

Federal Lands Access Program

**Infrastructure Assistance
Coordinating Council
2015 Conference**
George Fekaris
Transportation Planner
Federal Highway Administration
Western Federal Lands

October 22, 2015

Overview

- Federal Lands Highway
- MAP-21 & FLAP
- Eligible activities
- PDC & TAG
- Investment strategies
- Proposal selection process
- Match requirement (Good News!)
- Tips for developing good proposal
- Learn new acronyms to impress family and friends
- Questions and hopefully some good answers

Federal Lands Highway (FLH)

- Office of Federal Highway Administration
- 3 Division Offices
 - Eastern, Central, Western
- Deliver projects that access
 - National Parks
 - National Forests System Lands
 - National Wildlife Refuges
 - BLM Lands
 - US Corp of Engineers Lands
 - Tribal Lands

Federal Lands Highway (FLH)

Western Federal Lands



Eastern Federal Lands

Central Federal Lands

Federal Lands Highway (con't)

- Western Federal Lands (WFL)
 - Located in Vancouver, WA
 - Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Alaska
 - About 200 staff
 - Provide
 - Planning
 - Project development
 - Construction

Federal Lands Highway (con't)

- Eagle Creek Road Phase 1



Federal Lands Highway (con't)

- Cattle Point National Park



Federal Lands Highway (con't)

- Pioneer Plaza, Pomeroy



Federal Lands Highway (con't)

- Cape Horn Trail Underpass



MAP-21 Overview

- Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century – MAP-21
- Program authorized through Oct 29, 2015
- Funds expire in 3 years
- Requires minimum 4 year program of projects
- Federal Lands Highway Program
- Funds allocated annually

Federal Lands & Tribal Transportation Programs

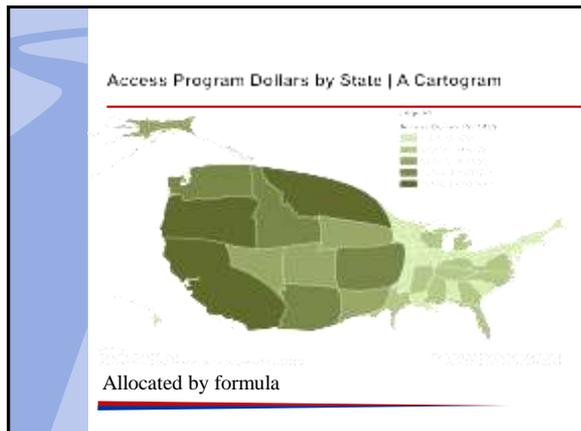
	Annual \$
Federal Lands Transportation Program (FLTP)	\$300 million
Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP)	\$250 million
Tribal Transportation Program	\$450 million

<http://flh.fhwa.dot.gov/programs/flap/>

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 Federal recreation sites** and **Federal economic generators**.





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
 - Vested- bears majority of the cost

Federal Lands Access Program (con't)

- This is a transportation program.
- This is not a "grant" program.
- Federal Highway Administration, Western Federal Lands has stewardship and oversight responsibility of **ALL** projects
- It's called the Federal Lands Access Program not the "let's build a nice road for the State/County" program

Where can funding be spent?

Happy County, WA

Title or Maintenance Responsibility?

Happy County, WA

Where can funding be spent?

- Transportation facilities that provides access to Federal Lands...**
 - BLM
 - BOR
 - USACE
 - NPS
 - USFS
 - USFWS
 - DOD

Eligibility

- What types of proposals 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

Eligibility (con't)

- What types of proposals 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

Programming Decisions Committee (PDC)

- Who makes programming decisions?
 - The Programming Decisions Committee
 - Members include representatives from:
 - Federal Highway Administration
 - Western Federal Lands Highway Division
 - State Department of Transportation
 - Washington State Department of Transportation
 - Local Government representative
 - County Road Administration Board

Technical Advisory Group (TAG)

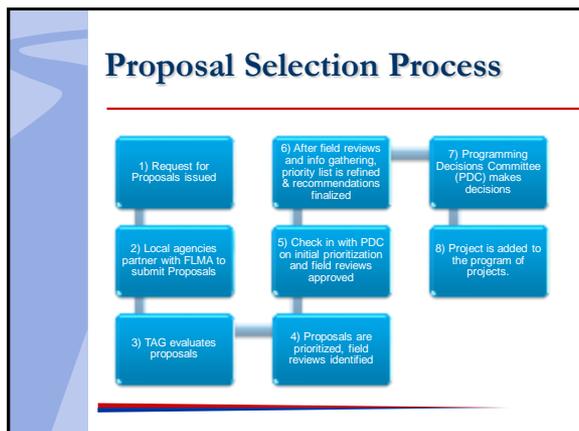
- Who evaluates proposals?
 - A Technical Advisory Group (TAG) is made up of several entities to help evaluate proposals that includes:
 - WFL
 - WSDOT
 - CRAB
 - FLMA representatives from:
 - NPS, USFS, USACE, BLM, DOD, and USFWS

Investment Strategy

- Maximize the use of limited funds by emphasizing:
 - WA authorized for **~\$15.4 million** annually (net about \$13 million)
 - Proposals that access high-use Federal recreation sites and Federal economic generators.
 - Preserving existing access to Federal Lands and restoring serviceability of the assets.

Investment Strategy (con't)

- Maximize the use of limited funds by emphasizing (con't)
 - Proposals where important access will be lost
 - In general, investment levels should be proportional to the % of use that is directly related to Federal Lands.



Proposal Selection Process (con't)

- How are proposals evaluated?
 - Safety
 - Preservation
 - Recreation & Economic
 - Mobility
 - Sustainability & Environmental Quality
 - Readiness & Support

Proposal Selection Process (con't)

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

Proposal Selection Process (con't)

- After PDC makes final selection WFL prepares match agreements
 - Consider lead agency if other than WFL
 - Match requirements

Match Requirement

- Statute (23 USC 120); FedAid Rules
- Varies by State - WA is 13.5%
- 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.
 - WSDOT Toll credits will be used to meet match... 100% federal funding.

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)

2016 WA FLAP Request for Proposals

- Next RFP tentatively set to open mid Nov 2015, with 3 months to submit.
- <http://flh.fhwa.dot.gov/programs/flap/wa/>
- Types of projects include capital improvement, enhancement, transit and planning.
- Proposals must be submitted **jointly** by State, county, town, tribal, municipal or local government and the Federal Land Management Agency(ies) being accessed.

Types of Projects

- Capital improvement
 - Rehabilitation, restoration, construction, and reconstruction of roads and trails
 - Safety improvements, widening, realignments, surfacing, culverts, bridges, signing and associated road appurtenances

Types of Projects (con't)

- Enhancement
 - Road and trail improvements
 - Interpretive signs, kiosks, viewpoints, restrooms, provisions for pedestrians and bicycles, scenic easements, trailheads, and improvements that reduce vehicle-wildlife conflicts

Types of Projects (con't)

- Transit
 - Construction of transit facilities
 - Operation and maintenance of transit facilities
- Planning
 - Engineering studies, corridor management planning, bicycle/pedestrian planning, and alternative transportation planning
 - Provide valuable information for future FLAP proposals

RFP Timelines

- Project proposal packets go out mid Nov 2015
- Completed proposal to WFL by **Feb 28, 2016**.
- TAG reviews proposals and provide initial recommendations to PDC for field review in May
- TAG field reviews projects in June
- Additional data gathering in July
- PDC makes final programming decisions in Aug

Tips for Developing Good Proposals

- FLMAs need to be involved
 - It avoids surprises
 - Help with data
 - Support will help it compete
- Turn it in on time...by turning it in early!
- Get all the correct signatures
- Write to criterion

Tips (con't)

- Include map
 - Show federal land
 - Show federal high use recreations sites and federal economic generators
 - Other Federal Lands roads (FLTP)
- Include photos
- Include letters of support

Tips (con't)

- Mind the page limits (30 pages) and file size (10 mb)
- Make sure you have good project maps and clear photos
- Sometimes you have to state the obvious



Tips (con't)

- Be clear about the intended work
- Be clear about who should deliver the project
- Be clear about the match and any additional funding



Tips (con't)

- Size your request to a reasonable project- WA receives about \$13 mil annually for FLAP
- FLMAs
 - User information
 - % federal land related traffic
 - Mapping the federal lands that the project accesses
 - Help edit proposals

Proposals Delivered by Others

- WFL is responsible for Stewardship and Oversight regardless of what agency delivers the project
- Begin with the assumption that will WFL delivery project, but can still request LPA delivery
- PDC will be developing additional guidance.

Questions



The Oracle of Delphi speaks....