



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Highway
Administration**

Western Federal Lands Highway Division
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November 5, 2014

In Reply Refer to: HFL-17

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

Greetings:

2015 Request for Proposals
Oregon 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 Oregon Federal Lands Program in fiscal years 2017 through 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, or US Army Corp of Engineers

Operations Project Manager. Agency officials with title or vested maintenance responsibility would include Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Region Manager, Transit District Director, County Commissioner, Mayor, or Tribal Leader. Proposals that do not have the appropriate signatures such as those listed above will not be eligible for consideration. If you have any questions regarding the appropriateness of the signing official, please ask.

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 2017.

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 Oregon Federal Lands Access Program is currently estimated to receive about \$21 million annually. Proposals requesting at least \$100,000 will be considered. Awards for capital improvement proposals typically range from \$500,000 to \$10,000,000. Awards for surface preservation and enhancement proposals typically range from \$200,000 to \$1,000,000. Awards for transit, planning and research proposals typically range from \$100,000 to \$500,000. 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 **10.27%** of the total proposal costs. The match will follow the current ODOT 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://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TD/AT/Pages/donations_contributions.aspx

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, and most importantly, **show the Federal Lands accessed by the proposal**. Letters of support from other entities that will not be signing the official application such as from the appropriate Oregon Department of Transportation Area Commission on Transportation (ACT) 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 **January 30, 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/or/>

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 ODOT, Association of Oregon Counties, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S Army Corp of Engineers. Input from ACTs will also be considered prior to finalizing the evaluation.

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, ODOT, and Association of Oregon Counties, 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 early 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 Dec 2, 2014. 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
Oregon Department of Transportation	Patricia Fisher	(503) 986-3528	patricia.r.fisher@odot.state.or.us
Association of Oregon Counties	Emily Ackland	(503) 585-8351	eackland@aocweb.org
US Forest Service	Amy Thomas	(503) 808-2473	aethomas@fs.fed.us
National Park Service	Justin De Santis	(415) 623-2278	Justin_DeSantis@nps.gov
Bureau of Land Management	Gerald Russell	(503) 808-6099	grussel@blm.gov
US Fish & Wildlife Service	Jeff Holm	(503) 231-2161	jeff_holm@fws.gov
US Army Corp of Engineers	Scott Moore	(503) 808-4306	Scott.a.Moore@usace.army.mil

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 fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

George N. Fekaris
Transportation Planner

Enclosures:
Proposal Evaluation Criteria
Webinar Announcement
Proposal Form

**2015 Proposal Evaluation Criteria
Oregon 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 crash sites ▪ Improves identified hazardous conditions other than crash sites ▪ Improves safety for a wide range of users 	<p>25</p>
<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 ▪ Improves surface condition ▪ Included in a surface management system ▪ Reduces maintenance or operating costs 	<p>20</p>
<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"> ▪ Accesses high-use Federal recreation site or Federal economic generator ▪ Amount of Federal Land area accessed ▪ Enhances or maintains access and utilization of the federal land <p>Enhancement of economic development at the local, regional, or national level, including tourism and recreational travel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supports community economic goals/needs ▪ Designated Scenic Byway or Scenic Bikeway (Federal, State, Local, other) 	<p>20</p>
<p>4. Mobility</p> <p>Continuity of the transportation network serving the Federal Land and its dependent communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sole access to area ▪ Fills missing link in network, removes travel restriction, bottleneck, size/load limit ▪ Route is connected to a designated route on the FLMA inventory for the FLTP ▪ Need identified in a transportation plan, Federal Land Management plan, or County Comprehensive plan <p>Mobility of the users of the transportation network and the goods and services provided.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduces travel time and congestion, increases comfort and convenience ▪ Improves mode choices ▪ Major traffic generator (destination, resource extraction) 	<p>15</p>
<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 ▪ Enhances wildlife connectivity, wildlife habitat, aquatic organism passage ▪ Enhances water quality, riparian function, wetlands function ▪ Uses design, materials or techniques that will <i>exceed</i> the minimum environmental requirements or mitigates an existing environmental problem in the area ▪ Contributes to improved environmental quality (i.e. GHG reductions) and reduces VMT. ▪ Unique mitigation for impacts. ▪ Contributes to the use of sustainable energy sources for transportation. 	<p>10</p>
<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 ACT input. ▪ Applicant's share of project costs, type and availability of funds, and previous federal investment ▪ Project readiness, project development delivery schedules, environmental and right-of-way time constraints. ▪ Applicants experience and capacity for delivering or partnering on a federal project ▪ Cost estimate is reasonable and realistic. 	<p>10</p>
<p align="right"><i>Total available Points</i></p>	<p>100</p>

Webinar Announcement

2015 Request for Proposals

Oregon Federal Lands Access Program

In conjunction with the 2015 request for proposals for the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) in Oregon, 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 Oregon 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

Dec 2, 2014 at 10 AM PST.

Duration

1.5 hours.

Registration

Registration is not necessary – anyone can join.

Location

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

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