



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Highway  
Administration**

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In Reply Refer to: HFL-17

Federal Land Managers  
Idaho Transportation Department  
Regional, County & Local Governments  
Tribal Governments

Greetings:

Request for Project Proposals  
2013 Idaho Federal Lands Access Program

The Idaho Federal Lands Access Program is soliciting proposals for capital improvement construction and enhancement projects in FY 2014 through FY 2018. Project approvals will be contingent upon availability of funds. The proposals must be received by **February 4, 2013**.

***What is the purpose of the Federal Lands Access Program?***

The purpose of the Federal Lands Access Program is to provide safe and adequate transportation access to and through Federal Lands for visitors, recreationists, and resource users.

***Where can projects be located?***

Proposed projects must be located on a public highway, road, bridge, or trail 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.

***Who may apply?***

All proposals must be submitted jointly by the federal land management agency and the entity with title or maintenance responsibility. The entity with title or maintenance responsibility must be a state, county, town, township, tribal, municipal, or local government.

***What types of proposals will be considered?***

Project proposals will be accepted for both capital improvement projects and enhancement 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.

The following activities will be considered in this call:

- 1) Rehabilitation, restoration, construction and reconstruction of transportation facilities.
- 2) Adjacent vehicular parking areas.
- 3) Provisions for pedestrian and bicycles.
- 4) Acquisition of necessary scenic easements and scenic or historic sites
- 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.

Proposed 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 Idaho Federal Lands Access Program is currently estimated to receive about \$17 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 **7.34%** of the total project costs. The match will follow the current guidance requirements established by the Idaho Transportation Department for matching funds on Federal-Aid projects. This includes “soft matches” or “in-kind matches” such as donated funds, materials, services, right-of-way acquisition, and utility relocation. 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.

***How will the projects be evaluated?***

A Project Selection Team will evaluate and prioritize the proposed projects according to following areas: Safety, Preservation, Recreation, Economic, Mobility, and Environmental (see enclosed Evaluation Criteria). In addition, 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 Project Selection Team will include representatives from the Federal Highway Administration, Idaho Transportation Department, Local Highway Technical Assistance Council, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S Army Corp of Engineers.

***How will a final decision be made on the proposals?***

After the project proposals are evaluated and prioritized, the Program Decision Committee (Federal Highway Administration, Idaho Transportation Department, and Local Highway Technical Assistance Council) will make a final decision on the project proposals. The Committee will make these decisions 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 and right-of-way time constraints. The Committee also will coordinate with the federal land management agencies prior to making a final decision. The final decision on the project proposals should be made by summer 2013.

***How can 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. Letters of support from other entities that will not be signing the official application may also be included. Send an email with the completed proposal form and all required maps, signatures, and photos to:

[WFL.CallForProjects@dot.gov](mailto:WFL.CallForProjects@dot.gov)

The proposal must be received by **February 4, 2013**. The total file size for the proposal form (including maps and photos) should not exceed 10 megabytes.

Copies of this letter, the Project Proposal form, evaluation criteria and Project Status list can also be downloaded from the following website.

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

***What about previously approved Forest Highway projects?***

Enclosed is the Forest Highway Program and Federal Lands Access Program Project Status list. The list shows which projects have been approved for funding under either the Forest Highway Program or the Federal Lands Access Program.

Projects that are shown as "Funded" do not need to resubmit a project proposal.

Projects that are shown as "Not Funded" must submit a complete project proposal form for consideration under the Federal Lands Access Program.

***Will there be calls for other types of projects?***

There will be additional calls for preventive maintenance, transit, planning and research type projects. The transit, planning, and research calls should be announced the winter of 2013, and the preventive maintenance call should be announced the spring of 2013.

***Who should I contact if I have questions?***

Should you have any questions, please contact George Fekaris or the Federal Lands Access Program coordinator for your agency:

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
Federal Highway Administration	George Fekaris	(360) 619-7766	<a href="mailto:george.fekaris@dot.gov">george.fekaris@dot.gov</a>
Idaho Transportation Department	Loren Thomas	(208) 334-8231	<a href="mailto:loren.thomas@itd.idaho.gov">loren.thomas@itd.idaho.gov</a>
Local Highway Technical Assistance Council	Gerald Flatz	(208) 344-0565	<a href="mailto:jflatz@lhtac.org">jflatz@lhtac.org</a>
US Forest Service, Region 1	Fred Bower	(406) 329-3354	<a href="mailto:fbower@fs.fed.us">fbower@fs.fed.us</a>
US Forest Service, Region 4	Kay Shurtz	(801) 625-5222	<a href="mailto:kshurtz@fs.fed.us">kshurtz@fs.fed.us</a>
National Park Service	Justin De Santis	(415) 623-2278	<a href="mailto:Justin_DeSantis@nps.gov">Justin_DeSantis@nps.gov</a>
Bureau of Land Management	Cynthia Kowalczyk	(208) 373-3952	<a href="mailto:ckowalczyk@blm.gov">ckowalczyk@blm.gov</a>
US Fish & Wildlife Service	Jeff Holm	(503) 231-2161	<a href="mailto:jeff_holm@fws.gov">jeff_holm@fws.gov</a>
US Army Corp of Engineers	Jamie Howard	(208) 343-0671	<a href="mailto:Jamie.n.howard@us.army.mil">Jamie.n.howard@us.army.mil</a>

Sincerely yours,



George Fekaris  
Transportation Planner

Enclosures:  
Program Status List  
Project Proposal Form  
Project Evaluation Criteria