The Build America Bureau (the Bureau) is the United States Department of Transportation’s (DOT) go-to organization to help project sponsors develop, finance and deliver transportation infrastructure projects. The Bureau serves as the single point of contact to help navigate the often complex process of project development, identify and secure financing, and obtain technical assistance for project sponsors. The Bureau replaces the former Build America Transportation Investment Center (BATIC) and is now home to DOT’s credit programs, including Transportation Infrastructure Finance Innovation Act (TIFIA), the Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing (RRIF) and Private Activity Bonds (PAB). The Bureau also houses the newly-established FASTLANE grant program and offers technical expertise in public-private partnerships, transit oriented development, environmental review and permitting and other fields.

Project sponsors and their partners can benefit from the Bureau’s ability to serve as the single point-of-contact to access all of the DOT credit programs, technical assistance and to investigate the viability of P3s in their transportation infrastructure projects.

A brief summary of the Bureau’s programs is provided below. Please contact the Bureau at BuildAmerica@dot.gov, or call the Bureau at (202) 366-2300 for additional information or project assistance.

**PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS (P3 OR PPP)**

Public-private partnerships are long-term contractual agreements between a public agency and a private sector entity that allow for greater private sector participation in the delivery and financing of transportation projects. The use of P3s marks a shift away from traditional ways of procuring and financing transportation projects. Unlike traditional procurement processes, in a P3, a private partner may participate in some combination of design, construction, financing, operations and maintenance, including collection of user fees. P3s may be delivered more quickly than traditional procurement approaches, reduce the burden on public funding, and provide budget certainty for the public agency. They can also provide opportunities to optimize lifecycle costs and encourage innovation to achieve better quality of service.

The Build America Bureau can connect project sponsors and private partners with in-house technical expertise to help explore if a P3 might be worth considering and to identify and share best practices in P3s nationwide.

**TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AND INNOVATION ACT PROGRAM (TIFIA)**

TIFIA provides direct loans, loan guarantees, and standby lines of credit to projects of national or regional significance.

**Eligible Applicants:**
- State and local governments
- Transit Agencies
- Railroad Companies
- Special Authorities
- Special Districts
- Private Entities

**Eligible Projects:**
- Public or private highways and bridges
- Intelligent Transportation System Projects
- Intermodal Connectors
- Transit Vehicles and Facilities
- Intercity Buses and Facilities
- Freight Transfer Facilities
- Pedestrian and Bicycle Infrastructure Networks
- Transit-Oriented Development
- Rural Infrastructure Projects
- Passenger Rail Vehicles and Facilities
- Surface Transportation Elements of Port Projects
RAILROAD REHABILITATION AND IMPROVEMENT FINANCING PROGRAM (RRIF)

**RRIF** provides direct loans and loan guarantees to finance the development of railroad infrastructure.

**Eligible Applicants:**
- State and local governments
- Interstate compacts consented to by Congress under section 410(a) of the Amtrak Reform and Accountability Act of 1997 (49 U.S.C. 24101 note)
- Government sponsored authorities & corporations
- Railroads
- Limited option freight shippers (solely for the purpose of constructing a rail connection between a plant or facility and a railroad)
- Joint ventures that include at least one of the above

**Eligible Projects:**
- Acquire, develop, improve, or rehabilitate intermodal, rail equipment, or facilities
- Refinance outstanding debt incurred for the purposes listed above
- Reimburse planning and design expenses relating to activities listed above
- Finance economic development, including commercial and residential development, and related infrastructure and activities

PRIVATE ACTIVITY BONDS (PAB)

**Private Activity Bonds** provide private-sector developers of certain types of projects with access to tax-exempt financing, reducing the cost of capital and enhancing the investment prospects. The Department is responsible for allocating up to $15 billion in PAB authority for surface transportation projects that meet the eligibility criteria below:

**Eligible Projects:**
- Any surface transportation project that receives Federal assistance under Title 23, United States Code
- Any project for an international bridge or tunnel that an international entity authorized under Federal or State law, is responsible and receives Federal assistance under Title 23, United States Code
- Any facility used for the transfer of freight from truck to rail or rail to truck (including any temporary storage facilities directly related to such transfers) which receives Federal assistance under Title 23 or Title 49

FOSTERING ADVANCEMENTS IN SHIPPING AND TRANSPORTATION FOR THE LONG-TERM ACHIEVEMENT OF NATIONAL EFFICIENCIES (FASTLANE)

**FASTLANE** was authorized by the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act to promote national transportation infrastructure development. With $4.5 billion available from FY16 through FY20, FASTLANE funding is awarded on a competitive basis and can cover up to 60 percent of a total project’s cost.

**Eligible Applicants:**
- Single or group of State or Local governments
- Political subdivision of a State or local government
- Metropolitan Planning Organization that serves an urbanized area (as defined by the Bureau of the Census) with a population of more than 200,000 individuals
- Special purpose district or public authority with a transportation function, including a port authority
- Federal land management agency that applies jointly with a State or group of States
- Tribal government or a consortium of tribal governments
- Multi-State or multijurisdictional group of public entities

**Eligible Projects:**
- Highway freight project carried out on the National Highway Freight Network (23 U.S.C. 167)
- Highway or bridge project carried out on the National Highway System (NHS) including projects that add capacity on the Interstate System to improve mobility or projects in a national scenic area
- Railway-highway Grade Crossing or Grade Separation project
- Freight project that is:
  1. an intermodal or rail project, or
  2. within the boundaries of a public or private freight rail, water (including ports), or intermodal facility, that is a surface transportation infrastructure project necessary to facilitate direct intermodal interchange, transfer, or access into or out of the facility, and will significantly improve freight movement on the National Highway Freight Network

BUILD AMERICA INSTITUTE

**The Build America Institute** is an AASHTO Center for Excellence that enhances taxpayer value by promoting public sector capacity building in the analysis, understanding, and use of project finance techniques. The Institute accomplishes this through a program of training, sharing of best practices, and technical assistance to all State Departments of Transportation and their local partner agencies.