



“Talking Freight”

Presented by the Federal Highway Administration
United States Department of Transportation

July 27, 2011

Pine Ridge, SD



North Kingston, RI



Fort Worth, TX



Portland, OR

TIGER₃

- \$527 million multimodal, merit-based discretionary grant program
- \$140 million for rural areas
- Up to \$150 million for TIFIA payments
- Last round the average award was \$13.25 million
- Geographic diversity requirement

2011 Application Process

- Sept. 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
- 3 Application Limit (per sponsor)
- TIFIA Letter of Interest



Keys to Competitive Applications

- Eligibility
- Address Criteria and Outcomes
- Clarity
- Leveraging Investment
- Project Segmentation
- Project Readiness/NEPA
- Highly Competitive Projects
- Application Pitfalls
- Planned Technical Assistance



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
- Rural grants: \$1 million minimum (no match req)
- Urbanized area grants: \$10 million minimum (20% match)
- **Eligible ≠ Competitive**



Address Criteria and Outcomes

- Application outline in the NOFA
- Describe how project addresses challenge
- Detail how federal funds will be used
- Address the selection criteria

Primary Criteria

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

Secondary Criteria

- Innovation
- Partnership



Clarity

- Ensure project descriptions are clear and concise
- Pictures and maps are helpful
- Focus on why project is compelling
- Staff and experts may review 100-200 applications within a short period of time



Leveraging Investment

- Matching state and local funds with private funds helps demonstrate commitment = more competitive
- First round: TIGER grantees delivered \$4.5 billion in matching funding for TIGER's \$1.5 billion
- Public-private projects must demonstrate significant public benefits
- Up to \$150 million in TIFIA payments available



Project Segmentation

- Clearly identify multiple project elements if the project is segmentable
- Segments must have “independent utility”
 - Provides transportation benefits
 - Will be ready for use when complete
- **Phases must complete operable segment**



Project Readiness/NEPA

- Projects that are ready to move to construction quickly are given priority
- Document where the project is in the NEPA process
- Initiate NEPA in advance of the application process, if possible
- If the project expects a CE determination, demonstrate why this is justified



Talking Freight

- Freight projects are competitive in TIGER
 - \$669.5 million (32% of total) for **freight** projects
 - \$454.2 million for **rail** (22% of total)
 - \$215.3 million for **ports** (10% of total)
- Eligibility: surface transportation, including
 - Port infrastructure (dredging ineligible)
 - Freight rail
 - Roads and highways
- Opportunity for rural freight
 - \$140 million set-aside

Talking Freight

- Key criteria:
 - economic competitiveness
 - state of good repair
 - environmental sustainability
- Net national benefits
- Identify public and private beneficiaries and contributors
- National Export Initiative



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



Application Pitfalls

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



Technical Assistance

- USDOT offers technical assistance to help applicants through the TIGER process
- Preparation of benefit cost analysis
- Previous TIGER application debriefs
- Special Topics Webinars



Additional Application Help

TIGER Website: www.dot.gov/tiger/

Special Topics Webinars

- August 17th - [Benefit Cost Analysis](#)
- August 22nd - [Project Readiness/NEPA](#)
- August 24th - [Public Private Partnerships & TIFIA](#)
- August 24th - Rural and Tribal Applications
- August 30th - [MARAD Port Outreach](#)



TIGER

Question and Answer Session

