



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Highway
Administration**

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In Reply Refer To: HFL-17

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

Greetings:

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

The Oregon 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.

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 late January 2013. For this call, projects proposals will be accepted for ***transit, transportation planning, and research projects***. Transit projects include improvements such as 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 Oregon Federal Lands Access Program is currently estimated to receive about \$21 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 **10.27%** of the total project costs. The match will follow the current guidance requirements established by Oregon Department of Transportation for Federal-Aid projects, more information available at: http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/LGS/pages/lag_manual.aspx.

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 **April 5, 2013**. The total file size for the proposal form (including maps and photos) should not exceed 10 megabytes and be combined into a single pdf.

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/or/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, and Environmental. (See 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, Oregon Department of Transportation, Association of Oregon Counties, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S Army Corp of Engineers. 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, Oregon Department of Transportation, and Association of Oregon Counties, 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
Oregon Department of Transportation	Patricia Fisher	(503) 986-3528	patricia.r.fisher@odot.state.or.us
Association of Oregon Counties	Jon Oshel	(503) 585-8351	joshel@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	Dick Bergen	(503) 808-6100	rbergen@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

Sincerely yours,



Susan Law
WFL Planning Team Leader

Enclosures:
Project Proposal Form
Project Evaluation Criteria