



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

December 5, 2016

In Reply Refer to: HFL-17

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

Greetings:

2017 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 2020 and 2021. 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. Early coordination between the appropriate FLMA and state/county/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:

<u>Federal Agency</u>	<u>Signing Official</u>
National Park Service	Park Superintendent
US Forest Service	Forest Supervisor
US Fish & Wildlife Service	Refuge/Hatchery Supervisor
Bureau of Land Management	Field Manager
Bureau of Reclamation	Area Manager
US Army Corp of Engineers	Operations Project Manager
Department of Defense	Installation Commander
<u>Local Agency</u>	<u>Signing Official</u>
Idaho Transportation Department	District Engineer
County	Commissioner
Highway District	Commissioner
City, Town	Mayor
Tribe	Tribal Chair
Transit District	District Manager/Director

Proposals that do not have the signatures that are 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 2020.

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.

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, 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 \$14 million annually. Proposals requesting \$100,000 or more will be considered for the 2017 Request for Proposals.

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. For assistance with unit costs, below is a link to the Idaho Transportation website for their average unit price reports:

<http://itd.idaho.gov/business/>

Are matching funds required?

The program requires matching funds of 7.34% of the total proposal costs for Capital Improvement, Enhancement, Surface Preservation, 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. 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/fedaaid_guidance_nfmr.htm

<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, 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 31, 2017**. 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/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 from the Idaho Transportation Department, Local Highway Technical Assistance Council, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S Army Corp of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, and the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (DOD).

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, Idaho Transportation Department, Local Highway Technical Assistance Council, 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 TAG should complete initial proposal evaluations by mid-May 2017. Field visits are tentatively scheduled for Jun 2017. Final recommendations of the TAG and PDC final decisions on the proposals are currently scheduled for Aug 2017.

Who will be the lead agency for project delivery?

The 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. Decisions regarding lead and participating agency roles will be based on the type of project, project complexity, and how the work is proposed to be delivered. The TAG may approach the project applicants during proposal evaluation to discuss project delivery. 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 January 5, 2017. 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.

Agency	Contact	Phone	Email Address
Federal Highway Administration	George Fekaris	(360) 619-7766	george.fekaris@dot.gov
Idaho Transportation Department	Blake Rindlisbacher	(208) 334-8231	Blake.Rindlisbacher@itd.idaho.gov
Local Highway Technical Assistance Council	Dan Counce	(208) 344-0565	dcoonce@lhtac.org
US Forest Service, Region 1	Brenda Christensen	(406) 329-3351	bchristensen@fs.fed.us
US Forest Service, Region 4	Justin Humble	(801) 625-5412	jhumble@fs.fed.us
National Park Service	Justin De Santis	(415) 623-2278	Justin_DeSantis@nps.gov
Bureau of Land Management	Cynthia Kowalczyk	(208) 373-3952	ckowalczyk@blm.gov
US Fish & Wildlife Service	Jeff Holm	(503) 231-2161	jeff_holm@fws.gov
US Army Corp of Engineers	Matthew Walker	(208) 343-0671	Matthew.T.Walker@usace.army.mil
Bureau of Reclamation	Eve Skillman	(208) 378-5357	eskillman@usbr.gov
Department of Defense	Jason Cowin	(618) 220-5229	jason.w.cowin.civ@mail.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,

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
Proposal Instruction Checklist
Webinar Announcement
Proposal Form

**2017 Proposal Evaluation Criteria
Idaho Federal Lands Access Program**

Maximum Points

<p>1. Safety</p> <p>Improvement of the Transportation Network for the safety of its users.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improves identified fatality sites 0-20 ▪ Improves identified crash sites 0-15 ▪ Improves identified hazardous conditions other than crash sites 0-10 ▪ Improves safety for a wide range of users 0-10 	25
<p>2. Preservation</p> <p>Improvement of the Transportation Network for economy of operation and maintenance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improves National Bridge Inventory System (NBIS) deficient bridge rating 0-10 ▪ Improves surface condition 0-10 ▪ Included in a surface management system 0-5 ▪ Reduces maintenance or operating costs 0-5 	20
<p>3. Recreation and Economic</p> <p>Development, utilization, protection, and administration of the Federal Lands and its resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Federal high-use recreation site or Federal economic generator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High Use or High Economic Impact 10-15 Medium Use Medium Impact 5-10 Low Use Low Impact 0-5 ▪ Federal Land area accessed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 100,000 acres 5 25,000-100,000 acres 2-4 Under 25,000 0-2 ▪ Supports community economic goals/needs or designated Scenic Byway 0-5 	20
<p>4. Mobility</p> <p>Mobility of users and continuity of the transportation network serving the Federal Lands and its dependent communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need identified in transportation plan, Federal Land Management Agency (FLMA) Plan, State plan, or County Comprehensive plan, or route is connected to a designated route on the FLMA inventory for the Federal Lands Transportation Program (FLTP). 0-10 ▪ Fills missing link in network, removes travel restriction, bottleneck, size/load limit, supports federal land related freight. 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 	15
<p>5. Sustainability and Environmental Quality</p> <p>Protection and enhancement of the environment associated with the Federal Lands and its resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 (Green House Gases reductions) and reduces Vehicle Miles Traveled. 0-5 ▪ Unique mitigation for impacts. 0-5 ▪ Contributes to the use of sustainable energy sources for transportation. 0-5 	10
<p>6. Readiness and Support</p> <p>Project readiness, local support, financial support, capacity, and project delivery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 	10
<i>Total available Points</i>	100

**2017 Request for Proposals
Idaho Federal Lands Access Program
Proposal Instruction Checklist**

- Download the Request for Proposal packet and the proposal form from the following website:
<http://flh.fhwa.dot.gov/programs/flap/id/>
- Initiate coordination between the federal land agency and the State/County/Local/Tribal government. The proposal should be completed jointly by Federal Land Manager and the State/County/Local/Tribal government.
- Complete the proposal form with the best available data. Provide thorough, realistic and concise responses to questions. “Not Applicable” is an acceptable response if appropriate. Include any assumptions.
- Develop a map that includes project locations, proposal termini, high use federal recreation sites, federal economic generators, and **most importantly**, show the Federal Lands that the proposal accesses, is adjacent to or is on.
- The proposal must be signed by the appropriate federal agency official AND the appropriate local agency official listed below. Proposals that DO NOT have the appropriate signatures will NOT be eligible for consideration.

<u>Federal Agency</u>	<u>Signing Official</u>
National Park Service	Park Superintendent
US Forest Service	Forest Supervisor
US Fish & Wildlife Service	Refuge/Hatchery Supervisor
Bureau of Land Management	Field Manager
Bureau of Reclamation	Area Manager
US Army Corp of Engineers	Operations Project Manager
Department of Defense	Installation Commander
<u>Local Agency</u>	<u>Signing Official</u>
Idaho Transportation Department	District Engineer
County	Commissioner
Highway District	Commissioner
City, Town	Mayor
Tribe	Tribal Chair
Transit District	District Manager/Director

- 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 must not exceed 30 pages.
- E-mail your completed application package to:
WFL.CallForProjects@dot.gov
- Proposals must be received by **March 31, 2017** to be considered. Submit the proposal early, if possible, to avoid unexpected issues.

Webinar Announcement

2017 Request for Proposals

Idaho Federal Lands Access Program

In conjunction with the 2017 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

January 5, 2017 at 10 AM MST.

Duration

1.5 hours.

Registration

Registration is not necessary – anyone can join.

Location

<https://connectdot.connectsolutions.com/idflap2017/>

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