

## TIGER GRANT INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOP

H-GAC Conference Room A

Wednesday July 01, 2009

### Questions from Attendees:

- Q. Does a project already have to be in the long-range plan or TIP to be eligible for funding?
- A. Yes, with some clarifications (Ref. Webinar Q&A, p. 12, Questions 20 and 23).
- Q. What planning activities related to the project are eligible?
- A. Any work that directly contributes to the long-term outcome of the project is eligible (Ref p. 4 of Federal Register).
- Q. Is approval time the same for those projects \$20 million as it is for those less than \$20 million, or is it the same for all levels of funding?
- A. All applications will be evaluated no earlier than September 15, 2009, and no later than February 17, 2010. There is no information published regarding an approval sequence.
- Q. Who is considered an “eligible” recipient?
- A. Eligible *applicants* include State and local governments, including U.S. territories, tribal governments, transit agencies, port authorities, and other political subdivisions of State or local governments. Only a government agency is the eligible grant *recipient* (Ref. p. 3 of Webinar Q&A, Questions 11 and 26).
- Q. Does a project have to be already approved for the long-range plan to be eligible?
- A. Projects can be added even though they are not already included in a long-range plan by means of an amendment to the plan; however, early contact regarding this project is helpful.

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- Q. How can we contact staff to see if a project is in the long-range plan?
- A. Contact Shaida Dezfuli, H-GAC Transportation Planner, at (713) 993-4527 or by email to [Shaida.dezfuli@h-gac.com](mailto:Shaida.dezfuli@h-gac.com), or you may contact the U.S. DOT at [TIGERGrants@dot.gov](mailto:TIGERGrants@dot.gov). The Department will regularly post answers to questions on their website at [www.dot.gov/recovery/ost/](http://www.dot.gov/recovery/ost/).
- Q. Will the submission process begin with approvals by the Technical Advisory Committee and the Transportation Policy Council?
- A. Not if the project is already in the long-range plan.
- Q. Is there a contact for the Texas Department of Transportation?
- A. Not today, but we will be hearing from TxDOT shortly with that info.
- Q. How does the plan relate to infrastructure projects like port or rail facilities?
- A. Since not all MPOs traditionally include port infrastructure or freight rail projects in their long-range plans, coordination with the MPO is encouraged (Ref. p. 12 of Webinar Q&A, Question #23).
- Q. Will the Transportation Policy Council be involved in the selection process or will it be up to TxDOT?
- A. H-GAC is not looking to screen projects through the MPO's Transportation Policy Council and TxDOT is not asking any other agencies to be involved.
- Q. Will there be some type of State approval?
- A. If a project involves a State facility, some kind of State approval will be needed, but this should go through the District Engineer's office.
- Q. I am in the TxDOT Yoakum District. What happens if my district is not a part of the MPO?

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A. You should work with the Yoakum District, and they should be agreeable to add your project to the Statewide Plan.

Q. Can we apply for a part of a project in phases?

A. The part or phase would have to be able to stand on its own; however, any cost overruns will be the responsibility of the grantee.

Q. Can different divisions of Harris County, for example, group together some projects for submission?

A. Yes, as long as they show regional benefit when grouped together.

Q. Is it more desirable to DOT if the projects are submitted as a group rather than submitted as single projects?

A. You would have to make a case for that group of projects to show that they meet the long-term outcome as a group rather than as a single project.

Q. If a bundle of projects is submitted and one is questionable, does that jeopardize chances of funding for the other projects in the bundle? What are the risks involved?

A. When staff asked about this, they were told it's all or nothing. So yes, a questionable project submitted in a bundle may jeopardize the chances of funding for the entire bundle. Staff is seeking further clarification on this.

Q. How will the TIGER Grant funds be dispersed?

A. Project sponsors will have to spend their own dollars and be reimbursed. The funds will flow through the eligible government agency and that agency will administer the funds.

Q. What is the deadline for grant application/submission, approval/awarding?

A. The deadline for grant application/submission is September 15, 2009. All submissions for the TIGER Grant must be done online. Grant funds will be awarded by February 2010.

**NOTE: No money should be spent on projects submitted under the TIGER Grant until the Grant has been awarded. US DOT is still trying to figure out how to disperse these funds.**

- Q. Are there any Stimulus Grant forms to be submitted with the TIGER Grant submission?
- A. There are no specific forms to be submitted.

H-GAC staff will post all of these questions and answers on its website and will be updated all during the summer.