



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Highway
Administration**

Western Federal Lands Highway Division
610 E. Fifth Street
Vancouver, WA 98661
Phone 360-619-7700
Fax 360-619-7846

April 23, 2014

In Reply Refer to: HFL-17

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

Greetings:

Request for Project Proposals
2014 Washington State Federal Lands Access Program

The Washington State Federal Lands Access Program is soliciting proposals for capital improvement, enhancement, transit, and planning projects in FY 2016 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 (FLAP) 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. Proposals must be signed by officials authorized to commit the agency to the project. These would include WSDOT regional managers, county commissioners, or tribal leaders and federal land unit managers such as Park Superintendents, Forest Supervisors, Fish and Wildlife Project Leaders, Field Managers or District Managers.

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?

Project proposals will be accepted for capital improvement, enhancement, transit and planning projects that are included in the activities listed below. Capital improvement projects include rehabilitation, restoration, construction, and reconstruction of roads and trails. This includes

improvements such as, but not limited to, safety improvements, widening, realignments, surfacing, culverts, bridges, signing and associated roadway appurtenances. Enhancements are road and trail related improvements such as, but not limited to, interpretative signing, kiosks, viewpoints, restrooms, provisions for pedestrians and bicycles, scenic easements, trailheads, and improvements that reduce vehicle-wildlife conflicts. Transit projects include construction of transit facilities and operation and maintenance of transit facilities (including vehicles). Planning projects include engineering studies, corridor management planning, bicycle/pedestrian planning and alternative transportation planning that will provide valuable information for future FLAP projects.

The following will be considered in this call:

- 1) Transportation planning.
- 2) Rehabilitation, restoration, construction and reconstruction.
- 3) Adjacent vehicular parking areas.
- 4) Provisions for pedestrian and bicycles.
- 5) Environmental mitigation in or adjacent to Federal land to improve public safety and reduce vehicle-wildlife mortality while maintaining habitat connectivity.
- 6) Construction and reconstruction of roadside rest areas, including sanitary and water facilities.
- 7) Operation and maintenance of transit facilities.

Proposed improvement projects should also be consistent with a statewide, regional, county, local, or tribal transportation plan and a Federal Land Management Plan. Projects that are specifically identified in a transportation plan will receive additional consideration.

What size of project will be considered?

The Washington State Federal Lands Access Program is currently estimated to receive about \$13 million annually. Projects in all funding amounts will be considered and evaluated. However, because of limited program funding amounts, projects will receive additional consideration when funding leveraged from other sources is also available.

Will matching funds be required?

The program requires matching funds of **13.5%** of the total project costs. The match will follow the current guidance requirements established by the Washington State Department of Transportation for matching funds on Federal-Aid projects. This includes “soft matches” or “in-kind matches” such as donated funds, 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 this call for projects, WSDOT toll credits may not be used in meeting the 13.5% required matching funds. Additional information regarding match may be found at the following website:

<http://wsdot.wa.gov/Publications/Manuals/M3111.htm>

Who will be the lead agency for project delivery?

The lead agency for project delivery will be the Western Federal Lands Highway Division of the Federal Highway Administration. 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. If another agency is recommended by the project proponents to be the lead agency, then they must provide rationale for the request. The rationale should include why another agency should take the lead, previous experience in delivering Federal-Aid funded projects, any certifications to deliver Federal-Aid funded projects, and ability to satisfy Federal Highway Administration project delivery requirements. The Western Federal Lands Division of the Federal Highway Administration will still be responsible to provide stewardship and oversight of the project to assure compliance with federal requirements.

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, project termini, and show the Federal Lands accessed by the route. 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 signatures, maps, photos and any letters of support to:

WFL.CallForProjects@dot.gov

The proposal must be received by **July 18, 2014**. 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 project proposal form, evaluation criteria and project list can also be downloaded from the following website.

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

How will the projects be evaluated?

A Technical Advisory Group (TAG) will review the proposed projects according to following areas: Safety, Preservation, Recreation, Economic, Mobility and Environmental. 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 TAG will be facilitated by the Federal Highway Administration, and include representatives from the Washington State Department of Transportation, County Road Administration Board, 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.

How will a final decision be made on the proposals?

The Program Decision Committee (PDC) made up of representatives from Federal Highway Administration, Washington State Department of Transportation, and County Road Administration Board, will make a final decision on the project proposals. The PDC will make these decisions based on recommendations of the TAG and while also considering such things as project support, project readiness, agency priorities, applicant's share of project costs, availability of funds, project development delivery schedules, previous federal investment

specifically related to the project, and environmental/right-of-way time constraints. 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 late fall 2014.

What projects were programmed in 2013?

Attached is the list of projects that were selected for programming during the 2013 Call for Projects for the Washington Federal Lands Access Program. The list identifies project type, federal land accessed and the applicants.

What if I have questions?

In conjunction with the call for projects, 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 on the FLAP program, eligibility, evaluation criteria, how to submit proposals, and helpful hints for filling out proposals. Information on date and time for the webinar will be announced in the coming weeks.

In the meantime, if you have questions you can contact George Fekaris or the Federal Lands Access Program coordinator for your agency:

Agency	Contact	Phone	Email Address
Federal Highway Administration	George Fekaris	(360) 619-7766	george.fekaris@dot.gov
Washington State Department of Transportation	Bill Leonard	(360) 705-7344	leonardb@wsdot.wa.gov
County Road Administration Board	Randy Hart	(360) 350-6081	randy@crab.wa.gov
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	Kevin Paff	(503) 808-3897	kevin.l.paff@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 written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

George N. Fekaris
Transportation Planner

Enclosures:
Project Proposal Form
Project Evaluation Criteria
WA FLAP Project List July 2013