How to Compete for FY 2019 BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grants

Presented by:
Office of the Under Secretary for Policy
United States Department of Transportation

BUILD Grants
Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development Transportation Discretionary Grants Program
## Welcome: FY 2019 BUILD How to Compete Webinar

### Audio
- Via Computer – No Action Needed
- Via Telephone - Call 1-888-808-6929
- Passcode: 1203007

### Presenters
- Kim Bathrick
- Shira Bergstein
- Anthony Burton
- Caitlin Gliniecki

*Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation*
BUILD Grants
Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development Transportation Discretionary Grants Program

- $900 million multimodal, merit-based discretionary grant program
- Modal and geographic equity requirements
- Not more than 50 percent of funds will be awarded to projects located in urban and rural areas, respectively
- Project narrative, SF 424, and project information form required
What are the Advantages of the BUILD Program?

- Significant Local or Regional Impact
- Competitive Discretionary Grants
- Encourages Partnership
- Public Entity Eligibility
- Merit-Based Awards
## BUILD Basics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eligible Applicants</th>
<th>Eligible Projects*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State governments</td>
<td>Highway, bridge, or other road project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local and tribal governments</td>
<td>Public transportation projects</td>
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<tr>
<td>U.S. territories</td>
<td>Passenger and freight rail projects</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transit agencies</td>
<td>Port infrastructure investments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Port authorities</td>
<td>Intermodal projects</td>
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<tr>
<td>MPOs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other public subdivisions of State or local governments</td>
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*Include but not limited to
Eligible Cost Share/Match

- Federal cost share up to 80% in urban areas
- Federal cost share up to 100% in rural areas

Minimum Awards

- $5 million for projects in urban areas
- $1 million for projects in rural areas
- No minimum for planning grants

Maximum Award

- $25 million per project
- $90 million per State

Not more than 50% of funding will be awarded to projects located in urban and rural areas, respectively.
BUILD Urban & Rural Definitions

*Change from FY18 definitions*

U.S. Census Bureau 2010 population

URBAN:
Urbanized Area
Population Greater than 200,000

RURAL:
Urbanized Area
Population Less than 200,000
OR
Outside an Urbanized Area (including Urban Cluster)
2019 BUILD Application


- Applications – Must be submitted before 8:00 PM E.D.T. on July 15, 2019
What Projects Compete Well?

1. Demonstrated strength in merit criteria
2. Project will enter construction within the period of obligation (Sept. 30, 2021)
3. Planning grants will be less competitive than capital grants
4. Project has specific timeline for completion
5. Presents a clear story and details project impact
What Projects Compete Well?

- Emphasizes improved access to reliable, safe, and affordable transportation, including concurrently investing in broadband or promoting energy independence
- Incorporates innovations in technologies, project delivery and/or financing
- New partnerships, multi-jurisdictional cooperation, including public-private partnerships
BUILD Evaluation Considerations

Does the project align well with the selection criteria?

How do the project’s benefits compare to its costs?

Does the project demonstrate readiness in terms of:

- Environmental review
- Permitting
- Technical feasibility
- Funding
- Applicant’s capacity to manage project delivery
- Obligating funds by September 30, 2021
BUILD Selection Criteria

- Partnership
- Safety
- Innovation
- State of Good Repair
- Quality of Life
- Economic Competitiveness
- Environmental Sustainability
- Primary selection criteria
- Secondary selection criteria
Selection Criterion: Safety

DOT will assess how the project impacts:

- Safe movement of goods and people
- Data on crashes, injuries, and fatalities
- Safe highway/rail grade crossings
- Preventing releases of hazardous materials
The Merit Criterion: **State of Good Repair**

DOT will also assess whether and to what extent the following are addressed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DOT Requirement</th>
<th>Addressed Requirement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plans for maintenance of facilities and system that address current and projected vulnerabilities</td>
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<td>Threats/consequences if infrastructure is left unimproved</td>
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<td>Asset management that optimizes long-term cost structure</td>
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<td>Sustainable revenue for overall life-cycle costs</td>
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<td>Maintain or improve infrastructure supporting border security functions</td>
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<tr>
<td>DOT will assess whether the project will:</td>
<td>Decrease transportation costs and improve access in rural communities or communities in Opportunity Zones, through reliable and timely access to employment centers and job opportunities</td>
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<td>Improve long-term efficiency, reliability or costs in the movement of workers or goods</td>
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<td>Increase the economic productivity of land, capital, or labor, including assets in Opportunity Zones</td>
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<td>Result in long-term job creation and economic opportunities</td>
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<td>Help the United States compete in a global economy by facilitating efficient and reliable freight movement</td>
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<td>DOT will assess how the project:</td>
<td>Improves energy efficiency, reduce dependence on oil, and reduce congestion-related emissions, improves water quality, avoids and mitigates environmental impacts and otherwise benefits the environment</td>
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<td>Reduces energy use and air or water pollution through congestion mitigation strategies</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Avoids adverse environmental impacts to air or water quality, wetlands, and endangered species</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Provides environmental benefits, such as brownfield redevelopment, groundwater recharge in areas of water scarcity, wetlands creation or improved habitat connectivity, and storm water mitigation</td>
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**Merit Criterion:**

**Quality of Life**

DOT will consider the extent to which the project:

- Increases transportation choices
- Expands access and connectivity to essential services such as jobs and healthcare
- Will allow concurrent installation of fiber or other broadband deployment as an essential service

*The Department may only reimburse costs associated with broadband if the broadband supports a transportation purpose*
## Merit Criterion: Innovation

DOT will assess the use of innovative strategies such as:

| Safety, particularly in relation to automated vehicles and the detection, mitigation, and documentation of safety risks; includes work zone data exchanges |
| Technology, including operational performance of transportation systems and broadband deployment, |
| Project delivery, including contracting (P3s), congestion management, asset management, or long-term operations and maintenance |
| Environmental permitting and review to accelerate project delivery and achieve improved outcomes for communities and the environment |
| Funding and finance, including by using private sector funding or financing and recycled revenue from the competitive sale or lease of publicly owned or operated assets |
## Merit Criterion: Partnership

**DOT will consider:**

| Strong collaboration among a broad range of stakeholders in project development and funding, including among neighboring or regional jurisdictions to achieve local or regional benefits |
| Ensure long-term asset performance, such as through pay-for-success approaches |
| Partnerships that bring together diverse transportation agencies and/or are supported, financially or otherwise, by other stakeholders that are pursuing similar objectives |
# Project Readiness and BCA

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<tr>
<th>Project Readiness</th>
<th>Technical Feasibility</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Project Schedule</td>
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<td>Required Approvals</td>
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<td>Assessment of Project Risks and Mitigation Strategies</td>
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| BCA | Identify, quantify, and compare expected benefits and costs |
**Application Pitfalls**

- **Ineligibility:** applicants and projects
- **Priorities/outcomes not aligned with merit criteria**
- **Lack of evidence substantiating project outcomes claims in narrative**
- **Insufficient evidence of project readiness**
- **Not providing statutorily-mandated match**
- **Ineligible requests: Operating assistance**
- **Uncertain urban/rural designation**
## BUILD 2019 Evaluation Teams

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<tr>
<th>Considerations for DOT Evaluation Teams:</th>
<th>Technical Evaluation</th>
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<td>Economic Analysis</td>
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<td>Project Readiness</td>
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<td>Control and Calibration</td>
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<td>Senior Review</td>
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Final funding awards decided by the Secretary
Project Delivery: What Should Successful Applicants Expect

BUILD 2019 Announcements by November 12, 2019

BUILD 2019 Modal Project Assignments

Negotiations Initiated

Sign/Execute Grant Agreement (funds obligated at this point)

Reporting Requirements/Project Modifications

Project Completion/Close-Out

Performance Monitoring
Technical Assistance

- USDOT offers technical assistance to help applicants through the BUILD process
- Debriefs on previous applications (prioritizing applicants that have not already received them) through May 31
- Benefit-cost analysis resource guide
- Webinars
- Send questions to BUILDGrants@dot.gov
Additional Application Help

- BUILD Website: www.transportation.gov/BUILDgrants

- Preparing a Benefit-Cost Analysis for a BUILD Grant: www.transportation.gov/BUILDgrants/additional-guidance

- Webinars and Frequently Asked Questions:
  - www.transportation.gov/BUILDgrants/outreach
  - www.transportation.gov/BUILDgrants/2018-build-application-faqs
Question and Answer Session

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