U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

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

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Eastern Federal Lands Access Program Call for Projects Alert - Louisiana

Greetings:

The Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division (EFLHD) of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will be accepting Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) applications in order to develop a multi-year program of projects for Federal Fiscal Years (FY) 2017 through FY 2020. All final project approvals will be contingent upon the availability of funds in the year for which they are being requested.

The Call for Projects application period opens July 15, 2016 and runs through October 14, 2016. Please explore our FLAP website located at http://flh.fhwa.dot.gov/programs/flap/ and follow the links to the state webpage to download the application, review the state's program goals, associated scoring criteria, FAQ's and tips for preparing a good application. Applications should be submitted via email to EFL.planning@dot.gov by the end of the day (11:59 PM) on October 14, 2016 to be considered. If required, applications via mail, Fedex, UPS etc. or fax will also be accepted.

An estimated total of $8M will be available for programming in your State.

What is the purpose of the Federal Lands Access Program?
The purpose of the FLAP is to provide safe and adequate transportation access to and through Federal Lands for visitors, recreationists, and resource users. The FLAP supplements State and local resources for public roads, transit systems, and other transportation facilities, with an emphasis on high-use recreation sites and economic generators.

Where can projects be located?
Proposed projects or studies must be associated with a public highway, road, bridge, trail or transit system that is located on, is adjacent to, or provides access to Federal lands for which the transportation facility's title or maintenance responsibility is vested with a State, county, city, township, tribal, municipal, or other local government entity.

What types of applications will be considered?
Applications will be accepted for the following:
Capital Improvements- These proposals include rehabilitation, restoration, construction, and reconstruction of

roads, bridges, multiuse trails, and other long term transportation system asset improvements. 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. FLAP funds are not intended for routine maintenance projects (e.g., potholes, mowing, snow removal, same type guardrail replacement, etc.).

Transit- These proposals include construction of transit facilities (e.g. ferry docks, helipads, boat ramps) and limited duration operation/maintenance of transit services and facilities (including vehicles) and the purchase of transit vehicles.

Planning- These proposals include engineering feasibility studies, corridor management planning, bicycle/pedestrian planning and alternative transportation system 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.

Safety– Certain types of Highway Safety Improvement Projects (HSIP) are eligible to be funded at 100 percent of the federal share as provided in Title 23 U.S.C. 120(c) http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/federalaid/141125.cfm.

Who may apply?

The applicant must be the facility owner, have maintenance responsibility, or must supply a letter from the facility owner/maintainer indicating the application is being submitted on their behalf. Project applications must be sponsored and/or supported by the appropriate Federal Land Management Agency (FLMA) unit whose access would be enhanced by the proposed action. This acknowledgement of sponsorship and support must be demonstrated by an application signature and/or letter of support attached to the application from an appropriate representative of the benefitting FLMA unit. 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. All projects must be submitted using the EFLHD Access Program Application form (located on the website).

Are matching funds required?

Generally, a 20% matching share of the project's total estimated cost for completion is required for this program. Other Federal funds (non-Title 23 or Title 49, with the exception of Title 23 Federal Lands Transportation Program or Tribal Transportation funds) may be used as match for the FLAP award amount. Typically a cash match is preferred by most states. NOTE: An EFLHD project management fee of 2-8% may be added to the total FLAP project budget if the project is programmed. This fee will require a match by the applicant. Please note that this is a Title 23 Federal Aid Highway Reimbursable Program and ***not*** a lump-sum grant program.

How would the projects be delivered?

On the application form you will select from EFLHD, State DOT or Local Public Agency as the preferred delivery organization. EFLHD also welcomes the opportunity to provide "cradle to grave" project delivery services as the lead agency on behalf of the applicant. This approach allows State or local resources to be utilized on their other priorities. State DOTs are eligible to deliver their own projects. Local agencies requesting to deliver their own project must be certified by the State DOT or demonstrate prior experience with the use of federal transportation funds (Title 23) to deliver projects in compliance with Federal Highway Administration regulations. Additional information regarding local agency project delivery roles and responsibilities may be found at the following website:

http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/federal-aidessentials/stateresources.cfm

The range of potential EFLHD delivered services includes: Planning/Feasibility Studies, Preliminary and Final Engineering Design, Federal Environmental Compliance, Construction Contract Advertisement, Construction Contract Administration, Construction Engineering & Inspection, and Federal Stewardship and Oversight. However, the lead agency designation and participating agencies' roles and responsibilities will be considered during both the initial application evaluation and the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) development Phases. 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. EFLHD will be responsible for Stewardship and Oversight of all programmed projects to assure compliance with federal requirements.
If the applicant would like to request the option of EFLHD delivery, please contact Lewis Grimm, EFLHD Planning Team Leader at: Lewis.Grimm@dot.gov or at 703-404-6289.
Requests for EFLHD delivery must be submitted no less than 30 days prior to the closing date of the Call for Projects period to allow time for the EFLHD independent government cost estimate for the provision of these requested services to be developed. Applications (minus the estimated project budget values) will still need to be submitted to EFLHD by the applicant prior to the closing date of the Call for Projects.

NEW! Highway Safety Improvement Projects (HSIP)
As provided in Title 23 U.S.C. 120(c); Certain types of HSIP projects can be funded at 100 percent. This applies to projects that may include the following: maintaining minimum levels of retroreflectivity of highway signs or pavement markings, shoulder and centerline rumble strips and stripes, traffic control signalization, traffic circles/roundabouts, safety rest areas, commuter carpooling and vanpooling, rail-highway crossing closure, or installation of traffic signs, traffic lights, guardrails, impact attenuators, concrete barrier end treatments, breakaway utility poles, or priority control systems for emergency vehicles or transit vehicles at signalized intersections. http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/federalaid/141125.cfm

Eligibility of specific projects, strategies and activities generally are based on:

- consistency with a State's Strategic Highway Safety Plan;
- crash experience, crash potential, crash rate, or other data-supported means;
- compliance with Title 23 requirements; and
- State's strategic or performance based safety goals to reduce fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads.

Please coordinate up front with your State DOT HSIP Safety Manager (or similar title) or the FHWA Division Safety Engineer for eligibility approval of your project's scope. Include the signed Safety Approval form with your application (located on the website). Specific HSIP eligibility questions should be directed to the FHWA Division office in your State. A list of FHWA Division offices is available at www.fhwa.dot.gov/about/field.cfm.

What if I have questions?
You are welcome to contact any of the FLAP Programming Decisions Committee (PDC) members for your state with your questions using the contact information contained in the website. Additionally, questions about project eligibility or the EFLHD application process can be directed to Lewis Grimm or Richelle Ellis, FHWA/EFLHD (contact information shown below). Also please find on the website an EFLHD FAQ document, Scoring Criteria, State Goals for the program and EFLHD FLAP Tip Sheet with suggested factors to be considered for submitting a good application. We also invite you to view a brief presentation titled "*EFL FLAP Informational Presentation*" located on the FLAP website that may be helpful.

Thank you for your interest in the FLAP program. We look forward to working with you in developing a multiyear program of projects for the period of FY2017-FY2020.

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