

## BUILD GRANTS

### **Background**

The Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development, or BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant program, provides a unique opportunity for the DOT to invest in road, rail, transit and port projects that promise to achieve national objectives. Previously known as Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery, or TIGER Discretionary Grants, Congress has dedicated nearly \$7.1 billion for ten rounds of National Infrastructure Investments to fund projects that have a significant local or regional impact.

In each competition, DOT receives hundreds of applications to build and repair critical pieces of freight and passenger transportation networks. The BUILD program enables DOT to examine these projects on their merits to help ensure that taxpayers are getting the highest value for every dollar invested.

The eligibility requirements of BUILD allow project sponsors at the State and local levels to obtain funding for multi-modal, multi-jurisdictional projects that are more difficult to support through traditional DOT programs. BUILD can fund port and freight rail projects, for example, which play a critical role in ability to move freight, but have limited sources of Federal funds. BUILD can provide capital funding directly to any public entity, including municipalities, counties, port authorities, tribal governments, MPOs, or others in contrast to traditional Federal programs which provide funding to very specific groups of applicants (mostly State DOTs and transit agencies). This flexibility allows BUILD and traditional partners at the State and local levels to work directly with a host of entities that own, operate, and maintain much of transportation infrastructure, but otherwise cannot turn to the Federal government for support.

### **Current Situation**

The FY 2019 Appropriations Act appropriated \$900 million to be awarded by DOT for the BUILD Transportation grants program. The FY 2019 BUILD Transportation grants are for capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure and are to be awarded on a competitive basis for projects that will have a significant local or regional impact. Additionally, the Act allows for up to \$15 million (of the \$900 million) to be awarded for the planning, preparation or design of eligible projects. The deadline to submit applications is July 15, 2019. NOFO is available at the following website:

<https://www.transportation.gov/buildgrants/build-nofo>

H-GAC is seeking interested applicants to partner with H-GAC to submit applications of regional significance.

### **Action Requested**

Information Only.