



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Highway
Administration**

Western Federal Lands Highway Division
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February 12, 2016

In Reply Refer to: HFL-17

Federal Land Managers
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
Regional & Local Governments
Tribal Governments

Greetings:

Request for Project Proposals
2016 Alaska Federal Lands Access Program

The Alaska Federal Lands Access Program is soliciting proposals for capital improvement construction, enhancement, planning, safety, and alternative transportation projects for Federal fiscal years 2019 through FY 2020. 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 **May 16, 2016**.

The call for project opens February 12, 2016. The due date is through an extended period to May 16, 2016. Project proponents should use the time in February, March, and April to coordinate with the Federal Land Management Agencies. WFL will provide reminders through the February 12 to May 16, 2016 time period to encourage applicants to utilize the open window.

The application includes a checklist of the following items:

- Application must be signed by the Federal Land Management Agency and the AKDOT/Local Agency at the appropriate level.
- Match source has been informed and discussed with the appropriate agency and that match is pledged for the proposed project. A letter pledging match is appropriate.
- Must be received by Western Federal Lands by date due of May 16, 2016.
- Must have a map showing project location relative to the Federal Land Management Agency boundary.
- A response to each of the evaluation criteria is highly recommended even if the answer is related to project information elsewhere in the application.

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- Project is likely limited to \$2.0 million of construction funding or under and \$2.0 million would need \$180,600 of matching funding at the 9.03% rate. Please note that efforts before the project is selected and has a signed match agreement will not be counted as match.

Applications would be completed by the State/Borough/City or Tribal Governments with the specific Federal Land Management Agency co-signing the application. **Jointly signed applications are required in order to be considered for funding from the Access Program.** Close coordination with the specific Federal Land Management Agency on a proposed project is important. This letter includes a list of contacts for each Federal Land Management Agency.

The AK Federal Lands Access Program would like to emphasize that:

- There is approximately \$7.9 million annually for this program
- The program would like to distribute funds across the State of Alaska and between Federal Land Management Agencies
- Leverage the limited Access Program funds with other funding sources.

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 or Municipal government.

Who may apply?

The State and Local Agencies interested in a project need to work closely with the appropriate Federal Land Management Agency in developing the application. All proposals must be submitted by the State or Local Agency with title or maintenance responsibility in close consultation with the Federal Land Management Agency. The entity with title or maintenance responsibility must be a State or Municipal government. A Federally-owned road for which a State, Tribe, or local government has obtained an easement, license, permit, agreement or other written instrument which assumes responsibility for maintenance is eligible for Access Program funding. However, if a Federal agency retains maintenance responsibility or pays for the majority of the cost of maintenance activities performed by the State, Tribe, or local government, the road is not eligible for Access Program funding.

Federal Land Management Agencies can apply for an enhancement project for a site owned and maintained by the Federal Land Management Agency that is an enhancement to a State or Municipal Governments transportation facility. The Federal Land Management Agency would need to get the State or Municipal government that owns the adjacent route to sign the enhancement application also.

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

Yes. 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.

What types of proposals will be considered?

Projects proposals will be accepted for capital improvement, enhancement and planning 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. Planning projects include corridor plans, transportation plans, and studies related to transportation.

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.
- 6) Other appropriate public road facilities, as determined by the Secretary.
- 7) Operation and maintenance of transit facilities.

Proposed projects should also be identified in a statewide, regional, county, local, or tribal transportation plan and a Federal Land Management Plan.

What size of project will be considered?

The Alaska Federal Lands Access Program is currently estimated to receive about \$7.0 million annually. The final amount will be determined within the next few months based on data provided by the Federal Land Management Agencies.

Projects in all funding amounts will be considered and evaluated. The Alaska Program Decision Committee will likely limit the construction amount of funding to \$2.0 million. However, due to limited program funding amounts, projects will receive additional consideration when the project size is under \$7.0 million and there is funding leveraged from other sources.

In addition, the program requires a match of 9.03 percent of the total project costs. The match will follow the current guidance requirements established by Alaska Department of Transportation for Federal-Aid projects.

How will the projects be evaluated?

A Project Selection Team will evaluate the proposed projects according to 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, Alaska Department of Transportation, Alaska Municipal League along with coordination with the 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, the Program Decision Committee (Federal Highway Administration, Alaska Department of Transportation, and Alaska Municipal League) 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, 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 2016.

How do 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. Email the completed proposal form with all required maps, signatures, and photos to WFL.CallForProjects@dot.gov. The proposal must be received by **May 16, 2016**. The total file size for the proposal form (including maps and photos) should not exceed 10 megabytes.

Who should I contact if I have questions?

There is information available at:

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/guidance/guideflap.cfm>

and

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/qandas/qaflap.cfm>

Should you have any questions, please contact Corrie Veenstra at (360) 619-7820 or the Federal Lands Access Program coordinator for your agency:

Agency	Contact	Phone	Email Address
Federal Highway Administration	Corrie Veenstra	(360) 619-7820	corrie.veenstra@dot.gov
Alaska Department of Transportation	Marcheta Moulton	(907) 465-8769	marcheta.moulton@alaska.gov
Alaska Municipal League	Kathie Wasserman	(907) 586-1325	kathie@akml.org

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US Forest Service	Amy Thomas	(503) 808-2473	aethomas@fs.fed.us
National Park Service	Paul Schrooten	(907) 644-3388	paul_schrooten@nps.gov
Bureau of Land Management	Randy Goodwin	(907) 474-2369	rgoodwin@blm.gov
US Fish & Wildlife Service	Charles Grant	(907) 786-3506	charles_grant@fws.gov
US Army Corps of Engineers	Tim Feavel	(907) 488-2748	tim.a.feavel@usace.army.mil

Sincerely,

Corrie Veenstra
Program Manager

Enclosures:

2016 Alaska Federal Lands Access Program Project Proposal Form
2016 Alaska Federal Lands Access Program Project Evaluation Criteria
Federal Lands Access Program Project Status list

cc: Sam Carlson, USFS Region 10, Juneau, AK
Christy Darden, USFS Region 6 and 10, Portland, OR
Amy Thomas, USFS, Region 6, 10 and 1, Portland, OR
Paul Schrooten, NPS, Alaska Region
Randy Goodwin, BLM, Alaska Office, Fairbanks, AK
Charles Grant, USFWS, Alaska Region, Anchorage, AK
Tim Feavel, ACOE, Alaska Region, North Pole, AK
Marcheta Moulton, AKDOT, Juneau, AK
Mike Vigue, AKDOT, Juneau, AK
Kathie Wasserman, AKML, Juneau, AK
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Ted Wood, Project Development Engineer, WFLHD
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