



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Highway
Administration**

Western Federal Lands Highway Division
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In Reply Refer To: HFL-17

Federal Land Managers
Oregon Department of Transportation
Regional, County & Local Governments
Tribal Governments

Greetings:

Request for Project Proposals
2013 Oregon Federal Lands Access Program

The Oregon Federal Lands Access Program is soliciting proposals for projects in FY 2014 through FY 2018. Project approvals will be contingent upon availability of funds.

What is the purpose of the Federal Lands Access Program?

The purpose of the Federal Lands Access Program is to provide safe and adequate transportation access to and through Federal Lands for visitors, recreationists, and resource users.

Who may apply?

All proposals must be submitted jointly by the entity with title or maintenance responsibility (State, county, town, township, tribal, municipal or local government) and the Federal Land Management Agency(ies) being accessed by the project.

Where can projects be located?

Proposed projects must be located on a public highway, road, bridge, trail or transit system that is located on, is adjacent to, or provides access to Federal lands for which title or maintenance responsibility is vested in a State, county, town, township, tribal, municipal, or local government.

What types of proposals will be considered?

Projects proposals will be accepted for capital improvement projects, enhancement projects, transit projects, transportation planning projects, and research projects that are included in the activities listed below. Capital improvement projects include rehabilitation, restoration, construction, and reconstruction of roads, bridges and trails. This includes improvements such as safety improvements, widening, realignments, surfacing, culverts, signing, and associated roadway appurtenances. Enhancements are road and trail related improvements such as interpretative signing, kiosks, viewpoints, restrooms, provisions for pedestrians and bicycles, scenic easements, trailheads, and improvements that reduce vehicle-wildlife conflicts. Transit projects include improvements such as construction of transit facilities and operation and maintenance of

transit facilities (including vehicles). Transportation planning projects include projects such as alternative transportation planning, corridor management plans, and corridor studies. Research projects include projects such as evaluation of wildlife-vehicle collision avoidance measures.

The following will be considered in this call:

- 1) Transportation planning and research.
- 2) Rehabilitation, restoration, construction and reconstruction.
- 3) Adjacent vehicular parking areas.
- 4) Acquisition of necessary scenic easements and scenic or historic sites.
- 5) Provisions for pedestrian and bicycles.
- 6) Environmental mitigation in or adjacent to Federal land to improve public safety and reduce vehicle-wildlife mortality while maintaining habitat connectivity.
- 7) Construction and reconstruction of roadside rest areas, including sanitary and water facilities.
- 8) Operation and maintenance of transit facilities.

Proposed improvement projects should also be consistent with a statewide, regional, county, local, or tribal transportation plan and a Federal Land Management Plan. Projects that are specifically identified in a transportation plan will receive additional consideration.

What size of project will be considered?

The Oregon Federal Lands Access Program is currently estimated to receive about \$21 million annually. Projects in all funding amounts will be considered and evaluated. However, due to limited program funding amounts, projects will receive additional consideration when funding leveraged from other sources is also available. In addition, the program requires a match of **10.27%** of the total project costs. The match will follow the current guidance requirements established by Oregon Department of Transportation for Federal-Aid projects.

How do I submit a proposal?

Submitting a proposal is a two-step process.

1. All proposals must submit a completed notice of intent form. Submit the notice of intent form by **December 14, 2012**.
2. This next step is dependent on the type of project being proposed.
 - a. For capital improvement and enhancement type projects, submit the enclosed completed proposal form by **January 25, 2013**.
 - b. For transit, transportation planning, and research type projects, a separate proposal form and evaluation criteria are currently being developed. The form, evaluation criteria, and due date will be emailed to those submitting a notice of intent for these proposals. Directions for submitting the proposal forms will be provided at that time.

The best available data should be used in completing the notice of intent and project proposal forms. Maps and photos should be included to support the proposal. Email the completed notice of intent and project proposal form with all required maps, signatures, and photos to:

WFL.CallForProjects@dot.gov

The total file size for the proposal form (including maps and photos) should not exceed 10 megabytes.

Copies of this letter, the Project Proposal form, Notice of Intent form, evaluation criteria and Project Status list can also be downloaded from the following website.

<http://www.wfl.fhwa.dot.gov/programs/flap/or/index.htm>

What about previously approved Forest Highway projects?

Enclosed is the Forest Highway Program and Federal Lands Access Program Project Status list. Projects are shown as either “funded”, “conditionally funded” or “not funded” (contingent upon availability of funding).

- For projects shown as “funded”, do not submit a notice of intent or a project proposal.
- For projects shown as “conditionally funded” that can be delivered in the year programmed, do not submit a notice of intent or a project proposal.
- For projects shown as “conditionally funded” that may be delayed beyond the programmed year, submit a notice of intent and complete project proposal form to be considered for funding in the current call for projects.
- For projects shown as “not funded” submit a notice of intent and a complete project proposal form to be considered for funding in the current call for projects.

How will the projects be evaluated?

A Project Selection Team will evaluate and prioritize the proposed projects according to following areas: Safety, Preservation, Recreation, Economic, Mobility, Sustainability, and Environmental. Preference shall be given to projects that provide access to, are adjacent to, or are located within high-use Federal recreation sites or Federal economic generators, as identified by the Federal Land Management Agency. Input will be requested from the appropriate Oregon Department of Transportation Area Commissions on Transportation (ACTs) and considered prior to finalizing the evaluation.

The Project Selection Team will include representatives from the Federal Highway Administration, Oregon Department of Transportation, Association of Oregon Counties, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S Army Corp of Engineers.

How will a final decision be made on the proposals?

After the project proposals are evaluated and prioritized, the Program Decision Committee made up of representatives from Federal Highway Administration, Oregon Department of Transportation, and Association of Oregon Counties, will make a final decision on the project

proposals. The Program Decision Committee will make these decisions while also considering such things as project support, project readiness, agency priorities, applicant's share of project costs, availability of funds, project development delivery schedules, previous federal investment and environmental and right-of-way time constraints. The Program Decision Committee will also coordinate with the Federal Land Management Agencies prior to making a final decision. The final decision on the project proposals should be made by summer 2013.

Who should I contact if I have questions?

Please contact George Fekaris or the Federal Lands Access Program coordinator for your agency:

Agency	Contact	Phone	Email Address
Federal Highway Administration	George Fekaris	(360) 619-7766	george.fekaris@dot.gov
Oregon Department of Transportation	Patricia Fisher	(503) 986-3528	patricia.r.fisher@odot.state.or.us
Association of Oregon Counties	Jon Oshel	(503) 585-8351	joshel@aocweb.org
US Forest Service	Amy Thomas	(503) 808-2473	aethomas@fs.fed.us
National Park Service	Justin De Santis	(415) 623-2278	Justin_DeSantis@nps.gov
Bureau of Land Management	Dick Bergen	(503) 808-6100	rbergen@blm.gov
US Fish & Wildlife Service	Jeff Holm	(503) 231-2161	jeff_holm@fws.gov
US Army Corp of Engineers	Scott Moore	(503) 808-4306	Scott.a.Moore@usace.army.mil

Sincerely yours,



George Fekaris
Transportation Planner

Enclosures:

Project Proposal Form

Notice of Intent Form

Project Evaluation Criteria

Oregon Forest Highway Program & Federal Lands Access Program Project Status List