
Federal Lands Access Program

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Montana Access Program Webinar

Highlights

- Overview
 - Who is Federal Lands Highway?
 - MAP-21 & The Federal Lands Access Program
 - Eligibility & the Project Selection Process
 - Upcoming Call for Projects details
 - Tips for developing good project proposals
 - Q&A
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Office of Federal Lands Highway (FLH)

Western Federal Lands



Eastern Federal Lands

Central Federal Lands

Western Federal Lands Highway (WFL) Services Provided

- Transportation Planning/Public Involvement
 - Transportation engineering disciplines, technical assistance & training (Geotech, Hydraulics, Materials, Survey, etc.)
 - Roadway & Bridge Design
 - Contracting & Procurement
 - Construction Engineering/Administration
 - Technology Deployment
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Western Federal Lands Highway (WFL)

- Oversight of Federal Lands Highway Program
- Deliver projects that access
 - National Parks
 - National Forests System Lands
 - National Wildlife Refuges
 - BLM Lands
 - US Corp of Engineers Lands
 - Tribal Lands
 - Others (ie DAR)



Yellowstone National Park

Delivered By: Western Federal Lands



MAP -21 Federal Lands & Tribal Transportation Programs

	Annual \$
Federal Lands Transportation Program (FLTP)	\$300 million
Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP)	\$250 million
Tribal Transportation Program	\$450 million

What is the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP)?

“Access Program” goals

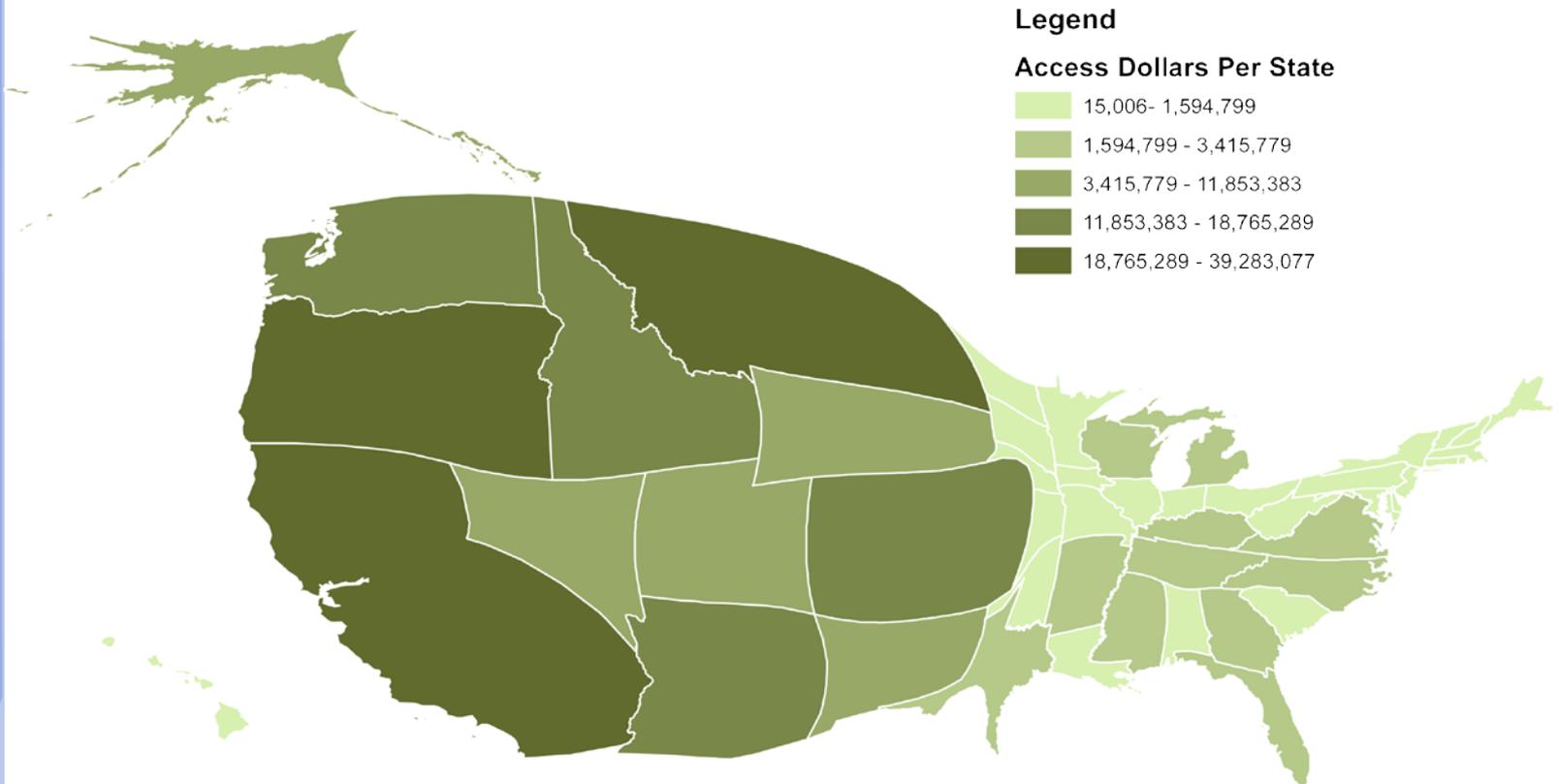
- **Improve transportation facilities** that provide access to, are adjacent to, or are located within Federal lands.
- **Supplements State and local resources** for public roads, transit systems, and other transportation facilities
- With an emphasis on **high-use recreation sites** and **economic generators**.



Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP-\$250M)

- ***How are funds distributed?***
 - 80% of funds to States with $\geq 1.5\%$ of total public land (i.e. western states)
 - Distributed by formula:
 - Recreational visitation (30%)
 - Federal land area (5%)
 - Federal public road mileage (55%)
 - Federal public bridges (10%)
 - MT authorized for **~\$22.5 million** annually
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Access Program Dollars by State | A Cartogram



Sources:
State Shapefile: US Census
Access Dollars: FLHD, Access Program Funding Table Dated 10/26/2012

Puerto Rico is not represented, but will receive around \$78,000 per year in Access Funds

Federal Lands Access Program

- ***Where can FLAP funds be spent?***
 - On a Federal Lands Access Transportation Facility
 - public highway, road, bridge, trail or transit system
 - located on, is adjacent to, or provides access to Federal lands
 - title or maintenance responsibility is vested with State, County, Local Government, or Tribe



Where can funding be spent?

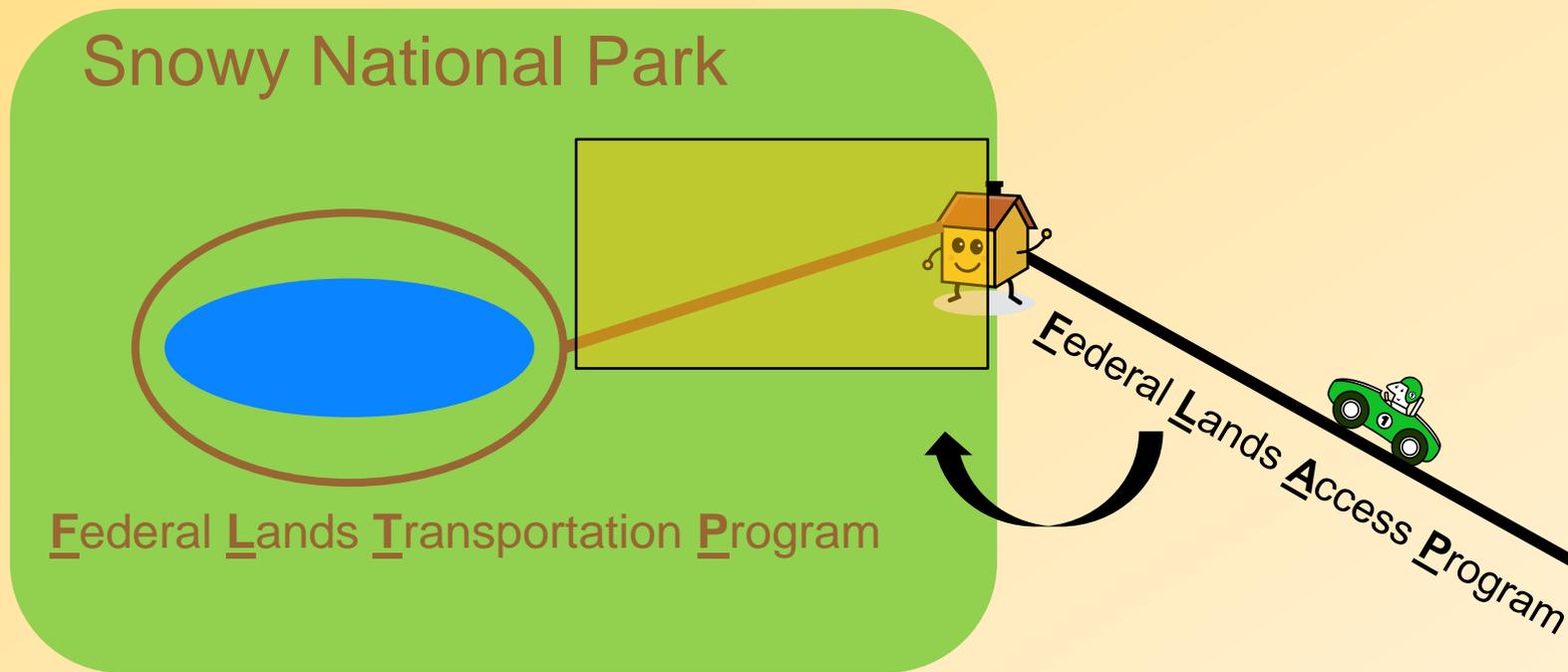


Federal Lands Access Program

A small green car icon with a driver is shown on a black diagonal line that extends from the house icon towards the bottom right of the slide.

Blizzard County, MT

Title or Maintenance Responsibility?



Blizzard County, MT

Where can funding be spent?

- ***Which Federal Lands?***

- BLM
- BOR
- COE
- NPS
- USFS
- USFWS
- ~~Tribal lands held in trust by BIA*~~

*Tribal trust lands are not considered Federal lands for the purpose of the Federal Lands Access Program. See guidance posted at:

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

Eligibility

- ***What types of projects are eligible?***
 - Transportation planning, research, engineering
 - Preventive maintenance, rehabilitation, restoration, construction, and reconstruction
 - Adjacent vehicular parking areas
 - Can be under Federal maintenance responsibility
 - Acquisition of necessary scenic easements and scenic or historic sites
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Eligibility (con't)

- ***What types of projects are eligible? (con't):***
 - Provisions for pedestrian and bicycles
 - Environmental mitigation in or adjacent to Federal Land to improve public safety and reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality while maintaining habitat connectivity
 - Roadside rest areas, including sanitary and water facilities
 - Operation and maintenance of transit facilities
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Programming Decisions Committee (PDC)

- ***Who makes programming decisions?***
 - The Programming Decisions Committee (PDC)
 - Members include representatives from
 - Federal Highway Administration/Western Federal Lands (WFL) – Phyllis Chun
 - State DOT(MDT) – Lynn Zanto
 - “An appropriate political subdivision of the state” - Montana Association of Counties (MACo) – Harold Blattie
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Technical Advisory Group (TAG)

- ***Who evaluates project proposals?***
 - A Technical Advisory Group (TAG) is made up of several entities to help evaluate proposals.
 - A team from WFL
 - LTAP – Steve Jenkins
 - MDT – Wayne Noem
 - FLMA representatives
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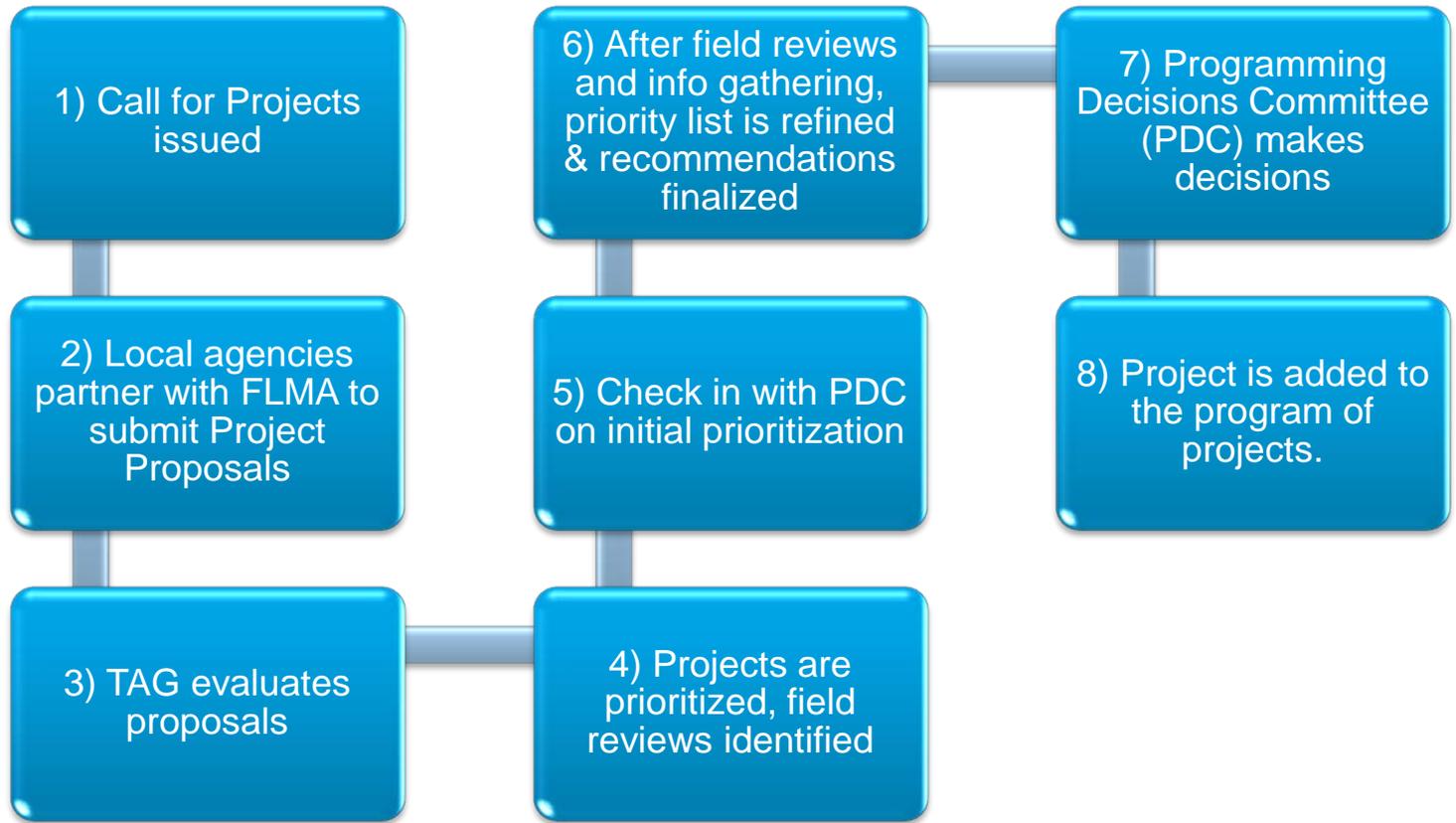
Investment Strategy

- ***Investment Strategy*** – Maximizing the use of limited funds, emphasis on:
 - 1) projects that access high-use Federal recreation sites and Federal economic generators.
 - 2) preserving existing access to Federal Lands and restoring serviceability of the assets. *LESS* emphasis on new facilities, increasing capacity, or enhancements to existing facilities.
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Investment Strategy (con't)

- ***Investment Strategy*** – Maximizing the use of limited funds, emphasis on:
 - 3) Projects where important access will be lost without the project
 - 4) In general, investment levels from the Access program for individual projects should be proportional to the % of use that is directly related to Federal Lands.
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Project Selection Process



Project Selection Process

- ***How are projects evaluated?***
 - Safety,
 - Preservation,
 - Recreation & Economic,
 - Mobility
 - Environmental Quality
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Project Selection Process

- PDC will make final decision also considering:
 - Project support, project readiness
 - Agency priorities
 - Applicant's share of the project costs, previous federal investment specifically related to project, availability of funds
 - Project delivery schedules
 - Environmental and right-of-way constraints
 - Access Program contingent on available funding and authorizing legislation.
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Project Selection Process

- PDC makes final project selection
 - WFL prepares agreements
 - Match requirements
 - Project lead agency if other than WFL
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Match Requirement

- Statute (23 USC 120); FedAid Rules
 - Montana Match is **13.42%**
 - Match can be:
 - Cash (Non-Federal see below)
 - In kind services (labor), r/w, materials (rock, culvert, etc), equipment
 - Valued at fair market value
 - **For materials and services, work eligible after funding agreement signed.**
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Match Requirement (con't)

- Limitations:
 - Non-Federal Funds unless specific statutory authority otherwise. Exceptions include:
 - Federal Lands Transportation Program/Tribal Transportation Funds
 - Federal Land Management Agency funds (Non Title 23/49)
 - Access funds **cannot** be used as non-Federal match for other programs.
 - **Cannot** use Forest Highway Program Carryover funds for match.
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Federal Lands Access Program (con't)

- This program is a transportation program.
 - This program is not a “grant” program.
 - Western Federal Lands has Stewardship and Oversight responsibility of ALL projects
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FLAP 2013 Call for Projects Results

Programmed for FY13-16 Construction

State	Total Proposals	Total Requested	Projects Programmed	Total Programmed
Montana	56	\$164,503,206	21	\$73,000,000

FLAP 2014 Call for Projects

- Two concurrent calls for projects issued in 2014:
 - 1) Capital, Enhancement, Transit, Transportation Planning, Research Projects (~\$22.5 million per year for FY17 & FY18)
 - 2) Surface Preservation (**\$9 million** in FY14 & FY15)
 - Proposals must be submitted **jointly** by State, county, town, tribal, municipal or local government and the Federal Land Management Agency(ies) being accessed.
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Surface Preservation Call

Eligibility

- **Surface Preservation:**
 - Chip seal, crack sealing, fog sealing, re-graveling of existing gravel roads
 - Signing and safety improvements to bring to current standards as part of a surface preservation project
 - No pavement overlays or culverts that require permits, those will go into capital improvement projects
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Access Program Call for Projects Timelines

- **Surface Preservation:**
 - Project proposal packets be out to applicants by **first week of March.**
 - Completed proposal to WFL by **mid April.**
 - TAG evaluations and recommendations due to PDC by the **end of May.** There should be very few field reviews.
 - PDC decisions due by **middle of June.**
 - Eligibility is limited.
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Access Program Call for Projects Timelines (con't)

- **Capital, Enhancement, Transit, Transportation Planning and Research proposals:**
 - Project proposal packets be out to applicants by **first week of March.**
 - Completed proposal to WFL by **end of May.**
 - TAG evaluations and field review recommendations by **end of June.**
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Access Program Call for Projects Timelines (con't)

- Capital, Enhancement, Transit, Transportation Planning and Research proposals (con't):
 - Tag completes field reviews by **mid August**.
 - TAG evaluations and recommendations due to PDC by **mid September**.
 - PDC project decisions by **end of September**.
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Federal Lands Access Program (the Application)

What if I'm a road manager, not a creative writer?

- Strategies to make your proposal compete as well as possible
 - The good, the bad, and the ugly
 - Tips for good proposals
 - Who do you call?
-

Federal Lands Access Program (the Application)

Strategies

Cover the basics

- Turn it in on time
 - **April 18th** for preventative maintenance projects
 - **May 30th** for capital, enhancement, transit, research, planning projects.
- Get all the signatures
- Write to every criterion



Federal Lands Access Program (the Application)

Strategies

Talk to the Federal Land Managers

- It avoids surprises
 - They can help you with the use information
 - Often they are pretty good at applications
 - Their support will help it compete
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Federal Lands Access Program (the Application)

The good, the bad, and the ugly

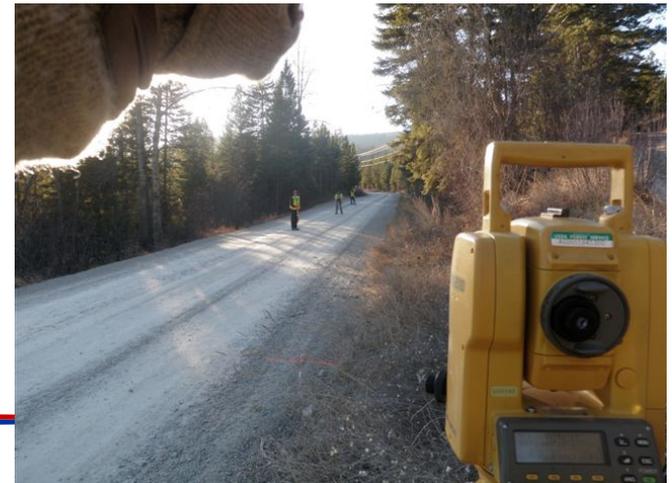
- The TAG does not rate by weight of proposal, so keep it concise, mind the page limits
- Make sure you have two good project maps and clear photos
- Sometimes you have to state the obvious



Federal Lands Access Program (the Application)

Tips for good proposals

- Be clear about the intended work
- Be clear about who should deliver the project
- Sound as certain as possible about the source of the match



Federal Lands Access Program (the Application)

Tips for good proposals

- Size your request to a reasonable project
- Minimum project proposal amount
 - Preventative Maintenance: **300k**
 - Capital Improvement: **500k**
 - Planning/Research/Transit: **100k**
- Ask MDT and the Feds to help fill in the blanks
 - Feds for use information
 - MDT for crash data
 - MDT for traffic data



Federal Lands Access Program (the Application)

- ***Who do you call?***
 - For general information or project eligibility – John Snyder or Susan Law – WFLHD
 - Your Rep. on TAG – Steve Jenkins – LTAP
 - For road info.
 - Uses – Local Federal Land Manager
 - Traffic Data – Becky Duke - MDT
 - Crash Data – Kraig McLeod - MDT
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Questions



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