



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Highway  
Administration**

Western Federal Lands Highway Division  
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January 12, 2015

In Reply Refer to: HFL-17

Federal Land Management Agencies  
Idaho Transportation Department  
Regional, County & Local Governments  
Tribal Governments

Greetings:

2015 Request for Proposals  
Idaho Federal Lands Access Program

The Western Federal Lands Highway Division (WFLHD) of the Federal Highway Administration is soliciting for capital improvement, enhancement, surface preservation, transit, planning, and research proposals to receive funds through the Idaho Federal Lands Program in fiscal years 2018 and 2019. Proposal awards 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 (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, county, 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, county, town, township, tribal, municipal, or local government.

***Who may apply?***

All proposals must be submitted jointly by the Federal Land Management Agency(ies) whose lands are accessed and the entity with title or vested maintenance responsibility (State, county, town, township, tribal, municipal or local government) for the Federal Lands Access Transportation Facility. Proposals must be signed by officials authorized to commit the agency to the proposal. Federal Land Management Agency officials would include National Park Service Superintendent, National Forest Supervisor, US Fish & Wildlife Service Refuge/Hatchery Supervisor, Bureau of Land Management District Manager, Bureau of Reclamation Area

Manager, or US Army Corp of Engineers Operations Project Manager. Agency officials with title or vested maintenance responsibility would include Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) District Engineer, Highway District Commissioner, County Commissioner, Mayor, Transit District Director, or Tribal Leader. Proposals that do not have the appropriate signatures such as those listed above will not be eligible for consideration. If the Federal Land Management Agency was not listed above and/or you have any questions regarding the appropriateness of the signing official, please contact George Fekaris (see contact info below).

***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.

Surface Preservation- These proposals include surface preservation of roads, trails, and adjacent vehicular parking areas. They include chip sealing, crack sealing, and aggregate courses. Surface preservation proposals will only be considered for FY 2018.

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 that will provide valuable information for future FLAP 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.

Proposals should also be consistent with a statewide, regional, county, 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 Idaho Federal Lands Access Program is currently estimated to receive about \$17 million annually. Proposals requesting at least \$100,000 or more will be considered. Because of limited FLAP funding, proposals will receive additional consideration when funding leveraged from other sources is also available.

***Are matching funds required?***

The program requires matching funds of **7.34%** of the total proposal costs. The match will follow the current ITD guidance for matching funds on Federal-Aid projects. This includes “soft

matches” or “in-kind matches” such as donated property, materials, and services. 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. Additional information regarding match may be found at the following website:

<http://lhtac.org/programs/lrhip>

***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. Maps should include project locations, proposal 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 that will not be signing the proposal 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](mailto:WFL.CallForProjects@dot.gov)

The proposal must be received by **April 3, 2015**. 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 the total page length should not exceed 30 pages.

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

<http://www.wfl.fhwa.dot.gov/programs/flap/id/>

***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): Safety, Preservation, Recreation/Economic, Mobility, Sustainability/Environmental 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 ITD, Local Highway Technical Assistance Council (LHTAC), U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, the U.S Army Corp of Engineers and US Army.

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, ITD, and LHTAC, will make a final decision on the proposals. The PDC will make these decisions based

on the evaluation criteria and recommendations of the TAG. The PDC 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 end of summer 2015.

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

The lead agency for all facets of project delivery will be the WFLHD. Project delivery consists of federal environmental compliance, design, construction contract advertisement, and construction contract administration. The project proponents may request another agency take the lead for project delivery but must provide rationale for the request. The rationale should include why another agency should take the lead, previous experience in delivering Federal-Aid (Title 23) funded projects, any certifications to deliver Federal-Aid funded projects, and ability to satisfy Federal Highway Administration project delivery requirements. The WFLHD will still be responsible for stewardship and oversight of the project to assure compliance with federal requirements. The final decision for project delivery resides with the PDC.

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

In conjunction with this request for proposals, WFLHD will conduct an informational webinar on Jan 27, 2015. 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 George Fekaris or the FLAP coordinator for your agency.

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
Federal Highway Administration	George Fekaris	(360) 619-7766	<a href="mailto:george.fekaris@dot.gov">george.fekaris@dot.gov</a>
Idaho Transportation Department	Blake Rindlisbacher	(208) 334-8231	<a href="mailto:Blake.Rindlisbacher@itd.idaho.gov">Blake.Rindlisbacher@itd.idaho.gov</a>
Local Highway Technical Assistance Council	Gerald Flatz	(208) 344-0565	<a href="mailto:jflatz@lhtac.org">jflatz@lhtac.org</a>
US Forest Service, Region 1	Fred Bower	(406) 329-3354	<a href="mailto:fbower@fs.fed.us">fbower@fs.fed.us</a>
US Forest Service, Region 4	Justin Humble	(801) 625-5412	<a href="mailto:jhumble@fs.fed.us">jhumble@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	Cynthia Kowalczyk	(208) 373-3952	<a href="mailto:ckowalczyk@blm.gov">ckowalczyk@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	Matthew Walker	(208) 343-0671	<a href="mailto:Matthew.T.Walker@usace.army.mil">Matthew.T.Walker@usace.army.mil</a>
US Army	Jason Cowin	(618) 220-5229	<a href="mailto:jason.w.cowin.civ@mail.mil">jason.w.cowin.civ@mail.mil</a>

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

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

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

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

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George N. Fekaris". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

George N. Fekaris  
Transportation Planner

Enclosures:  
Proposal Evaluation Criteria  
Webinar Announcement  
Proposal Form

**2015 Proposal Evaluation Criteria  
Idaho Federal Lands Access Program**

*Maximum Points*

<b>1. Safety</b>		
<b>Improvement of the Transportation Network for the safety of its users.</b>		
▪ Improves identified crash sites	0-15	<b>25</b>
▪ Improves identified hazardous conditions other than crash sites	0-10	
▪ Improves safety for a wide range of users	0-10	
<b>2. Preservation</b>		
<b>Improvement of the Transportation Network for economy of operation and maintenance.</b>		
▪ Improves National Bridge Inventory System (NBIS) deficient bridge rating	0-10	<b>20</b>
▪ Improves surface condition	0-10	
▪ Included in a surface management system	0-5	
▪ Reduces maintenance or operating costs	0-5	
<b>3. Recreation and Economic</b>		
<b>Development, utilization, protection, and administration of the Federal Lands and its resources.</b>		
▪ Federal high-use recreation site or Federal economic generator: (Scale by categories for each FLMA.)	High Use or Medium Use Low Use	High Economic Impact Medium Impact Low Impact
		10-15 5-10 0-5
▪ Federal Land area accessed:	Over 100,000 acres 25,000-100,000 acres Under 25,000	5 2-4 0-2
▪ Supports community economic goals/needs or designated Scenic Byway		0-5
<b>4. Mobility</b>		
<b>Mobility of users and continuity of the transportation network serving the Federal Lands and its dependent communities.</b>		
▪ Need identified in transportation plan, FLMA Plan, State plan, or County Comprehensive plan, or route is connected to a designated route on the FLMA inventory for FLTP		0-10
▪ Fills missing link in network, removes travel restriction, bottleneck, size/load limit		0-10
▪ Sole access to area or major traffic generator (destination, resource extraction)		0-5
▪ Reduces travel time and congestion, increases comfort and convenience or improves mode choices		0-5
▪ Promotes health and wellness		0-5
<b>5. Sustainability and Environmental Quality</b>		
<b>Protection and enhancement of the environment associated with the Federal Lands and its resources.</b>		
▪ Supports or advances environmental goals		0-5
▪ Enhances wildlife connectivity or aquatic organism passage		0-5
▪ Enhances water quality, riparian function, wetlands function		0-5
▪ Uses design, materials or techniques that will <i>exceed</i> the minimum environmental requirements or mitigates an existing environmental problem in the area		0-5
▪ Contributes to improved environmental quality (i.e. GHG reductions) and reduces VMT.		0-5
▪ Unique mitigation for impacts.		0-5
▪ Contributes to the use of sustainable energy sources for transportation.		0-5
<b>6. Readiness and Support</b>		
<b>Project readiness, local support, financial support, capacity, and project delivery.</b>		
▪ Project support, agency priorities and previous federal investment.		0-10
▪ Applicant's share of project costs, type of funds, availability of funds and certainty of funds.		0-10
▪ Project readiness, project delivery schedule (environmental compliance, design ROW).		0-10
		<b>100</b>
<i>Total available Points</i>		

# Webinar Announcement

## 2015 Request for Proposals

### Idaho Federal Lands Access Program

In conjunction with the 2015 request for proposals for the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) in Idaho, the Western Federal Lands Highway Division of the Federal Highway Administration will be conducting an informational webinar.

This webinar will provide information to potential applicants to the Idaho FLAP. Topics that will be covered include: Overview of the FLAP program, eligibility, schedule/due dates for the request for proposals, the application process, evaluation criteria, and helpful hints for filling out applications. Plenty of time will be allocated for questions.

#### **Date**

Jan 27, 2014 at 10 AM MST.

#### **Duration**

1.5 hours.

#### **Registration**

Registration is not necessary – anyone can join.

#### **Location**

<https://connectdot.connectsolutions.com/idahoflap/>

#### **Log In Information**

Select the option for “Enter as a Guest”

Type your name in the box provided

Click the button “Enter Room”

#### **Audio Details**

Conference Number: 888-273-3658

Participant Code: 6414784