



# How to Compete for a TIGER Grant

Lessons for Rural Communities

August 3, 2011



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

Coos Bay, OR



Milton, KY & Madison, IN



Navajo Nation, NM

Cates Landing, TN

# TIGER<sub>3</sub>

- \$527 million national, multimodal, merit-based grant program
- ***\$140 million for rural areas***
- Up to \$150 million for TIFIA payments
- Last round the average award was \$13.25 million
- Geographic diversity requirement



# 2011 Application Process

September 9<sup>th</sup> - Pre-Application Registration

October 3<sup>rd</sup> - Pre-Applications Due

October 4<sup>th</sup> - Final Applications Open

October 31<sup>st</sup> - Final Applications Due



# Changes from TIGER 2

- No Planning Funds this round
- 3 Application Limit (per sponsor)
- TIFIA Letter of Interest



# Eligibility

- Surface transportation capital projects only
- Open to state, tribal, and local entities, and other subdivisions
- Private entities, including non-profits, must partner with a public lead
- **Eligible ≠ Competitive**



# Rural Applicants

- Defined as any area not in an Urbanized Area (pop. 50,000), as defined by the Census Bureau
- \$1 million minimum grant
- No match requirement, though competitive applications often feature a match





# Address Criteria and Outcomes

- Application outline in the NOFA
- Detail how federal funds will be used to address the selection criteria

## **Primary Criteria**

- State of Good Repair
- Economic Competitiveness
- Livability
- Environmental Sustainability
- Safety
- Job Creation/Near-Term Economic

## **Secondary Criteria**

- Innovation
- Partnership







# Competitive Applications

- Clarity: Clear and concise project descriptions
  - Use pictures and maps
- Leveraging: non-federal match, including private
  - All TIGER 3:1 (Rural Applicants 1:1)
- Independent Utility
  - operable segment w/ transportation benefits
- Project Readiness: ready to begin construction quickly. NEPA process begun.



# Competitive Applications

- Benefit-Cost Analysis:
  - Demonstrate demand for project
  - Well-documented calculations and references
  - Show project **Net Societal Benefits**, not just local.
- Innovative:
  - Multi-modal, multi-jurisdictional
  - Difficult to fund through formula funds



# Application Pitfalls

- Ineligibility: Applicants or Projects
- Priorities/outcomes not aligned with selection criteria
- Project readiness
- Insufficient matching funds
- Non-construction requests
  - Operating & Maintenance assistance
  - Right of Way acquisition
  - Demonstration projects
- Grouping unrelated projects



# Case Study: Milton-Madison Bridge

## Project Description

- Multi-State, Multi-Jurisdictional Bridge Project
- \$20 M TIGER, Last piece of \$120 M project
  
- Livability (Existing Communities, Links, Choices)
- Economic Competitiveness
- Significant leverage
- Helps COMPLETE a project



# Case Study:

# US 491 Safety Improvements

## Project Description

- Separate traffic, incorporate turning lanes
- Commercial corridor in economically distressed area
  
- Exceptional Safety Benefits
- Segmented/Phased project
- Economic benefits





# Case Study:

# Coos Bay Rail Rehabilitation

## Project Description

- Rehabilitate 133 mile rail link (closed 2007)
- Reconnect Coos Bay (OR) with shippers
  
- Supports Regional and National Economies
- Improve speed/efficiency of freight in region
- Re-establishes transportation links & choice



# Technical Assistance

- USDOT offers technical assistance to help applicants through the TIGER process
- Preparation of benefit cost analysis
- Previous TIGER application debriefs
- Special Topics Webinars



# Additional Application Help

TIGER Website: [www.dot.gov/tiger/](http://www.dot.gov/tiger/)

## Archived Special Topics Webinars

- July 27<sup>th</sup> - [“Talking Freight”](#)
- August 17<sup>th</sup> - [Benefit Cost Analysis](#)
- August 22<sup>nd</sup> - [Project Readiness/NEPA](#)
- August 24<sup>th</sup> - [Public Private Partnerships & TIFIA](#)

## Upcoming Special Topics Webinars

- August 30<sup>th</sup> - [MARAD Port Outreach](#)





# For This Year's Round...

- Focus on best project(s) – those that align well with the program's selection criteria
- Develop an application that your neighbor could read and understand
- Questions sent to [TIGERGrants@dot.gov](mailto:TIGERGrants@dot.gov)

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## Questions?



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