



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

January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021

In Reply Refer to: HFL-17

Federal Land Management Agencies  
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities  
Regional, Borough & Local Governments  
Tribal Governments

Greetings:

2021 Request for Proposals  
Alaska Federal Lands Access Program

The Western Federal Lands Highway Division (WFLHD) of the Federal Highway Administration is soliciting for capital improvement, enhancement, transit, planning, research, and safety proposals to receive funds through the Alaska Federal Lands Access Program in fiscal years 2024 - 2026. Proposal awards will be contingent upon availability of funds. Proposals must be received by March 26, 2021.

***What is the purpose of the Federal Lands Access Program?***

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

***Where can proposals be located?***

Proposals must be located on Federal Lands Access Transportation Facilities. Federal Lands Access Transportation Facilities means 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, borough, town, township, tribal, municipal, or local government. Maintenance means the preservation of the entire roadway surface, shoulders, roadside ditches, drainage structures, bridges, and traffic control devices necessary for safe and efficient operations. Vested maintenance responsibility means that the majority of the cost for these activities is borne by the state, borough, town, township, tribal, municipal, or local government.

Applicants are to include supporting documentation which clearly shows which agency has title and/or maintenance responsibly of the facilities.

***Who may apply?***

All proposals must be submitted jointly by the Federal Land Management Agency(ies) (FLMA) whose lands are accessed and the entity with title or vested maintenance responsibility (State, borough, town, township, tribal, municipal or local government) for the Federal Lands Access Transportation Facility. Early coordination between the appropriate FLMA and state/borough/local/tribal government is encouraged to ensure adequate time for thorough review and input before the submittal due date.

Proposals must be signed by the appropriate following agency officials:

<b><u>Federal Agency</u></b>	<b><u>Signing Official</u></b>
National Park Service	Park Superintendent
US Forest Service	Forest Supervisor
US Fish & Wildlife Service	Refuge Chief
Bureau of Land Management	Field Manager
US Army Corps of Engineers	Operation Project Manager
Department of Defense	Installation Commander
<b><u>Local Agency</u></b>	<b><u>Signing Official</u></b>
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities	Regional Director
Borough	Mayor
City, Town	Mayor
Tribe	Tribal Chair

Note: If Federal Lands Transportation Program (FLTP) funds are proposed as match, the Federal Agency’s transportation coordinator (typically at the regional level) may be required to sign as well.

Proposals that do not have the signatures that are listed above will not be eligible for consideration. If the FLMA was not listed above and/or you have any questions regarding the appropriateness of the signing official, please contact Samantha Shields (see contact info below). Electronic signatures are acceptable.

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

Proposals will be accepted for the following:

Capital Improvements- These proposals include rehabilitation, restoration, construction, and reconstruction of roads and bridges. This includes improvements such as safety improvements, widening, realignments, surfacing, culverts, signing, guardrail, walls and associated roadway appurtenances.

Enhancements- These proposals are road and trail related improvements such as interpretative signing, kiosks, viewpoints, adjacent vehicular parking areas, roadside rest areas (including sanitary and water facilities), provisions for pedestrians and bicycles, acquisition of scenic easement and scenic or historic sites, trailheads, trails, and improvements that improve public safety and reduce vehicle-wildlife mortality while maintaining habitat connectivity.

Transit- These proposals include construction of transit facilities and limited duration operation/maintenance of transit services and facilities (including vehicles).

Planning- These proposals include engineering studies, corridor management planning, bicycle/pedestrian planning and alternative transportation planning and road safety audits. These studies or plans should primarily address access to federal public lands that will provide valuable information for future eligible FLAP nomination proposals.

Research- These proposals include evaluating solutions that enhance access, safety or sustainability. They address issues such as wildlife-vehicle collision avoidance measures, context sensitive roadside safety features, and congestion management strategies. Research must be broad-based and applicable to multiple Federal Lands Management Agencies.

Safety Only- These proposals only include one or more of the following: traffic control signalization; maintaining minimum levels of retroreflectivity of highway sign or pavement marking; traffic circles/roundabouts; safety rest areas; pavement marking; shoulder and centerline rumble strips and stripes; commuter carpooling and vanpooling; rail-highway crossing closure; installation of traffic signs, traffic lights, guardrails, impact attenuators, concrete barrier end treatments, breakaway utility poles; priority control systems for emergency vehicles or transit vehicles at signalized intersection.

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

***What size proposal will be considered?***

The Alaska Federal Lands Access Program is currently estimated to receive about \$7.5 million annually. Projects will receive additional consideration when other funding sources are leveraged. Historically, there were limits on the amount of funding per project. However, this call does not limit the requested amount and every project will be reviewed based on merit and feasibility.

The best available data should be used in developing the initial cost estimate. Typically, if project construction costs exceed the originally approved program amount by more than 10%, the proposal proponents will be responsible to provide the additional funds. It is best to work with the delivery agency to develop the best cost estimate.

***Are matching funds required?***

The program requires matching funds of 9.03% of the total proposal costs for Capital Improvement, Enhancement, Transit, Planning, and Research proposals. Safety Only proposals may request up to 100% FLAP funding. Applicants may also provide additional funds to contribute to the project. Because of limited FLAP funding, proposals will receive additional consideration when funding is leveraged from other sources.

Typically, the preliminary engineering phase (planning, engineering, NEPA, etc.) of a project will require a cash match. Right-of-way, construction, and other phases of the project may use cash and/or “in-kind matches” such as donated property, materials, and services subject to WFLHD approval. Typically construction force-account work will not be allowed. Funds authorized under the Tribal Transportation Program and the Federal Lands Transportation Program as well as other Federal funds not authorized under Title 23 or 49 may also be used to satisfy the match. Match must be mutually acceptable to both WFLHD and the proposal applicants. Additional information regarding match may be found at the following website:

[http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/legsregs/directives/policy/fedaid\\_guidance\\_nfmr.htm](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/legsregs/directives/policy/fedaid_guidance_nfmr.htm)

<http://www.amlip.org/>

***Are Tribes eligible to apply for Federal Lands Access Program funding?***

Tribes may apply for Federal Lands Access Program funding if the road or facility being proposed for funding is owned or operated by the Tribe and provides access to a Federally-owned land (not a Tribal land or private land). For example, a Tribally-owned road (as opposed to a BIA-owned road) that provides access to a national park or national forest is eligible for the Federal Lands Access Program.

***How do I submit a proposal?***

The best available data should be used in completing the project proposal forms. Maps and photos must be included to support the proposal. Maps must include project locations, project limits or termini, high use federal recreation sites, federal economic generators, and most importantly, **show the Federal Lands accessed by the proposal**. Letters of support from other entities may also be included.

Email the completed proposal form with all required signatures, maps, photos and any letters of support to:

WFL.CallForProjects@dot.gov

The proposal must be received by **March 26, 2021**. The entire proposal packet (the proposal form, signature pages, maps, photos, and any letters of support) should not exceed 10 megabytes in file size and must not exceed 30 pages.

Copies of this letter, evaluation criteria, proposal instruction checklist, proposal form, and webinar announcement can be downloaded from the following website.

<http://flh.fhwa.dot.gov/programs/flap/ak/>

***How will the proposals be evaluated?***

A Technical Advisory Group (TAG) will review the proposals according to the following evaluation criteria (see attached for additional details): Recreation/Economic, Safety, Asset Investment, Mobility, Sustainability/Environmental/Intrinsic Quality, and Readiness/Support. Preference shall be given to proposals that provide access to high-use federal recreation sites or federal economic generators, as identified by the Federal Land Management Agency.

The TAG will be facilitated by the WFLHD and include representatives from the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, Alaska Municipal League, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, U.S Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Forest Service. The TAG may request additional information during the evaluation process. Proponents should be ready to provide documentation that substantiates, clarifies or appends any information provided in the proposals.

***How will a final decision be made on the proposals?***

The Program Decision Committee (PDC) made up of representatives from WFLHD, Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities and Alaska Municipal League will make a final decision on the proposals. The PDC will make these decisions based on the evaluation criteria and

recommendations of the TAG, and coordination with the Federal Land Management Agencies prior to making a final decision.

The TAG should complete initial proposal evaluations by May 7, 2021. Final recommendations of the TAG and PDC final decisions on the proposals are currently scheduled for the end of June 2021.

***Who will be the lead agency for project delivery?***

The preferred lead agency for project delivery will usually be the WFLHD. Project delivery consists of federal environmental compliance, design, construction contract advertisement, and construction contract administration. However, the lead agency and participating agencies roles will be considered during proposal evaluation. The project proponents may suggest another federal agency or the Alaska DOT&PF take the lead for project delivery. On a case by case basis, it may be determined that the local agency is the best fit to deliver the project. Decisions regarding lead and participating agency roles will be based on project type, project complexity, proposed delivery, previous experience in delivering Federal Highway (Title 23) funded projects, and ability to satisfy Federal Highway Administration project delivery requirements. WFLHD or the FHWA Division Office will be responsible for stewardship and oversight of the project to assure compliance with federal requirements.

WFLHD as the lead agency – The project will be scoped to determine the scope schedule and budget based on the following: fixed budget, fixed scope, ideal scope and budget. The scoping (approximately \$40,000) will be followed by PDC approval and delivery of the project.

Another federal agency as the lead agency – The project will be delivered by another federal agency with WFLHD performing stewardship and oversight of the project at a cost of approximately \$30,000. The project will be subject to an indirect cost rate of approximately 14.5%.

Alaska DOT&PF as the lead agency – The project will be delivered by the Alaska DOT&PF with the FHWA Division Office performing stewardship and oversight of the project. The project will be subject to Indirect Cost Allocation Plan (ICAP) costs (approximately between 4.5% – 7.5%).

Local Agency as the lead agency – On a case by case bases, a local agency can deliver the project. Additional information will be collected through the ranking process such as: A communication plan, a management plan and a capacity/capability assessment.

***What if I have questions?***

In conjunction with this request for proposals, WFLHD will conduct an informational webinar on January 28, 2021. This webinar will provide information to potential applicants on the FLAP, eligibility, evaluation criteria, how to submit proposals, and helpful hints for filling out proposal forms. See the attached webinar announcement for details.

In the meantime, if you have questions you can contact Samantha Shields or the FLAP coordinator for your agency.

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
Federal Highway Administration	Samantha Shields	Samantha.shields@dot.gov
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities	Margaret Carpenter	Margaret.carpenter@alaska.gov
Alaska Municipal League	Nils Andreassen	nils@akml.org
US Forest Service, Region 10	Dusty Escamilla	paul.escamilla@usda.gov
National Park Service	Kevin Doniere	Kevin_doniere@nps.gov
Bureau of Land Management	Curt Fortenberry	cfortenb@blm.gov
US Fish & Wildlife Service	Troy Civitillo	Troy_civitillo@fws.gov
US Army Corps of Engineers	Valerie Palmer	valerie.y.palmer@usace.army.mil

Additional information, guidance, and FAQs regarding the Federal Lands Access Program may also be found at the following website:

<http://flh.fhwa.dot.gov/programs/flap/>

Sincerely yours,

Samantha Shields  
Alaska FLAP Program Manager

Enclosures:

Proposal Form  
Proposal Evaluation Criteria  
Proposal Instruction Checklist  
Webinar Announcement  
Schedule

cc:

Colleen Fletcher, Acting Environment, Planning & Programs Branch Chief, WFLHD  
Ben White, AKDOT&PF, Juneau, AK  
Nils Andreassen, AKML, Juneau, AK  
Kevin Doniere, NPS, Alaska Region  
Troy Civitillo, USFWS, Alaska Region, Anchorage, AK  
Dusty Escamilla, USFS, Region 10  
Curt Fortenberry, BLM, Alaska Office, Fairbanks, AK  
Valerie Palmer, USACE, Alaska Region, Anchorage, AK  
Margaret Carpenter, AKDOT&PF, Fairbanks, AK  
John Lohrey, FHWA, Juneau, AK  
Brent Coe, Project Management Branch Chief, WFLHD  
Jane Traffalis, Project Development Branch Chief, WFLHD  
Brad Neitzke, Technical Systems Branch Chief, WFLHD