

# Washington Federal Lands Access Program Meeting

October 23, 2012

Western Federal Lands Division Office, Vancouver, WA

The Washington Program Decisions Committee met in person and by teleconference. The objectives of the meeting were to:

1. Discuss the Implementation Guide for the Federal Lands Access Program
2. Review the documents for the Call for Projects

## 1) Implementation Guide

- Federal Lands Access Program Implementation Guide was released by Federal Lands Highway HQ on 10/4/2012 and sent to PDC, Staff, and FLMAs for review. See <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/guidance/guideflap.cfm>
- From last meeting, previous decisions were made but subject to implementation guidelines that had not been issued at that time.
- Jurisdiction or Maintenance responsibility
  - Route needs to be currently under non-federal ownership or maintenance.
  - FAQ 7 & 8 – Not eligible if currently owned or maintained by federal entity
- Lewis River Road Discussion/Decisions:
  - Federal Lands Implementation Guidelines interpretation impacts Lewis River road as it is currently owned and maintained by USFS. The guidelines suggest that this project is not eligible for FLAP funding.
  - PDC had agreed to use \$750K of FLAP funds for PE at last meeting without a commitment for construction (project would need to re-compete in new call for projects).
  - Toll Credits will be available for non-federal match for this project if a solution can be found for the jurisdiction and/or maintenance.

### Decisions:

- FH Tri-Agency agreed to fund the design with Forest Highway carryover funds (up to \$750K) and subtract the same amount of FH carryover funds that were programmed for Middle Fork Snoqualmie. This will allow design to proceed while searching for CN funds.
- PDC agrees to cover the increase of funds for Middle Fork Snoqualmie with FLAP funds.
- WFLHD will set up meeting with Skamania County to discuss options for the Lewis River Road project.

## 2) Call for Projects

### a) Schedule/Selection Process

- Get call announcement out Nov 16 or earlier
- Jan 25 proposals will be due
- Information webinar will be done by WFLHD week of 12/3/2012
- Decision by PDC July 1

### b) Cover Letter/Priorities

- Eliminated maintenance from the current call. Another Call will be crafted at a future date as these projects are quick delivery. WFLHD will put in an explanation of this strategy in the Call announcement letter.
- AOP projects – are eligible in the call, part of regular road reconstruction
- Transit:
  - In a future call as the info required and criteria is different than road/trail projects
  - WFL proposes to move forward with this call, but go out with another call for transit and have that come in before the programming decisions need to be made on July 1.
  - Not sure what the need is for transit
    - There is a project on the Mt Baker-Snoqualmie NF and possibly Mt Rainier where they are running shuttles from Ashford to National Park.
    - Could be something on the other side of the Mt Rainier (Enumclaw side).
    - Some interest in Hurricane Ridge in Olympic NP.
- Project Type Priorities:
  - Use Maintenance to fill in holes of funding (quick delivery)
  - Don't want to set aside funds for certain facility types yet
  - Categorize all the projects that come in for the call, and then see how the rankings fall out in the categories. PDC then can see what the total need is by category.

#### Decisions:

- Do separate calls for Transit and Maintenance. Insert language in the call letter that describes that these will be eligible in future calls.
- Match Discussion – Toll Credit discussion. Leave the language in about Toll Credits but explain why it's there – i.e. a transition from the previous Forest Highway program.
- Remove language on projects previously programmed under the forest highway program will receive additional consideration.

### **c) Proposal Form**

- Asking for joint endorsement from appropriate FLMA's and road owner
- Fix the two paragraphs on page 3 on when projects need to re-submit – consolidate and clarify.

### **d) Evaluation Criteria**

- Other Factors:
  - Modify to “Federal investment directly associated with the project”

### **e) Project Status Sheet**

- Conditionally Funded projects? – If they stay on schedule and provide the match then they are funded. Those should be highlighted with the word “Conditionally Funded”
- Also, change Cle Elum Sno Park status to Funded
- Change Lewis River road – funded for PE only with FH funds.
- Eliminate 2012 and previous, if question contact WFLHD

### **f) Next Steps**

- Greg Humphreys will send PDC final Call documents when ready for final review in early November
- Susan will be working on the Transit Call documents

## **3) Next Meeting**

- End of June or right before July 4 holiday for Project Selections – in person at WFLHD in Vancouver.

## **4) Attendees**

The following people attended the meeting:

- Randy Hart, CRAB
- Aaron Butters, WSDOT (Phone)
- Bill Leonard, WSDOT
- Phyllis Chun, WFL
- Tom Erkert, WFL
- Pete Field, WFL
- George Fekaris, WFL
- Susan Law, WFL
- Justin DeSantis, NPS (Phone)
- Christy Darden, USFS (Phone)
- Dean Moberg, FHWA Washington Division Office (Phone)