
Oregon Federal Lands Access Program

Informational Webinar

George Fekaris
Transportation Planner
Federal Highway Administration
Western Federal Lands
Dec 4, 2012

Webinar Agenda

- Provide overview
 - Federal Lands Highway
 - MAP-21
 - The Federal Lands Access Program
 - Call for Project Proposals
 - Tips for preparing a good proposal
 - Questions and answers
-

Federal Lands Highway (FLH)

- Office of Federal Highway Administration
 - 3 Division Offices
 - Eastern, Central, Western
 - Deliver projects that access
 - National Parks
 - National Forests System Lands
 - National Wildlife Refuges
 - BLM Lands
 - US Corp of Engineers Lands
 - Tribal Lands
-

Federal Lands Highway (con't)

- Western Federal Lands (WFL)
 - Located in Vancouver, WA
 - Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Alaska
 - 200+ staff
 - Provide
 - Planning
 - Project development
 - Construction
-

Federal Lands Highway (con't)

- Historic Columbia River Highway



Federal Lands Highway (con't)

- MT Hood Meadows Access Road



Federal Lands Highway (con't)

- Sunriver to Bachelor Road



MAP-21 Overview

- Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century – MAP-21
 - Simplifies and focuses the Federal program
 - Substantial programmatic consolidation, over 100 programs combined into about 20
 - Supports the DOT's aggressive safety agenda
 - Accelerates project delivery and promotes innovation
 - Establishes a performance-based Federal program
-

Funding

- Program authorized through FY14
 - Provisions went into effect on October 1st
 - Avg. annual funding at FY12 levels (plus minor inflation)
 - Extends Highway Trust Fund taxes and ensures 2 years of solvency for Highway Trust Fund (HTF)
 - Most discretionary programs eliminated
 - No earmarks
 - Funds expire in 3 years
 - Requires minimum 4 year program of projects
-

Federal Lands & Tribal Transportation Programs

	Annual \$
Federal Lands Transportation Program (FLTP)	\$300 million
Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP)	\$250 million
Tribal Transportation Program	\$450 million

Federal Lands Access Program

- *Where?*
 - On a Federal Lands Access Transportation Facility
 - public highway, road, bridge, trail or transit system
 - located on, is adjacent to, or provides access to Federal lands
 - title **or** maintenance responsibility is vested with State, County, Local Government, or Tribe
 - ❖ Vested – Settled, complete, or absolute: without contingency (Webster)
 - ❑ Easement
 - ❖ Must be vested prior to the project being programmed
 - Adjacent parking areas can be under Federal maintenance responsibility
-

Federal Lands Access Program (con't)

- ***Who makes programming decisions?***
 - The Programming Decisions Committee (PDC)
 - Members include representatives from
 - Federal Highway Administration/Western Federal Lands (WFL)
 - Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)
 - Association of Oregon Counties (AOC)
-

Federal Lands Access Program (con't)

- ***How?***

- Priority shall be given to:
 - High-use Federal recreation sites
 - Federal economic generators
 - ❖ As determined by the FLMAs
- “Shall cooperate” with Federal Land Management Agencies (FLMA) prior to final decisions

Federal Lands Access Program (con't)

- ***Eligible Activities:***
 - Transportation planning, research, engineering
 - Preventive maintenance, rehabilitation, restoration, construction, and reconstruction
 - Adjacent vehicular parking areas
 - Acquisition of necessary scenic easements and scenic or historic sites
-

Federal Lands Access Program (con't)

- ***Eligible Activities (con't):***
 - Provisions for pedestrian and bicycles
 - Environmental mitigation in or adjacent to Federal Land to improve public safety and reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality while maintaining habitat connectivity
 - Roadside rest areas, including sanitary and water facilities
 - Operation and maintenance of transit facilities
-

Federal Lands Access Program (con't)

- ***How are funds distributed?***
 - 80% of funds to States with $\geq 1.5\%$ of total public land (i.e. western states)
 - Distributed by formula:
 - Recreational visitation (30%)
 - Federal land area (5%)
 - Federal public road mileage (55%)
 - Federal public bridges (10%)
 - Oregon authorized for **\$24.8** mil annually (net about **\$22** mil)
-

Match Requirement

- Statute (23 USC 120); FedAid Rules
 - Oregon Match is **10.27%**
 - Match can be:
 - Cash (Non-Federal see below)
 - In kind services (labor), r/w, materials (rock, culvert, etc), equipment
 - Valued at fair market value
 - For services, work eligible after funding agreement signed
-

Match Requirement (con't)

- Limitations:
 - Non-Federal Funds unless specific statutory authority otherwise. Exceptions include:
 - Federal Lands Transportation Program/Tribal Transportation Funds
 - Federal Land Management Agency funds (Non Title 23/49)
 - Access funds **cannot** be used as non-Federal match for other programs
-

Other Important Related Provisions

- Up to 5% taken off top for FLMA planning activities
 - System wide transportation planning
 - Asset management
 - Inventory
 - Data collection
 - Managed between FLMA HQ and FLH HQ
 - Loan/Borrow authority between and within the FLTP and the Access Program partners/States
-

Call for Projects

Two step process

1. Submit Notice of Intent by **December 14, 2012**
 2. Submit Proposal
 - a) For capital improvement and enhancement projects submit proposal form (10 mb file size limit) by **January 25, 2013**.
 - b) For transit, transportation planning, and research a separate form, evaluation criteria and due date will be sent to those submitting a notice of intent (form sent out mid February, due mid April)
-

Call for Projects

- Types of projects
 - Capital improvement projects
 - Rehabilitation, restoration, construction, and reconstruction of roads, bridges and trails. Such as safety improvements, widening, realignments, surfacing, culverts, signing, and associated roadway appurtenances.
 - Enhancement projects
 - Road and trail related improvements such as interpretive signing, kiosks, viewpoints, restrooms, provisions for pedestrians and bicycles, scenic easements, trailheads and improvements to reduce vehicle-wildlife conflicts.
-

Call for Projects (con't)

- Transit projects
 - Improvements such as construction of transit facilities and operation and maintenance of transit facilities (including vehicles)
 - Transportation planning
 - Planning such as alternative transportation planning, corridor management plans, and corridor studies
 - Research
 - Studies such as evaluation of wildlife-vehicle collision avoidance measures
-

Call for Projects (con't)

- Soliciting projects for construction FY 2014 to FY 2018
 - PDC may issue another call for preventive maintenance project proposals summer 2013
 - Contingent on available funding and authorizing legislation
-

Call for Projects (con't)

- Previously programmed Forest Highway projects
 - Check the Status list
 - Funded- do nothing
 - Conditionally funded
 - ❖ Delivery in year programmed- do nothing
 - ❖ Project delayed- resubmit proposal
 - Not funded- resubmit proposal
-

Call for Projects (con't)

- Proposals must be submitted jointly by State, county, town, tribal, municipal or local government and the Federal Land Management Agency(ies) being accessed.
-

Call for Projects (con't)

- Evaluation criteria is:
 - Safety, preservation, recreation, economic, mobility, sustainability, and environmental areas
 - Preference shall be given to projects that access high-use Federal recreation sites or Federal economic generators
 - As defined by Federal Land Management Agencies
-

Call for Projects (con't)

- Project Selection Process
 - Project Selection Team (PST)
 - Includes representatives from WFL, ODOT, AOC, NPS, USFS, BLM, USFWS, USACE
 - Review proposals and preliminary ranking by PST
 - Field review of some projects by PST
 - Project Identification Reports (PIRs) done on more complex projects by WFL Staff
 - Input from Area Commissions on Transportation
 - Make final recommendations to PDC
-

Call for Projects (con't)

- PDC will make final decision also considering:
 - Project support, project readiness
 - Agency priorities
 - Applicant's share of the project costs, previous federal investment, availability of funds
 - Project delivery schedules
 - Environmental and right-of-way constraints
 - PDC “shall cooperate” with FLMAs prior to making a final decision
 - Target date for programming decision is Summer 2013 (subject to future funding and legislation)
-

Tips for preparing a good proposal

- Be succinct and concise
 - Answer the questions
 - Use best data available, include any assumptions
 - Photos can help tell the story, but remember the 10 megabyte size limit
 - Be realistic, don't look at it thru "rose colored glasses"
-

Tips for preparing a good proposal (con't)

- Use your partners
 - The “Problem Statement” is the beginnings of “purpose and need” in NEPA
 - If road maintenance not currently vested with State, county... describe plans for getting it transferred
 - Be practical, “right size the proposal”, think context
-

Tips for preparing a good proposal (con't)

- For traffic volumes, include % accessing the Federal Lands
 - Good quality map
 - Get signatures from authorized agency officials
 - If multiple submittals-prioritize
-

Questions

- George Fekaris
360-619-7766
George.fekaris@dot.gov
 - Call for projects packet
<http://wfl.fhwa.dot.gov/programs/flap/or/index.htm>
 - Guidance
<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/guidance/index.cfm>
-