



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Highway  
Administration**

Western Federal Lands Highway Division  
610 E. Fifth Street  
Vancouver, WA 98661  
Phone 360-619-7700  
Fax 360-619-7846

November 2, 2012

In Reply Refer to: HFL-17

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

Greetings:

Request for Project Proposals  
2013 Washington State Federal Lands Access Program

The Washington State Federal Lands Access Program is soliciting proposals for capital improvement construction and enhancement projects in FY 2014 through FY 2018. Project approvals will be contingent upon availability of funds. Enclosed are the Federal Lands Access Program Project Proposal form and evaluation criteria. The proposals must be received by **January 25, 2013**.

***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.

***Where can projects be located?***

Proposed projects must be located on a public highway, road, bridge, or trail 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.

***Who may apply?***

All proposals must be submitted jointly by the federal land management agency and the entity with title or maintenance responsibility. The entity with title or maintenance responsibility must be a state, county, town, township, tribal, municipal, or local government.

***What types of proposals will be considered?***

Project proposals will be accepted for both capital improvement projects and enhancement projects that are included in the activities listed below. Capital improvement projects include rehabilitation, restoration, construction, and reconstruction of roads and trails. This includes improvements such as, but not limited to, safety improvements, widening, realignments, surfacing, culverts, bridges, signing and associated roadway appurtenances. Enhancements are

road and trail related improvements such as, but not limited to, interpretative signing, kiosks, viewpoints, restrooms, provisions for pedestrians and bicycles, scenic easements, trailheads, and improvements that reduce vehicle-wildlife conflicts.

The following activities will be considered in this call:

- 1) Rehabilitation, restoration, construction and reconstruction of transportation facilities.
- 2) Adjacent vehicular parking areas.
- 3) Provisions for pedestrian and bicycles.
- 4) Environmental mitigation in or adjacent to Federal land to improve public safety and reduce vehicle-wildlife mortality while maintaining habitat connectivity.
- 5) Construction and reconstruction of roadside rest areas, including sanitary and water facilities.

Proposed projects should also be identified in 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.

***Will there be calls for other types of projects?***

There will be additional calls for preventive maintenance, transit, planning and research type projects. The transit, planning, and research calls should be announced the winter of 2013, and the preventive maintenance call should be announced the summer of 2013.

***What size of project will be considered?***

The Washington State Federal Lands Access Program is currently estimated to receive about \$13 million annually. Projects in all funding amounts will be considered and evaluated. However, because of limited program funding amounts, projects will receive additional consideration when funding leveraged from other sources is also available. In addition, the program requires a non-federal match of **13.5 percent** of the total project costs. The non-federal match will follow the current guidance requirements established by the Washington State Department of Transportation for Federal-Aid projects.

***How will the projects be evaluated?***

A Project Selection Team will evaluate and prioritize the proposed projects according to the following areas: Safety, Preservation, Recreation, Economic, Mobility, and Environmental (see enclosed Evaluation Criteria). In addition, 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.

The Project Selection Team will include representatives from the Federal Highway Administration, Washington State Department of Transportation, County Road Administration Board, 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 project proposals from this call and the call for transit, transportation planning, and research projects are evaluated and prioritized, the Program Decision Committee (Federal Highway Administration, Washington State Department of Transportation, and County Road

Administration Board) will make a final decision on the project proposals. The 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 specifically related to the project, and environmental and right-of-way time constraints. The Committee also will 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.

***How can I submit a proposal?***

The best available data should be used in completing the project proposal forms. Maps and photos should be included to support the proposal. Letters of support from other entities that will not be signing the official application may also be included. Send an email with the completed proposal form and all required maps, signatures, and photos to [WFL.CallForProjects@dot.gov](mailto:WFL.CallForProjects@dot.gov). The proposal must be received by **January 25, 2013**. 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, evaluation criteria and Project Status list can also be downloaded from the following website.

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

***What about previously approved Forest Highway projects?***

Enclosed is the Forest Highway Program and Federal Lands Access Program Project Status list. The list shows which projects have been approved for funding under either the Forest Highway Program or the Federal Lands Access Program.

Projects that are shown as "Funded" do not need to resubmit a project proposal.

Projects that are shown as "Conditionally Funded" do not need to resubmit a project proposal if they can be delivered in 2013. If the project is delayed beyond 2013, then a complete project proposal form must be submitted for consideration under the Federal Lands Access Program.

Projects that are shown as "Not Funded" must submit a complete project proposal form for consideration under the Federal Lands Access Program.

In addition, projects previously programmed under the Forest Highway Program through fiscal year 2017 do not need to provide the 13.5 percent match because the State of Washington is providing that match through the use of toll credits. This approach is being implemented to allow a transition to the new matching requirements and to minimize impacts to delivery of the program caused by unplanned and unbudgeted match requirement. All other projects must provide the 13.5 percent match.

***Who should I contact if I have questions?***

Should you have any questions, please contact Greg Humphreys or the Federal Lands Access Program coordinator for your agency:

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
Federal Highway Administration	Greg Humphreys	(360) 619-7576	<a href="mailto:greg.humphreys@dot.gov">greg.humphreys@dot.gov</a>
Washington State Department of Transportation	Bill Leonard	(360) 705-7344	<a href="mailto:leonardb@wsdot.wa.gov">leonardb@wsdot.wa.gov</a>
County Road Administration Board	Randy Hart	(360) 350-6081	<a href="mailto:randy@crab.wa.gov">randy@crab.wa.gov</a>
US Forest Service	Amy Thomas	(503) 808-2473	<a href="mailto:aethomas@fs.fed.us">aethomas@fs.fed.us</a>
National Park Service	Justin De Santis	(415) 623-2278	<a href="mailto:Justin_DeSantis@nps.gov">Justin_DeSantis@nps.gov</a>
Bureau of Land Management	Dick Bergen	(503) 808-6100	<a href="mailto:rbergen@blm.gov">rbergen@blm.gov</a>
US Fish & Wildlife Service	Jeff Holm	(503) 231-2161	<a href="mailto:jeff_holm@fws.gov">jeff_holm@fws.gov</a>
US Army Corp of Engineers	Kevin Paff	(503) 808-3897	<a href="mailto:kevin.l.paff@usace.army.mil">kevin.l.paff@usace.army.mil</a>

Sincerely yours,



Greg Humphreys  
Transportation Planning Specialist

Enclosures:

Program Status List

2013 Washington State Access Program Project Proposal Form

2013 Project Evaluation Criteria