$9,145,000</u>
Less FH Carryover Funds	<u>\$5,925,000</u>
Balance subject to Match	\$3,220,000
Non-Federal Match Rate:	7.34%
Estimated Non-Federal Match:	<u><u>\$236,348</u></u>

Decisions:

- Program Access funds to cover remaining PE/CN/CE needed after Forest Highway carry over funds are expended.
 - Revise project agreement to cover non-federal match
 - Discuss non-federal match with Idaho County (LHTAC) and USFS. USFS may be able to assist with meeting the match.
- Grangemont Road Earmark (ID PFH CDP 67(3))
 - Use Earmark funds for remaining work

• **FY 2014**

- Ketchum Challis Rock Fall Mitigation, remaining funds (ID PFH 26-1(1))
 -

Decision:

- Combine with the base portion of the project if funding is available.

- Banks Lowman Phase 2 (ID PFH 24(14))

Discussion:

- Can WFLHD get NEPA ready for a 2014 obligation?
 - Yes
- Should we continue to develop this project if the county can't come up with match?
- Would IDT be willing to provide match?
 - No – route is not on the state system and thus the state can't spend funds on it because of State Statute
- ITD intends to assume jurisdiction and maintenance ONLY after all the projects are completed on the route.
- Any interest in pursuing just the design?
 - Project is complex, estimate at 15% PE
- Need to get the county into the conversation. We could put project on hold and then have the county resubmit in the new call for projects. This would confirm if the County can find the match and if they want to continue to pursue the project.

- *Update since the Meeting* – The USFS (R4) has notified WFLHD that they intend to provide the non-federal match **for PE in 2013** from Federal Lands Transportation Program funds they expect to receive this spring. The purpose is so that design can continue.

Decisions:

- USFS/LHTAC will talk to Boise County about the needed match for the project. *Update since Meeting - The USFS (R4) will fund the match required for design only in 2013.*
 - PDC agrees to fund the design with Access funds as there is a match secured for PE in 2013.
 - Tentatively program in 2014 for CN but require the County resubmit the project in the new call for projects.
 - ITD/LHTAC will investigate how the match will be met
- **FY 2015+**
 - All projects in 2015 and beyond on the old Forest Highway program need to re-compete in a new call for projects.

6) Long Term Strategy

a) Call for Projects

- George presented DRAFT timeline, criteria, call letter, and proposal and explained the contents. Very draft and needs work.
- Call will go out through ITD, LHTAC, FLMA's
- Proposals will be submitted and then project selection team will evaluate and develop recommendations for the PDC.
- Project selection team will look at some of the projects on the ground.
- After field review, may develop a Project Identification Report (PIR) to review scope and budget and schedule. Typically a PIR took about 3-4 months and \$30K each to compete. WFLHD is investigating a shorter less intensive process for the PIR.
- Request some guidance on how In-Kind matches will work in the packet for the call for projects.
- Need to add verbiage for quick delivery in 2013 and 2014 in addition to the long term
- WFLHD staff is willing to talk to your staff about the program and the call for projects details. Contact George Fekaris at WFLHD. Consider holding webinars to get the word out.
- PDC can choose to focus on specific types of projects or leave it wide open for all eligible work.
- Staff Members for the Project Selection Team are:
 - George Fekaris (WFLHD)
 - Fred Bower/Kay Shurtz (USFS)

- Justin De Santis (NPS)
- Cynthia Kowalczyk or Other (BLM)
- Jeff Holm (FWS)
- Joyce Dunning or other (USACE)
- Loren Thomas (ITD)
- Jerry Flatz (LHTAC)
- ?,BOR
- Much more discussion needs to occur on the documents, handouts today are rough drafts
- The staff will use a VTC or conf call to work on revising the draft documents for the call. Probably will still meet in Boise and then bring others in.

Decision:

- A new call for projects is needed to fill out the 2014 and beyond program.

7) Next Steps

- Official program guidance from FHWA HQ in the next few weeks
- WFLHD will start working on projects for 2013/2014 that were approved today
- WFLHD will working on revising project agreements
- WFLHD will start working on a new PDC Charter and get out for review.
- WFLHD will notify parities that had projects selected in 2015 and beyond on status of their projects
- Need to figure out how to do Government to Government consultation with the Tribes. FLMAs have a list of tribes in each state. BIA may be able to provide advice on reaching out to the tribes.

8) Schedule Next Meeting

- Objective of the next meeting will be to discuss the call for projects documents and how the call will work. PDC will need to frame the objectives of the call and if there are certain types of projects that they want to emphasize. (i.e. size, type, scale, etc)
- Early November is the target time frame for the next meeting