



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Highway
Administration**

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March 1, 2013

In Reply Refer To: HFL-17

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

Greetings:

Request for Project Proposals – **Transit, Transportation Planning, and Research**
2013 Idaho Federal Lands Access Program

The Idaho Federal Lands Access Program is soliciting **transit, transportation planning, and research** proposals for projects in FY 2014 through FY 2018. Project approvals will be contingent upon availability of funds. Proposal must be received by **May 1, 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.

Who may apply?

All proposals must be submitted *jointly* by the entity with title or maintenance responsibility (State, county, town, township, tribal, municipal or local government) and the Federal Land Management Agency(ies) being accessed by the project. A determination has not yet been made on the types of public transit providers that are eligible for funding under this program and is currently under review by the FHWA HQ. Please check our website (link at the bottom) or contact Susan Law for current information.

Where can projects be located?

Proposed projects must be located on 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.

What types of proposals will be considered?

The call for projects for capital improvement and enhancement projects closed in February 2013. For this call, projects proposals will be accepted for ***transit, transportation planning, and research projects***. Transit projects include improvements such construction of transit facilities, operation and maintenance of transit facilities (including vehicles), and bus purchase. Transportation planning projects include projects such as alternative transportation planning, corridor management plans, and corridor studies. For research, projects that improve safety, enhance sustainability, and improve

access will be considered. For example, research project can include evaluation of wildlife-vehicle collision avoidance measures to improve safety, wildlife crossings, sustainability enhancements, and climate change adaptation strategies. Proposed projects should also be consistent with statewide, regional, county, local, and/or tribal transportation plans as well Federal Land Management Plans. Projects that are specifically identified in a transportation plan will receive additional consideration.

What size of project will be considered?

The Idaho Federal Lands Access Program is currently estimated to receive about \$17 million annually. Projects in all funding amounts will be considered and evaluated. Funds will not be “set-aside” for transit, transportation planning, or research. These types of projects will compete directly with capital improvement and enhancement projects. Due to limited program funding amounts, projects will receive additional consideration when funding leveraged from other sources is also available. In addition, the program requires a match of **7.34%** of the total project costs. The match will follow the current guidance requirements established by Idaho Department of Transportation for Federal-Aid projects. This includes “soft matches” or “in-kind matches” such as donated 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. For more information on match, go to: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/guidance/guideflap.cfm>.

How do I submit a proposal?

The best available data should be used in completing 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 project proposal form with all required maps, signatures, and photos to:

WFL.CallForProjects@dot.gov

The proposal must be received by **May 1, 2013**. The total file size for the proposal form (including maps and photos) should not exceed 10 megabytes, 30 pages total, and should be combined into a single pdf before submittal. 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/id/index.htm>

How will the projects be evaluated?

A Project Selection Team will evaluate and prioritize the proposed projects according to following areas: Safety, Recreation, Economic, Mobility, Sustainability, Environmental, and Other, further explained in the enclosed criteria 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, Idaho Transportation Department, Local Highway Technical Assistance Council, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, US Army Corp of Engineers, and the Bureau of Land Management. The project selection team will

evaluate the transit, transportation planning, and research proposals separately from the capital improvement and enhancement projects, then a prioritized list of projects in each category will be provided to the Program Decisions Committee to consider for programming.

How will a final decision be made on the proposals?

After the project proposals are evaluated and prioritized, the Program Decision Committee made up of representatives from Federal Highway Administration, Idaho Transportation Department, and the Local Highway Technical Assistance Council, will make a final decision on the project proposals. The Program Decision 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, and previous federal investment. The Program Decision Committee 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 summer 2013.

Who should I contact if I have questions?

Please contact Susan Law or the Federal Lands Access Program coordinator for your agency:

Agency	Contact	Phone	Email Address
Federal Highway Administration	Susan Law	(360) 619-7840	susan.law@dot.gov
Idaho Transportation Department	Loren Thomas	(208) 334-8231	loren.thomas@itd.idaho.gov
Local Highway Technical Assistance Council	Gerald Flatz	(208) 344-0565	jflatz@lhtac.org
US Forest Service, Region 1	Fred Bower	(406) 329-3354	fbower@fs.fed.us
US Forest Service, Region 4	Kay Shurtz	(801) 625-5222	kshurtz@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	Jamie Howard	(208) 343-0671	Jamie.n.howard@us.army.mil

Sincerely yours,



Susan Law
Transportation Planner

Enclosures:
Project Proposal Form
Project Evaluation Criteria