

Montana Federal Lands Access Program Meeting

November 27, 2012

Western Federal Lands Division Office, Vancouver, WA

The Program Decisions Committee met by teleconference. The objectives of the meeting were to:

1. Review the documents for the Call for Projects for Capital Improvement/Enhancements
2. Loan/Borrow to Idaho FLAP program

1) Call for Projects

Project Selection Team (PST) staff has put together call documents for review.

a) Schedule/Selection Process Highlights – See Selection Process Schedule

- Goal is to release call announcement 12/7/2012 or earlier
- Information webinar will be done by WFLHD on 12/13/2012
- Proposals will be due to WFLHD on 2/8/2013
- Programming Decisions by PDC on 9/2/2013
- Field review in Early May – may have trouble with snow clearing by then. Check with FLMAAs before scheduling.

b) Cover Letter/Priorities

- Goal is to have all other calls this winter/spring so that full suite of potential projects can be developed for recommendation to the PDC by September 2013.
- Current call is for Road/Trail Capital Improvements and Enhancements
 - AOP projects – are eligible in the call, part of regular road reconstruction
- Maintenance:
 - Call will be in spring 2013, timelines are still being developed. Probably no field reviews as they are straight forward projects.
- 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 September.
 - Tentative plan is to release this call after the Capital/Enhancement call closes. Probably will be sent out around March 1 with a due date at the end of April. Final timelines are still being developed.
- Planning/Research projects:
 - Will be done in a supplemental call yet this winter.

- After the Capital/Enhancement call closes, send out around March 1 – Due end of April, final timelines are being developed.
- PST will meet on 3/12/2013 for project evaluation and ranking in Helena
- 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 projects that come in for the call, and then see how the rankings fall out in the categories. PDC can then see what the total need is by category.
- Would be good if early decisions in March can be made on projects that can be delivered in FY 2013 that are highly ranked so that funds can be obligated yet this FY.
- Funding available is approximately \$22.5 Million. Non-Federal Match pursuant to 23 USC 120 applies.
- A more detailed schedule for the other calls is still being developed and will be out in January 2013.

Decisions:

- Proceed forward with Capital Improvement/Enhancement call after final comments are received from PDC and Staff.
- Use separate calls for Transit, Maintenance, and Research/Planning yet this year. Ensure that all calls are completed and ranked project lists are available by September, 2013.

c) Proposal Form

- Font cover page is a summary
- Asking for joint endorsement from appropriate FLMAs and road owner/operator
- Cost Estimate
 - Is there a unit price guide/cost guide available?
 - No – we suggest that you use locally developed cost estimating guides. Counties are a good resource along with FLMA Engineering departments. MDT has one available.
- Will there be any guidance on what portion of the program will be set aside for the first call vs. the others?

PDC decision:

- Wait until the projects are submitted to see the types and quality of the projects received. There may not be quality projects submitted for some of the calls and establishing priorities now doesn't make sense.
- PST will need to rank and categorize all projects submitted.

d) Evaluation Criteria

- Select team will evaluate Criteria #6 from what they read in the project application
- Final priorities will be done after ranking after field reviews and PIRs. Will use professional judgment in addition to the numerical ranking in establishing the final ranking order.

e) Project Status Sheet

- All ok

f) Next Steps

- Webinar notice will be coming out soon – Dec 13 2012 10 AM Mountain Time. The notice will be posted on the web site (<http://www.wfl.fhwa.dot.gov/programs/flap/mt/index.htm>)
- George Fekaris will send PDC final Call documents to PDC members today. Please respond with your concurrence.
- How will Call documents go out?
 - Will be posted on web site
 - All PDC members and staff will receive the documents and need to send out to their constituents:
 - FLMAs send to all your units
 - MACO to send to all Local Governments
 - WFLHD Tribal Transportation group will send to Tribal Governments

2) Next Meeting

- PDC meeting for initial cut review (Before PST Field Reviews)
 - March 18-29/2013 is target date range. WFL will poll members and get a final date.
- FLMAs will be invited to all PDC meetings.

3) Possible Loan to Idaho

- The ID FPH 26-1(1) project located on Ketchum-Challis Highway (ID 75). The project needs a \$2M loan to move forward with contract advertisement and award this spring.
- Idaho will pay back the loan in FY 2014
- The MT FLAP program currently has \$4-5M in current commitments in FY 2013. It will be very challenging to obligate all the funds in 2013.
- Expect that we can still commit to early delivery projects from the new call and loan the funds with the amount of funding that is available.

Decision:

- MT will loan Idaho \$2M in FY 2013 which will be paid back in FY 2014. Tom will get concurrence and coordinate funds transfer from FLH HQ.

4) Attendees

The following people attended the meeting:

- Lynn Zanto, MDT
- Wayne Noem, MDT
- Harold Blattie, MACO
- Phyllis Chun, WFL
- Tom Erkert, WFL
- George Fekaris, WFL
- Fred Bower, USFS
- Greg Bergum, BLM
- Scott DeBock, BLM
- James Graves, FWS
- Llyod Rue, MT FHWA Division
- Brian Hasselbach, MT FHWA Division