



# How to Compete for a TIGER Grant

## Lessons for Tribal Communities

September 16, 2011



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

# Pine Ridge, SD



# Navajo Nation, NM

# TIGER<sub>3</sub>

- \$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 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
  - 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/](http://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](mailto:TIGERGrants@dot.gov)

# TIGER



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

# TIGER

## Questions?



U.S. Department  
of Transportation