



Lessons for Tribal Communities
Conference Call
May 23, 2013
5pm EDT



U.S. Department
of Transportation



How to Compete for a TIGER Grant

Lessons for Tribal Communities

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- \$474 million multimodal, merit-based discretionary grant program
- **\$120 million for rural areas**
- Modal and geographic equity requirements
- No Pre-Application Required
- Shortest Obligation Timeframe



Demand for TIGER

- Over four rounds, only about 5 percent of applications have been awarded
- 4,050 applications received
- \$105.2 billion requested
- 218 Awards
- Most awards have been partial funding
- We anticipate over 800 Applications requesting ~\$13 billion



2013 Application Process

There is no pre-application process in 2013

April 29th - Final Applications Open

June 3rd - Final Applications Due

2013 Application Review

- Must have submitted Applications on or before June 3, 2013 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 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
- Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) Funds eligible to match/complete financing



TIGER Evaluation Process

- Does the project align well with the long term priorities of USDOT? (state of good repair, economic competitiveness, livability, sustainability, safety)
- Does the application clearly demonstrate project readiness and near-term economic activity / job creation?
- 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 and 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
- 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
- New partnerships, multi-jurisdictional cooperation
- Public-private partnerships
- Support key national priorities
- Non-traditional or hard to fund projects
 - Exploring new ways to deliver projects
 - Non-formula funded

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 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



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>)



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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
- Previous TIGER application debriefs
- Benefit cost analysis resource guide
- Special Topics Webinars
- Questions sent to TIGERGrants@dot.gov



Additional Application Help

- Examples of Tribal Benefit Cost Analysis Online
 - <http://www.dot.gov/policy-initiatives/tiger/tribal-tiger-bca-examples>
- TIGER Website: www.dot.gov/tiger/
- Special Topics Webinars and Frequently Asked Questions:
 - <http://www.dot.gov/tiger/application-resources.html>



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

The word "TIGER" in a bold, stylized font. The letters are black with orange diagonal stripes.

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Question and Answer Session



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