Lessons for Tribal Communities

Presented by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy
United States Department of Transportation
$600 million multimodal, merit-based discretionary grant program

$120 million for rural areas

$35 million for planning grants

Strong focus on creating ladders of opportunity

Modal and geographic equity requirements

No Pre-Application required
How is TIGER different?

- Broadly multimodal
- Open to any governmental entity
- Outcome-based
- Use of economic analysis
- Strict time limits on funding
- Performance measures
- Extremely competitive
Demand for TIGER

- Over five rounds, only about 5 percent of applications have been awarded
- 5,300 applications received
- $115 billion requested
- 270 Awards
- Most awards have been partial funding
- We anticipate about 1,000 applications
2014 Application Review

- Must have submitted Applications on or before April 28, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. EDT via www.grants.gov.

- Common application deficiencies:
  - Funding amount requested
  - Applicant eligibility
  - Project eligibility
  - Urban / rural designation and project location clarity
Eligibility

- Surface transportation 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
What projects compete well?

- Demonstrated strength in at least 2-3 of the primary selection criteria
- Projects which are difficult to fund elsewhere
- Strong partnership and matches, private funds from benefitting private entities and demonstrated leveraging of other funds (including federal funds from other agencies, such as HUD, EPA, USDA, SBA, etc.)
- Projects farther along in development
- Presents a clear story and project impact
Ladders of Opportunity

- Create or improve connections between people and centers of employment, education, and services
- Remove barriers to connected systems of transportation
- Promote workforce development
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

- Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) Funds eligible to match/complete financing
Planning Grants

- Up to $35 million available

- Project level planning:
  - Any pre-construction activity
  - Highway or bridge projects (including bicycle and pedestrian related projects);
  - Public transportation projects;
  - Passenger and freight rail transportation projects;
  - Port infrastructure investments;
  - and Intermodal projects
Planning Grants

Regional planning examples include:

- Development of master plans, comprehensive plans, or corridor plans that will provide connection to jobs for disadvantaged populations, or include affordable housing components
- Planning activities related to the development of a multimodal freight corridor, including those that seek to reduce conflicts with residential areas and with passenger and non-motorized traffic
- Development of port and regional port planning grants, including State-wide or multi-port planning within a single jurisdiction or region
- Planning to encourage multiple projects within a common area to engage in programmatic mitigation in order to increase efficiency and improve outcomes for communities and the environment
- Risk Assessments and planning to identify vulnerabilities and address the transportation system's ability to withstand probable occurrence or recurrence of an emergency or major disaster or impacts of climate change.
Planning Grants

- Same selection criteria as capital grants

- Applicants should demonstrate means and methods to align with the criteria
  - Example: How will this process lead to a plan that addresses economic development and environmental sustainability? Who will be involved in creating it, etc

- Demonstrated alignment with housing, land use, economic development, stormwater, and other infrastructure elements.

- BCAs not required, but quantifying potential benefits and outcomes recommended
TIGER Evaluation Process

- Does the project align well with the long term priorities of USDOT? Does it provide better ladders of opportunity and create more connections between people and jobs?

- Does the application demonstrate jurisdictional and/or disciplinary partnership?

- Does the application leverage significant non-federal resources?

- Is the project innovative in terms of design, technology, project delivery, or financing?
Address Criteria, Outcomes

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

**Primary Criteria**
- Safety
- State of Good Repair
- Economic Competitiveness
- Quality of Life (formerly livability)
- Environmental Sustainability
- Project Readiness

**Secondary Criteria**
- Innovation
- Partnership
Highly Competitive Projects

- Multimodal projects, coordinated investment from other sources and programs
- Demonstrate project benefits across selection criteria
- Demonstrate improved connectivity between users and centers of employment, education, and services
- New partnerships, multi-jurisdictional cooperation
- Public-private partnerships
- Support key national priorities
- Non-traditional or hard to fund projects
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
- Provide precise information about how the project will address needs in your community
Application Pitfalls

- Ineligibility: applicants and projects
- Priorities/outcomes not aligned w/ selection criteria
- Project readiness
- Insufficient matching funds, lack of demonstration
- Non-construction requests: O/M assistance, ROW
- Grouping unrelated projects
Benefit Cost Analysis

- Tribal applicants may choose to submit a BCA
  - 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?

- Tribal BCA Examples Online
  (http://www.dot.gov/policy-initiatives/tiger/tribal-tiger-bca-examples)
Case Study: US 491 Safety Improvements (NM)

- 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: US 18 (SD)

- 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 (WA)

- 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
Other Tribal TIGER Grants

- Pueblo of Laguna | Bike/Ped Trail Design
- St. Michael IRA | St. Michael Community Streets
- Eastern Shoshone / Northern Arapaho Tribes Business Council | 17 Mile Road
- Seminole Tribe of Florida | Snake Road Improvement
- Tribe of Smith River Rancheria | US101 Safety Corridor
- Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa | BIA 7 - College Road
- Yankton Sioux Tribe | Ihanktonwan Transit Facilities
- Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe | Pelican Point Road
- Village of Alakanuk | Alakanuk Community Streets
- Oglala Sioux Tribe | Improvements to BIA Route 2
- Taos Pueblo | Taos Pueblo Veterans Highway
Technical Assistance

- USDOT offers technical assistance to help applicants through the TIGER process
- Previous TIGER application debriefs
- Benefit cost analysis resource guide
- Special Topics Webinars

Questions sent to TIGERGrants@dot.gov
Additional Application Help

- TIGER Website: www.dot.gov/tiger
- TIGER Webinars: www.dot.gov/tiger/outreach
- Examples of Tribal Benefit Cost Analysis Online: http://www.dot.gov/policy-initiatives/tiger/tribal-tiger-bca-examples
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
Question and Answer Session