How to Compete for a TIGER Grant

Lessons for Tribal Communities

September 16, 2011
• $527 million national, multimodal, merit-based discretionary grant program

• $140 million for rural areas

• Last round the average award was $13.25 million
  – Rural Projects averaged $8 million
  – 40% of Rural projects under $5 million

• Modal & Geographic diversity requirements
2011 Application Process

September 9th - Pre-Application Registration
October 3rd - Pre-Applications Due
October 4th - Final Applications Open
October 31st - Final Applications Due
Changes from TIGER 2

- No Planning Funds this round
  - T2: Pueblo of Laguna Bike/Ped Plan & Design
- 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
- Indian Reservation Roads (IRR) Funds eligible to match/complete financing
Address Criteria and Outcomes

• Application outline in Notice of Funding Available
• Detail how federal funds will be used to address the selection criteria

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

Secondary Criteria
• Innovation
• Partnership
Competitive Applications

• Clarity: Clear and concise project descriptions
  – Use pictures and maps
  – Twenty-five page limit
• 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.
• Provide precise information about how the project will address needs in your community
Competitive Applications

- Benefit-Cost Analysis:
  - Demonstrate demand for project
  - Well-documented calculations and references
  - Show project Net Societal Benefits, not just local
- BCA Questions to Answer
  - Who is the User of the project?
  - Who/How many will benefit from the investment?
Competitive Applications

• **Innovative:**
  – Multi-modal, multi-jurisdictional
  – Difficult to fund through formula funds
  – Exploring new ways to deliver projects
    • For example - Design/Build Projects
Application Pitfalls

• Ineligibility: Applicants or Projects
• Priorities/outcomes not aligned with selection criteria
• Project readiness
• Not detailing who will benefit
• Non-construction requests
  – Operating & Maintenance assistance
  – Right of Way acquisition
  – Demonstration projects
• Grouping unrelated projects
Case Study:
US 491 Safety Improvements

Project Description
- Separate traffic, incorporate turning lanes
- Commercial corridor in economically distressed area

- Exceptional Safety Benefits
  – fatality rates more than 3 times the state average
- Segmented/Phased project
Case Study: South Dakota – U.S. 18

Project Description

• Reconstructs 15 miles of deteriorating US-18 in Oglala and Pine Ridge, SD.

• Safety (accident rates 2.5 times state average)
• Significant leverage
  – $10 million TIGER, $18 million State
• Long-term economic support to second poorest county in U.S.
Case Study: 
East Foster Wells

Project Description
- Constructs a new 2-lane highway
- Connects local farms with food processing

• Supports Regional Economy
• Improve speed/efficiency goods to market
• Establishes transportation links
• Significant leverage
  – $1 million TIGER, $2 million State and local
Technical Assistance

• USDOT offers technical assistance to help applicants through the TIGER process
• Benefit cost analysis
• Previous TIGER application debriefs
• Special Topics Webinars
Additional Application Help

TIGER Website: www.dot.gov/tiger/

Archived Special Topics Webinars

Talking Freight
TIGER and Rural America
Benefit Cost Analysis
Project Readiness/NEPA
Public Private Partnerships & TIFIA
MARAD Port Outreach
Preparing a Benefit Cost Analysis for Rural Projects
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
Questions?