Please stand by for realtime captions

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Good afternoon, I would like to welcome everyone. Please make sure your mic is on mute. Nicole the floor is yours.

My name is Nicole Coene , I would like to let you know that you will need to mute your speakers otherwise you will be hearing audio over your computer and your phone. You can type questions into the chat area to the right side of the screen. Our team will be answering questions during the presentation via chat. We will have a question and answer session after the presentation. Also we will open up the phone lines for more questions at that point. Please press star 1 in order to unmute during the Q&A session. Today's session is being recorded and it will be available online in the next few days. If you have any additional technical questions during the presentation please use the chat pod. Our presentation -- our presenter today is Robert Mariner .

Thank you Nicole, good afternoon, thank you for joining us on this second, how to compete for TIGER grants. I will try to work through the slides as weekly as possible. The content speaks for itself and hopefully we will be able to spend more time answering questions. Feel free to use the chat pod or over the phone for questions. I know that the operator will mention to press star 1, that is how you enter the queue for questions. Don't be shy, ask any question, there are no bad questions. You would be surprised how many others will want to ask the same question. With that, the discretionary grant program was created as part of the American covering and -- recovery and reinvestment act. Congress authorized $500 million for transportation infrastructure investments across the country. As they slide states, and as the notice stated, for this round of TIGER , the primary focus is projects in rural areas. We are looking at those spots whether they are tribal governments or rural applications where we can put the best foot forward and really articulate the means. Realizing the benefits that you have anticipated with your project if you are successful. As with similar rounds and per the statute, the department is required to provide an equitable distribution of funding. As in previous rounds of Tiger, this round requires pre-application to be submitted. We do ask that project sponsors include a project information form with the submitted application form. Tiger grant request, total project cost, if the project will be urban or rural, and so forth. We have clear guidance on what information we are looking for project sponsors to provide. How is TIGER different? It allows the department to be able to not only open up eligibility to project sponsors who would not normally have the ability to compete or -- for U.S. D.O.T. dollars. It is also to broaden the eligibility of types of projects that can be funded through the project. One thing that we have seen historically throughout the eight rounds of TIGER , we have been able to leverage a specific amount of nonfederal dollars. Large sums of private funding have been sourced. As well as, very highly competitive projects and competitive grants. The very basics about the TIGER discretionary program remains very consistent from day one. Applicants eligible include state agencies, local and tribal governments, small townships, transit agencies and metropolitan planning organizations. Also, port authorities, and any subdivision of any of these previously mentioned agencies. Eligible projects are typically those that would be eligible when they are title 23, or federal highway programs or chapter 53 for the federal transit administration. Also, railroad projects are eligible, computer -- commuter and passenger rail as well. Rolling stock, is also eligible for TIGER funding as well as fairies and Maritime infrastructure. As far as cost share and match, urbanized areas projects are required to provide no more than 20% of nonfederal funds. This would be areas that fall outside of the urbanized areas identified by the 2010 census. With a population of less than 50,000 people, would qualify as a project located in a rural area. Those projects that have designations as rural, are not required but the more nonfederal dollars you can bring to the table can make your application more competitive. Something I would like to add, we evaluate and we take every project sponsor where they are, we look at them where they are. We totally understand that some communities may have[ Indiscernible ]Capacity to bring nonfederal funds as well as tribal governments. We want you to be able to clearly articulate what you intend to do in order to secure funding for your project or projects. If you are requesting funds from TIGER for that project. For minimum awards, minimum project awards, if they are located in urbanized areas, there is a minimum of $5 million. For those project sponsors located in urbanized areas, you are required to request a minimum of $5 million from TIGER , keeping in mind you are still required to provide a minimum of 20% nonfederal funds. For those located in rural areas, they are required to request a minimum of $1 million, there is no match requirement however, you are required, you are not required but we ask those sponsors to bring nonfederal dollars to the table. Also, describing what you have done historically to try to identify funds [ Indiscernible - poor audio ] . As far as maximum awards, there is a [ Indiscernible ]On project size, project award, the maximum award using fire -- TIGER funds is $5 million. There is a typo here, there is a $50 million For state -- per state. Before I continue, is anyone having a problem hearing me talk? Is the Mike coming across clearly -- Mic coming across clearly. Is that a little clearer? I am not sure if it is something wrong with our speakers.

If you aren't listening via the webinar software, it can be dependent on your bandwidth. Try the teleconference line if you are having a hard time hearing over the computer.

Once again, all of these webinars are recorded and they are very consistent from one to the other. If you're having any problems hearing, you can always go back and download the recording and listen to it at your leisure. We also can provide copies of the transcript, once the, normally a day or two after. This round of the TIGER program is our ninth round . One thing to keep in mind is, October 16, 2017. The deadline is at 8:00 p.m. Eastern time. That is not 8:00 and 30 seconds, that is not 8:02, we ask project sponsors to get out ahead and ensure that your username and password is active, also ensuring that your into the -- [ Indiscernible ]Is valid and active. I can't tell you how many times I am on the phone with project sponsors 10 minutes before the deadline and something has expired, or their ID is no longer active. Or they are not using the authorized agencies official, username and password to login. Please double check your username and password to make sure everything is valid and ready to go. What I also recommend is with the deadline being October 16, project sponsors tend to have their application packages at about 95% roughly two weeks out. They are spending the last two weeks just working on pictures and word snipping. My recommendation is to get the application in around 1 October. That way you can spend the next couple of weeks fine-tuning, and resubmit before the deadline. Once again, submitting the full application package. They will only download and review the latest submission. If you get something in that allows us to evaluate it, just in case you run into on-site issues, at least you are meeting the application deadline. Please make sure your access is up-to-date and valid. If you miss that 8:00 p.m. deadline on October 16, even by 15 seconds, I will be the person notifying you that your application will not be downloaded, and will not be considered eligible for this round of TIGER . As the slide states, the demand for Tiger has been very consistent, it is highly competitive. More than 7000 applications requesting nearly $140 billion worth of funds, the slide here speaks for itself. We envision this upcoming round as equally competitive. We envision the number from the previous round to be consistent for this upcoming round. What helps projects compete? Obviously you need to have an eligible project, one thing to keep in mind is ensuring that the eligible applicant is submitting the application through Grants.gov . Taking for the project that you are requesting for is eligible for TIGER funds . Obviously the projects that demonstrate strength against the primary and secondary selection criteria, and just to dig a little deeper on that, as strong and wonderful as a narrative is when you are writing your project. We really ask project sponsors to bring to bear, any additional data that they can that supports the written area. Small partnerships are also beneficial as it shows that not only is a project supported, on the ground, but in some cases and in many cases, those partnerships bring additional funds to bear in helping support the delivery of the project. The project should have a strong timeline for success and applicants should try to keep it simple. Don't spend 30 pages telling us how beautiful your town is, we don't need to know the history of your town or your city. Really dig into what you are requesting funds for, clearly articulate the scope, and how you envision your project will move forward. The TIGER evaluation process , the bullets are very clear. Technical evaluators will be responsible for reviewing the technical merits of each and every application against the primary and secondary selection criteria. Safety, economic competitiveness, environmental sustainability and quality of life. We have our two secondary criteria, showing a strong collaborative ownership, -- partnership, and that could be just local jurisdiction, but you may also cross multiple jurisdictions which not only creates a larger partnership but you may also be bringing additional nonfederal funds, to help you realize the project. As for innovation, we leave that up to you as a sponsor, as to what you would deem as innovative. Something for your locality, the introduction of innovative technology that may or may not have been deployed in your community. It doesn't have to be brand-new technology, it could just be the introduction of a new way of delivering transportation to your community or to the region of your state. Last but not least, in a -- innovative ways of financing your project. Not every state has partnership authority, but being able to talk to any other in innovative ways, that you are delivering the infrastructure needs. The other bullets speak for themselves, last but not least, making sure on your application you are articulating your ability to have all of the funding obligated if you are to be selected for this round of TIGER. Ensuring the department is able to sign and execute a grant agreement on or before September 30 2020. Normally we ask project sponsors to target June 30 2020, as your target for being able to complete all of your preconstruction activities. This gives you a three-month cushion, for those projects that in those cases can run into challenges with completing. Whether it is design, environmental, up to and including the approval of your PS and estimates package. As I alluded to a few slides ago, selection criteria remains the same from previous rounds of TIGER. I will not read through each bullet, they're very straightforward. The first selection criteria, is safety. I will not read the bullets for all of the following slides, but just to give you some idea, as it relates to safety. As I stated a few slides ago, it is wonderful to provide a golden narrative that this project will improve safety. But you need to go a little further, as it relates to the safety area, it could be something like the introduction of, or the improvements to this roadway will reduce vehicle to vehicle incursions by X percentage. It also could be as a result of the replacement of a bridge, a sufficiency rating of a bridge went from 2 back to 100. By reconstructing or strengthening, or doing a full replacement. Once again, the bullets provide additional guidance as well as tons of information over the previous rounds of TIGER. To help you get an idea of what approaches you can use, for we go to the next slide, we always get a lot of questions asking if the department can provide copies of applications. Obviously we are always looking for successful applications, the advice we tend to give folks, unfortunately we cannot provide copies of submitted applications because many applications provide private and/or confidential information. These submitted applications can include refractory information such as cost analysis. What we have seen is that a lot of project sponsors will in fact post their own implications on their agency website. It is easy to go to a search engine and type in TIGER discretionary grant application, I know that there are no less than 100 project sponsors who have posted their applications on their agency's website. They go as far back as 2010, from Tiger -- TIGER round one. Again, the bullets speak for themselves. The primary selection criteria here is looking at, how will you bring your infrastructure back up to a state of repair. That could be full replacement of a bridge, it could be reconstructing an existing roadway, to improve pavement condition. It could be introducing reconstructive interchange in your community. We leave it up to you to identify and articulate how you envision your project delivering on the primary selection criteria. Economic competitiveness, we are asking project sponsors to articulate how you envision the deployment of this newly constructed asset, and realizing additional economic benefits. The bullets again are very straightforward. The quality of life selection criteria, how do you envision your project enhancing or improving the lives of those who work and play in this region. You will be introducing additional mobile choice, or additional access, being able to get people to businesses and education. Environmental sustainability, again the bullets speak for themselves. How would you envision your project being a, dividing a positive benefit, for example, a highly trafficked community with truck traffic, introducing a bypass you are reducing the amount of traffic. Reducing traffic through the residential community, and also reduces the amount of pollution. This can improve asthma conditions in that community, or something as simple as reducing greenhouse gases. Also, if your project reduces the impact to[ Indiscernible ]Of the U.S., and water quality. We leave it up to you to articulate, with as much supporting data as you can, describing the environmental benefits that will be realized from this project is awarded. The two secondary selection criteria kind of hit on innovation, as well as partnership. Innovation as I stated before, we are looking for the sponsor to be able to identify that there are any innovative ideas, as far as project delivery, and any innovative financing approaches that perhaps have not been thought of. Any innovative design, ideas that you are considering, once again we leave it up to you as a sponsor to really sell any innovative approaches that you think will help your project stand out. Last but not least, partnership, as I stated earlier, it is great to have letters of support from local project sponsors, that goes to show that those on the ground are in support of the actual project. And if the project is -- is awarded, they will not stand in the way. It is also helpful to understand if there are any additional funding partners, on the project that you are seeking TIGER funding for . Historically, what has made project highly competitive, some of the bullets here mention, new partnerships, multijurisdictional cooperation, etc. This goes to show that you have support on the ground, which we have seen historically over eight rounds. A lot of times these partnerships can bring additional funding to the table. Also, coordinated in investments from other sources and programs, whether you are able to bring other federal funding sources such as, HUD, or coordination of transportation infrastructure. Coinciding with the introduction of housing facilities, that is what we are talking about. In many cases, previously submitted applications have really brought to bear, bringing all available federal funds as well as any additional state and local funds. To realize the delivery of, critically needed infrastructure in the community. Next slide. So the primary and secondary selection criteria, link up with one phase of the evaluation process. The technical evaluation phase, one of the sides coming up -- slides coming up will walk through that. Upon receipt of the application post October 16, all applications will be distributed across a number of technical evaluation teams. These teams are made up of staff from the operated -- operating administration. The federal transmit -- transit administration as well. We also have staff from the office of the secretary who provide assistance in evaluating the technical merits of each evaluation. Those that are submitted can receive one of four meetings -- ratings. The highly recommended projects will advance to what you see before you, our tier 2 analysis. Our economics analysis team evaluates the cost. We also have a review by our project readiness team, that will look at everything from project schedule, to approvals, technical and financial feasibility for delivering, so that we -- we ask that you respond clearly to those areas. Application pitfalls, I alluded to a few earlier. Firstly, you want to make sure you are an eligible applicant submitting an eligible project. Please be very clear, when responding to primary and secondary selection criteria. Please include any supporting data, it is wonderful to hear how the project will deliver safety benefits, and enhance the lives of those around it. Without any supporting data, it is very hard for our evaluators to really understand what you envision being delivered. Please make sure these projects that are being submitted, from urban areas, please make sure you have the minimum 20% match articulated in the application. Obviously if you can go above and beyond, the department is looking to leverage as much nonfederal dollars as possible. Also we want to, we leave it up to you as the sponsor to really be able to talk to what you have gone through to try to identify additional funds. What prompted you to seek funding from the TIGER program . I kind of walked through the process, and just to provide a quick recap, once the applications are received. The department goes through a quick intake process to ensure eligibility, and processes the requested amount. Once we have gone through and projects are eligible or not, then projects are advanced to the technical evaluation team. As I stated a few slides ago, they will review each and every application. Those projects that receive a highly recommended rating will advance to our tier 2 analysis which includes a review by our economic analysis team, and the submitted cost analysis. They will look at everything from technical and financial feasibility, the ability for the department to obligate the funds within the statutory obligation deadline, and then once the submitted application are advanced through those two phases. Then they moved to the senior review team. They are made up of the senior leadership of the department who will, whittle down a much more manageable list of projects. The buck stops with the secretary, she is ultimately the person who will make the final selection that she wishes. Very quickly, what to expect, if you are a successful applicant for this upcoming round of TIGER . One thing to keep in mind is that Tiger funds are provided on a reimbursable basis. If you are successful, in receiving the TIGER award , you have to have the financial capacity to manage the cash flow associated with delivering the project. To put that in perspective, if you have a $10 million total cost, even if you've only requested five or 6 million from TIGER , you will have to be able to manage the cash flow of a fully funded $10 million project and then you would be seeking reimbursement for allowable cost based on the agreements. That is why, in some cases for smaller jurisdictions who may have a challenge with managing that cash flow which could be as low as $3 million, sometimes it is helpful to initiate relationships with your planning organizations for assistance. Or even, your state DOT is -- DOT. With the exception of railroad projects, and maritime projects, you are required to be on the state transportation improvement plan. If you are working on a highway or bridge project, or a transit project, you have to be added to the [ Indiscernible ]Before one week of finalizing the grant agreement. Before you can start to seek reimbursement for funds. You are not required to be on the [ Indiscernible ]To submit the application but it is helpful to have it added if you were successful in winning a TIGER grant . The department quickly pivots and makes assignments to the appropriate mode who would be responsible for administrating that award. Then the administration will reach out to the successful sponsor, and initiate the negotiation process. All the way through the signing and execution of the grant agreement. Once it is signed and executed, that allows the successful project sponsor the ability to[ Indiscernible ]The construction contract. Once the project gets closed out, there will be reporting requirements even before the project is completed. Typically they are quarterly reports that we see from project sponsors to ensure that not only the project is being done on time, and is negotiated, but we are in fact getting the project delivered. At project closeout, as negotiated in the agreement, the sponsor will transition to providing regular performance reporting based on what has been negotiated. The next two slides primarily talk to the amount of available technical assistance that we provide. We are more than happy to schedule debriefs for previously submitted applications, we schedule as quickly as possible. As you can imagine, with so many applicants, please reach out and submit your request to TigerGrants@dot.gov , because those requests. On October 16. As always there are tons of resources on the trend three -- TIGER website. We provide all of these webinars on the website so you can listen to them at your leisure. If you require a copy of the transcript we can also provide that, following the completed webinar. Similarly, on this slide, tons of resources provided, next light. -- Next slide. I wanted to try and get through the slides as quickly as possible to allow for our Q&A session. I find a lot of times the question and answer sessions tend to be much more beneficial than walking through the slides. I will hand it over to those on the phone.

If you would like to ask a question please press star 1 on the keypad. Also feel free to ask Russians in the chat box -- questions in the chat box.

The trail will benefit multiple communities, to eliminate the crossing of highway bridges.

That type of project would be eligible however the sponsor would have to fully articulate the non-recreational benefits of those trails to have a chance at being competitive.

Similar to the last question, what a project to connect cities with multi use paths, to provide a better access by non-automotive means, would that be eligible?

Yes, that would be eligible as a bicycle, pedestrian friendly trail. Similarly you would need to articulate the commuting and if it's of that newly constructed asset and focus more on commuting than recreational usage.

Because these are federal funds, will the agreement be required -- will and --

I think this has to do with what federal and state requirements would apply to the project?

If you are on the TIGER grant you would be required to comply with all federal, state and local requirements for bringing any other transportation project. My advice would be, depending on what type of project you are seeking funding from, you would first want to reach out to your state D.O.T., or MPO who might have more expertise at delivering. Experience with how to handle USDOT funding. I would also suggest reaching out, if you have a roadway or bridge project, I'm sorry, highway, bridge, roadway, trail, to reach out to your Federal Highway division office. Those tend to be located at the stent -- state capital. Your Federal transit administration regional offices, they have 12 regional offices across the country. You can go to the FDA website and find out which office your state falls into. In regards to port and maritime projects, we recommend reaching out to our colleagues in the railroad administration or the MA at the DOT in Washington -- in Washington.

Joe Lena asked --

You would have to ask that to the Department of Health and Human Services. That is not a USDOT portal, that is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Health and Human Services. My guess would be that it takes time to verify that all of the contractual information is in track -- in fact valid. Grants.gov is not just a portal, but it is a vehicle by which the federal government can confirm that this is a legal government body and you do have access to a bank account. We will use your SAM ID, because that is how funds are transferred. If you are seeking funds from a bank, they need to verify that you are who you are. That you are a valid entity who is able to receive those funds. That is my guess, on why he can take 2 to 4 weeks, I have spoken to project sponsors where it has taken four hours, it is based on how quickly you can respond to request and provide requisite information.

We have one question on the phone.

He dropped off.

Okay.

Would[ Indiscernible ]Be a qualified expense?

It is an eligible project, but keep in mind it will be reviewed as more of a maintenance need. It is eligible, but it is hard to determine how competitive, just basic street pavement, which is a maintenance need, how competitive it will be under the TIGER program.

Susan asked, what a state D.O.T. that receives funds, be the applicant for rural opposite -- operators seeking funds?

It sounds like you are asking two different question, as long as the applicant is eligible, it does not have to be a state, D.O.T. doesn't have to be a state agency, it can be a local government. It could be a county government or a Township. The purpose of submitting the application, if you are asking can you submit one application for multiple projects? You would need to articulate in your application that there is a clear nexus for all of the projects they are going to be seeking TIGER funding for. For example, if you have a complete streets project on one side of town, and say a bicycle pedestrian trail on the other side of town, if they are not connected at all, it may be difficult for you to tie in a very clear nexus for those two projects. However, if you are able to show that the newly constructed trail will provide connectivity from one side of town to the newly instructed streets project, -- constructed streets project, that is a clear example of a nexus.

Any other questions in the chat pod?

Monique asks, if construction activity is reimbursable?

We would ask that those types of expenses be rolled into your overall project budget. Obviously if you are a project located in a rural area, and you are not required to have a match, those are expenses that could be reimbursed using TIGER funds . However in urbanized areas, we seek to use your matching funds to cover as many nonconstruction expenses as possible.

Any questions on the phone? Don't be shy, it is\*--\*-- star 1.

Are project criteria is weighted in any way.

We do not provide waiting -- weighting for any of this. We ask you to put your best foot forward, with the project that you are seeking funds for, it is our job as career evaluators under this program to provide all of that information before our leadership who will inform the Secretary of transportation. Assisting her in making a selection for this round of TIGER.

Susan has asked, do state D.O.T.'s apply for FTA funds on behalf of role transit, I'm assuming they could be the applicant on behalf of the rural provider for TIGER , can the state D.O.T. apply on behalf of TIGER ?

Yes.

And the providers with FTA funds, they can also apply?

Right. You are not required to have the state submit on your behalf, that is a decision you can make. There is no greater benefit to waiting, versus using a transit provider or a locality.

Can you talk more about project readiness, is a project in a conceptual stage not ready?

Yes. For this round, the FY 2017 round, the department will be evaluating the ability to be able to obligate funds, that are awarded for the project, on or before September 30, 2020. If you are still at the conceptual stage, the likelihood that you will be ready to obligate the funds, that means if you are just in a conceptual stage you have not done any preliminary engineering, design, environmental work, or final design. The coordination with local agencies has to be completed as well. If you do, you are eligible to submit an application at the early stages but keep in mind we do not have the authority to provide planning grants or preconstruction activities on our own. The likelihood that the project will be very competitive is not very good. To continue on describing what we mean by project readiness, you know the deadline for the target obligation deadline. We ask project sponsors in the application, as I mentioned a few slides ago, to focus on June 30, 2020 as the target for being able to have any and all preconstruction activities completed. So that we can, at a minimum have that three-month cushion. If you are able to have all preconstruction activity completed by that date, we will definitely take that into consideration. If you already have everything completed, and your project is just seeking funds for construction, that will also be considered. You are not required to have environmental work completed. You are not required to have final design, prior to submitting. You need to articulate the ability to have all of those pieces completed on or before the statutory deadline which is September 30, 2020. We ask sponsors to focus on June 30 2020.

Can you speak more about in eligible nonconstruction activities, what about construction inspections?

Inspections it should be rolled into the overall project budget. For the ministration of that project. As I have stated, if it is located in a rural area, it can be fully funded with TIGER funds. If it is an urbanized area, we look to the nonfederal matching funds to cover any non-construction related expenses.

Is there a minimum recommendation level a project must receive to get a grant.

I think this question is in regards to the evaluation. Is there a minimum rating?

There is no minimum rating, once again I will describe the process again. The technical evaluators will give it one of four ratings, highly recommended, recommended, acceptable, or a non-recommended rating. If a project is nonrecommended, it is primarily either the sponsor may be provided a two-page application. Not responding to any of the selection criteria. A project in that case would not advance to our senior leadership or the senior review team. Projects that receive the next higher ratings, will all be reviewed. They have the ability to request the reevaluation of a project. Survey project receives an acceptable rating, it could be reevaluated at the request of the review team. They are serving as the subject matter experts on behalf of the Secretary. As the administrators of oversight, for the projects that are awarded TIGER funds, they may have additional information that our technical evaluators may not have. Hopefully that answers that question.

Is there a difference between matching funds and leveraged funds?

Know that is the same thing. Obviously you could have matching or leveraging of federal dollars using nonfederal state, local or private dollars.

How did we come up with the environmental sustainability for the purpose of constructing our BCA analysis ?

Thank you, as far as dealing with greenhouse gas, the department does not have guidance on the recommended values. For your analysis purposes what you should do is, clearly document what you use, discount the values at the 7% discount rate as you would any other benefit. Clearly document that for other criteria. We do have recommended values available on our website.

As far as selection criteria, in the notice of funding and the section on environmental sustainability, we have outlined a suggested area on how projects could be able to achieve environmental sustainability benefits we encourage you to explore those --. We encourage you to explore those.

If the selection process is emphasizing rural areas, what exactly does that mean?

The administration is focused on providing as many resources to communities located in rural areas as much as possible. We don't have a specific target that we are focused on, that has come down from the secretary. The minimum of the statute is no less than 20%. What I will say to that is, the ministration has made it very clear that they are looking to leverage as many nonfederal dollars as possible. For those applicants located in urbanized area -- areas who have the ability to generate more than the 20% minimum match, we will be looking to those project sponsors to do just that. Many larger urbanized areas have the ability to create additional financing. Having the ability to seek significant amounts of private funding. Sometimes that is a disadvantage to a lot of our tribal and rural applicant. There is no specific target for the rural areas, but historically, the department has always far exceeded the statutory requirement for rural projects. Usually any 37 two over 47%.

In the notice of funding opportunity, we did draw up a different kind of outcome that could be possible. Specifically those including infrastructure conditions, or improving public health. Otherwise, facilitating economic development. These are particular outcomes, for rural projects that we will be prioritizing. If there are other outcomes, we would also encourage you to apply and address those outcomes in your application.

Are urban clusters considered rural?

For the purpose of TIGER, urban clusters are outside of the census designated urban boundaries, they would be considered rural. We included a link earlier in the chat, that shows the census based urbanized areas. If you are not sure exactly where they are, you can click on that link to check the location of your project.

Next question.

When does reimbursement happen, in phases or once the project is complete.

As I stated earlier, if the project is awarded an entire grant, the applicant needs to have the ability to manage cash flow for the full course of the project. Typically it will be 60 days before the first invoice are reimbursed. You have to do 30 days worth of work in order to invoice, typically it takes another 30 days to review the invoice before we reimburse. Once you have the signed and executed grant agreement, once you start to have built up allowable costs, where you can submit an invoice, after the pursed -- first 60 days it tends to be on a rolling basis of every 30 days.

Will the town have to fund the project and then be reimbursed?

The town would be responsible for managing that cash flow. You have to have all of the funding in order to lend the construction contract. There is no contractor I am aware of who will go under contract unless you have all of the funds available to complete construction. They will be bidding on fully constructing a project. You will need to have all funds in advance. You will submit invoices every 30 days against allowable costs per the negotiating agreement. That is why I mentioned earlier, it is sometimes helpful to have relations with your state D.O.T., or your MPO who can sometimes be of assistance in not only delivering the project, but if you may not have the financial capacity, to manage the cash flow. At the end of the day, the department is not concerned about who delivers the project, we just want to make sure that the project is delivered. We behoove you to start establishing those relationships now, as you are finalizing your application.

Is the TIP the same as the community economic development strategy?

No. They are fiscally constrained plans, the Metropolitan planning organization, these projects must be approved locally. Either before the application or particularly in your application, the ability to have your project added to the [ Indiscernible ]. All of the funds would be available for that project. You are not going to be able to identify or select the contract without having all of the funds available.

A question on the timeline. Regarding reimbursement, does that happen once or over and over.

It is throughout the construction of the project. Based on how it is negotiated, in the grant agreement. Sometimes it is 80% federal, or if you are in urban applicant. Whatever is negotiated in the grant. We can only reimburse with TIGER funds for those costs that are allowable for reimbursement..

There is no simple targeted match, we have had project sponsors who have been successful and not been able to bring anything to the table. We have also had sponsors in rural areas who have brought 60% nonfederal funds. I would recommend, we have 400 fact sheets on the website, you can view all of the successful applicants and denote whether they are urban or rural. You can see what the TIGER award is against the total cost. You can get an idea of historically where these project sponsors have fallen. Once again we have had rural Africans -- applicants on both ends of the spectrum. Some with no matching funds and others with 60 to 70%. For example, some of our travel applicants, have saved on their transportation program funds, to use as match on a Tiger grant. There is no specific target, we asked project sponsors to put their best foot forward and we meet each applicant where they are, understanding that not every project sponsor or applicant is made equal.

Are there any exceptions made to the minimum $5 million grant?

Unfortunately not, that is a statutory requirement. If your project is in an urbanized area, we are required to request no less than $5 million. You still have to contribute a minimum of 20%, which takes her total project cost to 6.75 million, if I'm doing my math correctly. Your total project cost has to basically be roughly $7 million. If the project is located in an urbanized area.

Please reexplain what you meant by the organization needs to have the financial capacity to manage cash flow and reimbursement process.

If you are a successful TIGER applicant , and let's say it is a $4 million total project cost. Even if we have awarded you $4 million, for your rural project, you as a local sponsor need to have the capacity to manage or you basically have to have $4 million to start the construction contract. TIGER funding is provided on a reimbursable basis. If you are successful applicants, even if you are receiving 100% in TIGER funding , you still have to have the ability to manage that cash flow. You would start the construction contract and submit invoices every 30 days against the allowable cost that is been negotiated. In essence you will need to have all the funding available, to sign the construction contract and then you would seek reimbursement. Even if you are awarded 100% Tiger funds, you must have the funds upfront and you would be reimbursed based on the negotiated schedule for the cost that is allowable.

Are there any restrictions on using TIGER grants on projects that are receiving other types of federal funding?

TIGER funds cannot be used to supplant other funds. If you already have a project underway, we cannot grant TIGER funds for another purpose. Unfortunately we are not able to do that. That raises another good point, if you, whatever matching funds you are considering bringing to bear on the Tiger submitted applications, it would behoove you to make sure you don't extend any of those funds, but go in understanding, regardless of the source of the funds, the component where those funds will be used has to meet federal requirements. What we have seen over the years, is let's say a private entity does not want to comply with federal requirements. But they are providing a substantial amount of your matching funds, if those funds are going to be used on a component of the project where TIGER funds are being used, that will require all of those funds to meet federal requirements. Whether it is federal wage, rates, and other contracting requirements. Solicitation requirements as well, and construction contracts, be very very careful when you are identifying sources of matching funds. You understand that any funds will be used to match TIGER funds , will have to be allowable funding and will have to comply with federal rule. Any questions on the phone? Don't be shy folks.

We are looking to make major improvements to our operations and maintenance facilities. New buildings and electrical infrastructure. No immediate in-service improvements, is this a reasonable project?

It is eligible for funding, it is hard to predict how competitive it will be against some of the other projects we may receive.

When will you be making award announcements, is there anything that mandates awards by a specific date?

We do not have an anticipated announcement date at this time. Using history as a gauge, a good guess would probably be sometime in the spring, late spring early summer.

There is no statutory dates that we would need to make an announcement?

That is correct. At least not in 2000 17 -- 2017.

Can we submit for a project that we have already received approval and is in the design phase.

The short answer is you can submit, you can submit a TIGER application for that project with the understanding that if you're not following federal requirements, and your project is selected, you will more than likely have to stop what you are doing and start from square one. Ensuring that all steps comply with federal requirements. As I have stated on a previous question, if you are already down the road and you have secured a contractor and it is a design build contract with funding identified. Unfortunately we cannot supplant existing funds that have already been approved and committed on a project.

Are transit agencies submitted under the recent bus infrastructure law.

Every program is an independent program here in the department. The department normally has very limited discretionary grant programs. It is in your interest to submit for whatever funds are available.

With an innovative parking system with smart mobile technology be eligible for Tiger. The Mac the short answer is yes, --

The short answer is yes, you will be able to charge for parking fees, and we look at those types of project -- projects as being not very competitive. If you can charge a fee, you can kind of self fund that project.

What is a good and if it cost ratio for a competitive application?

For the previous eight rounds of Tiger, we have never had a specific benefit cost ratio target, for this round of Tiger that should hold to -- true. We ask that you submit an Excel spreadsheet, with all of your assumptions and calculations so that our economists can look at that. We don't have a specific ratio target that we are looking for. If we did, that is something we would have to disclose any notice of funding opportunity disclosure.

Do expenditures count if they incurred prior to the award?

Our previously expended dollars, do they count towards your match, the answer is no. Any funding previously expended before the announcement of the award would not be eligible to be used to meet your minimum match or any match of the project. If you are considering using funds for your match, or needing funds just to meet the 20% match, it is my suggestion that you do not ask and any of -- expand until you find out if the project is awarded. You may be able to seek some authority as you are negotiating the terms. Depending on the project, you ensure that you are reserving the right to use those funds.

How does an applicant determined if TIGER or [ Indiscernible ]Is the better opportunity for bridge construction.

That needs to be a decision the project sponsor makes. The [ Indiscernible ]Has very strict eligibility. They also have more funding than the TIGER program . They have nearly $1.3 billion available. Only 500 million available under Tiger. There is also a cap on what can be awarded under TIGER . For projects that do not fall on the national highway system or the national primary freight network, that would not be subject to the $500 million Under the INFRA program. For the remaining rounds of TIGER there is only $250 million left available . For non-highway projects, or projects that are freight rail, or the national Highway freight network. The project that you are talking about would not be subject to that. Even if it is not on the national [ Indiscernible ]. You have to see what is going to be the best program for you, you can apply for both, with the understanding that there will be a $25 million On the Tiger side.

Does D.O.T. have NIFAa statute of limitations for analysis.

Is there a statute of limitations because you have a current NIFA document. We are not going to go back 10 years and look at an old record. Typically, the rule of thumb is three years, anything beyond three years we will require what is a cult, I forget the term, you don't have to fully redo your environmental analysis but it'll come back to me I apologize. It is a term we use under the NIFA process. Typically the rule of thumb is three years. Then you would have to resubmit or redo the analysis. Reevaluation, thank you.

Is it possible to apply for a project that goes between urbanized and rural areas or would it be two separate applications.

You can submit one application for a project that crosses areas. What we are looking for in that case is that we need you to identify where the vast majority of the funding will be expended. That is how we determine urban versus rural. Where the vast majority of the funding will be expended, not just the applicant.

If we have applied for other funding, and will receive confirmation of award until possibly next year, how is it treated by the selection committee? The Mac as we --

As we evaluate those, if we run into that situation, we raise a flag on whether or not you will have the funding available that could impact the level of competitiveness. Your complete funding package is unclear, we will have to wait a year or more before you are able to close the loop on the funding.

May a consultant complete an application on behalf of a public entity?

You would just need to make sure that that consultant has the proper username and password. They would need the authority to submit on behalf of that local agency.

We have a project that is in phase 3, would it be considered innovative to extend the construction contract so the originally competitive bid, could be covered under Tiger?

Yes. If your project is a warded a TIGER grant, -- awarded a grant three Trant -- awarded a grant under TIGER. If you have already identified funds for it, it would have to be future based, and all of those processes would need to comply with federal requirements. For it to be eligible for TIGER.

Does the applicant have to be the eventual recipient of funds, or can changes be made once the agreement is made.

Once a grant is awarded, as I alluded to earlier, there may be smaller towns or county governments or small local governments who don't necessarily have the expertise or the experience in delivering construction projects. Or perhaps managing or navigating the federal requirements, in many cases we have had state D.O.T.'s administer projects on behalf of smaller communities. Smaller governments and towns, or the MPO's have stepped in on occasion. Looking at a state D.O.T., or a MPO , they may have better ability to manage the cash flow.

Is construction of a riverboat dock eligible?

Yes.

Is a checklist available?

No, but we do have an outline, we ask sponsors to highly consider. We try to normalize the evaluation as much as possible. When projects use the basic outline, showing that they are responding to all of the selection criteria that we have. There is no magic formula or special checklist.

Do you have a project manual available online to outline the process.

A project manual that describes the project process, we do not have one on the TIGER website . I am sure you can probably Google it or use whatever search engine of your choice. Searching for federal aid construction projects. Even though it is TIGER funding , depending on the program, the operating a ministration delivering it. Whether that be federal highways, railroads, or the MA. I know they will have all of that information on their prescriptive -- perspective websites. As for TIGER, we do not have a specific manual.

We also do not provide a checklist for all the things that need to be done in order to submit an application. We do have detailed instructions on our website of what needs to be included. What the project information forms need to be submitted along with the application. In our notice of funding opportunities, we do provide a suggested outline for what a application could look like. We encourage you to use those resources, for information on how to submit applications.

If a rural area is also designated as[ Indiscernible ]Zone would be eligible for additional points?

We don't award points for any particular type of projects. We similarly do not provide prioritization for any other recipients of federal dollars. Including promise notes. We do encourage and facilitate for partnerships between immunity partners and we encourage you to address that during the secondary selection criteria.

If a project is not receiving federal funds and may not be required to go through a federal NIFA process . If it receives TIGER funding doesn't that need to pass through NIFA as well .

Yes, any project will be required to comply with NIFA as well as all other federal requirements.

Would improving conductivity to broadband services improve munication for public transportation, safety and education, be eligible?

That is a very broad description of a potential project, if you are talking about just laying down fiber for purposes of providing broadband, that by itself is not necessarily going to be eligible. If it is a part of a broader road reconstruction effort, then that is something we can consider as part of the additional utility expenses. The pure deployment of broadband, on its own, is not going to be eligible for TIGER funds .

We have several funding questions, can funds be used for right-of-way acquisition?

We typically look to the local project sponsor, to provide any funds for any out standard -- outstanding preconstruction. It is an eligible expense, but it is handled on a case-by-case basis. That also could impact the level of competitiveness of your project. If you have significant right away outstanding, -- right-of-way outstanding, I could impact your deadline. -- That could impact your deadline.

We do not have the authority to provide any funding for any planning grants or preconstruction activities. The notice states, if these preconstruction activities lead to a construction, of a project, on a case-by-case basis, funding can be provided to completing let's say, final design or environmental. Once again, if you do not have the ability or the funds to complete preconstruction on your own, that could impact the level of competitiveness for that project.

Can I request 50% funds from Tiger and then do 30% from other federal sources with a 20% local match?

You can. Being able to show that the funds will be available, that can impact the level of competitiveness for how your project is evaluated under TIGER.

Is a design build and eligible delivery system, can they be awarded based on the low bid? The Mac it --

It is based on the locality. Tran funds -- TIGER funds can be used on public and private partnerships, with design, maintain, and build. It really holds them to what limitations a sponsor has based on state and local jurisdiction.

If creating a partnership with multiple organizations, be sufficient to outline support?

The short answer is yes, the partnership agreement between you and the jurisdiction, or the agencies will partner with. Yes, the MOI is fine.

Is there any benefit to having strong support of the project from our state and U.S. legislative representative.

It definitely doesn't hurt. Seeking support from your U.S. elected, whether it is your senator or your congressperson. As well as your local elected officials, it doesn't hurt.

What are the requirements for minority and women owned businesses.

Every state has their own, disadvantaged business requirement. Whatever the current state law is in that state. TIGER does not have specifics , for small or disadvantaged, or women owned businesses. This will fall back to what the requirements are for the state.

If loans are necessary to cover the entire cost, do you have to demonstrate [ Indiscernible ], If not, how would you demonstrate that you have the potential.

You would have to articulate that in your application, the person who is authorized to make that type of commitment on behalf of your agency. Whether it is the CFO, the local comptroller, whoever has the authority by that statute to commit funding on behalf of your agency, could simply just write a letter.

On the first rounds, of the TIGER grants, the TIGER was group -- waived for tribal governments, is this still true?

Is part of the benefit cost analysis, we have a couple of examples. From previously submitted tribal applicants and rural applicants on the website. What we ask in those cases, we ask sponsors, primarily tribal and rural, to provide as much data as they can. In support of the project that they are seeking funding for. What will typically happen is, we will take that information and evaluate it, the main benefits and the cost, as we review the entire project.

We also have a webinar specifically for rural and tribal governments, coming up this Friday.

These things fill up quickly, the capacity is 500, unfortunately we cannot extend that number. For all of our webinars, they're all recorded and posted to the website. You can listen to one or all of them.

Do partnership agreements have to identify a dollar of value, or is it only valued in terms of that financial commitment? The Mac no. --

No.[ Indiscernible ]

What criteria is required for architectural engineering services prior to the award.

Prior to the award there are no requirements.

When you say that minority requirements are those of that state, do you mean that if the applicant is totally county and federal funded, that we have to go to the state hub?

If the project is awarded TIGER funds, join in the process of whatever the state procurement process is. This would be the process we would follow as well as all federal requirements. I would once again reach out to your state D.O.T., your federal transit administration regional office, or even your federal Highway division office. This will help understand what the requirements would be.

What an application by a local municipality be stronger if a tribe were a co-applicant or stakeholder?

I am not going to say yes or no, a partnership is a partnership. If you have a tribal partner, once again we do not provide any scoring, you're not going to get a two versus a one, if you have a tribal applicant.

That is all of the questions, right now. If you have any more questions, please enter them in the chat box.

We have 20 more minutes, don't be shy. We have 20 minutes left so please feel free to ask.

Would've free trade zone be considered an eligible applicant or would a sponsor be required?

If it wasn't established via state or local statute, then they would be eligible for TIGER funds . If it is just a free trade zone, just by name, with no designation, and it is not created by a state or local statute it would not be eligible.

Do the 424 forms need to be completed electronic lady -- electronically or as another coversheet.

It can't exceed 30 pages, any other supporting documents would be attached. That is the 424 four -- form.

Does a freight project need to be in a state trade plan?

It is not required to be part of the state plan, if it is in the state plan it is definitely something that we will be considering as part of the evaluation.

Can any out-of-pocket expenses, like surveying or environmental preparation be applied towards the 20% match?

As long as the funds are available at the time of the award, yes.

There are a couple of people typing.

What is the maximum number of pages for the application?

30 pages.

The 424 form is completed online electronically? The Mac that is correct. --

Once you have a valid username and password for Grants.gov , you will login, and you just follow the instructions that will open up a PDF form that you can fill out. It will pre-populate normally, the top section of the 424, then you would just be entering the name of your project and there are instructions on the website. Just follow the instructions, it will tell you what areas need to be filled out, and what the department is looking for. Then you would attach your supporting documents. Keep in mind you can also press\*-- press sTAR 1. We have 17 minutes, take advantage of this folks.

For competitiveness, how much should the dial be moved by the TIGER grant ?

That would definitely stand out, against other projects if it is a large project with a large project cost. If you are seeking a small amount of funds from TIGER , that is just the funding piece, you would still need a competitive project.

Any questions on the phone?

No.

What is the definition of a project partner?

Someone who is supported of -- supportive of your project. You can have letters of support submitted by residents of the community that the project will impact.

Can you please detail which nonconstruction activities are eligible or ineligible?

Typically, I will use April -- a highway project as example. All preconstruction activities are eligible for TIGER funding , you can be reimbursed for those funds expended to complete those as long as it is a part of completing a construction project. For the purposes of competitiveness, we do not want the authority to provide planning grants on their own. If you have outstanding surveying, or environmental, or final design, all of that outstanding, and you are seeking TIGER funds, that will raise the level of risk associated with being able to obligate the funds within the obligation deadline. It helps if you do have outstanding preconstruction activities, that you have matching funds to cover that, and you are clearly articulating the schedule. How long will it take you to complete that before we can obligate the funds for construction using the TIGER funds to embark on a construction part of the process.

If the project is an infill project, connecting ongoing projects, does this increase competitiveness?

Are you talking about, potentially, I'm going to throw this out there, if you have multiple corridor Road improvements, that lead to maybe a roundabout. It would be an eligible project, how competitive? Without seeing the project and reading the narrative, and comparing to other projects, it is difficult to say.

If a community survey has been completed, and they have responded favorably, should that information be included in the application?

Yes it would be helpful. If you want to include the actual survey, you can have that as an attachment. Keep in mind the limited amount of space and use it wisely.

Are transit maintenance facility renovations competitive project proposals?

Again it is hard to say, competitiveness is based on the projects that we see. If that is the only project that gets submitted for, other than transit, it will be competitive. It is really hard to predict what will be competitive from one round to the next. If it is a bus maintenance facility, you will really have to provide a compelling reason why you don't have the funds to provide that on your own.

Has a certain amount of money been earmarked for transit.

Do not have any targets that we are shooting for, the only requirement as far as funding is involved is no less than 20% or $100 million, for projects located in rural areas. The Per state is $50 million for 2070. -- 2017. The largest award allowed is $25 million. We are required to provide funding by geography. There is no specific target. Historically, because of the large number of highway projects we receive, I don't know the exact percentages you can pull up and do the math yourself. Based on all of the fact sheets, over the previous eight rounds, it is normally in order of highway projects, then transit projects, after that comes rail and then port. In order of the level of awards.

Does the 30 page maximum included the BCA?

No. That can be a supplemental document attached. It is helpful for our economist if you attach a workable XL spreadsheet. -- XL spreadsheet -- Excell spreadsheet.

Can you reiterate the selection criteria, what they are?

The selection criteria is safety, state of repair, environmental sustainability and quality of life. The secondary selection is partnership and innovation. We don't have any waiting or scoring -- we don't assign weight or keep score. We have nine minutes left, please get your questions in. Please feel free to ask questions in the chat pod or over the phone.

Does D.O.T. allow a lead applicant to share a TIGER grant with its project partners?

Sharing a Tiger grant, if you are awarded a grant we will work with one lead applicant, any sub applicants, that would be an agreement between the lead applicant and the sub. We would not have anything to do with that relationship or how you would reimburse in a sub applicants situation. We are not going to have four different grant agreements with a lead and for sub applicants. It will be one applicant and it will be their responsibility to ensure funding being reimbursed to other project applicants.

Are in-kind contribution, including capital assets considered as matching?

The only in-kind asset that I can think of for a construction project would be a donation of land. You would need to monetize that, typically unless you have construction on your staff. We would not normally reimburse, basically double pay. Someone who is already doing that work, we would cover and reimburse funds as part of a construction contract that was negotiated using federal requirements. Agreed to by, not only the awarded project sponsor but the compliance that was agreed on -- agreed on. In short, land value or land donations, are typically the only really in-kind straightforward match that we could really see, for a construction project. Typically these services work better if you are developing a planning committee.

We have about seven minutes left, don't be shy. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, be sure to get them in. We do have a rural and tribal webinar this Friday from 2:00 to 4:00. I am sure that will fill up quickly, unfortunately the max is 500. As I stated, all of these webinars will be recorded and posted on the Tiger website a day or two after they've been completed. Any other questions?

John Young says: Under the Rural funding designation, is there a Tribal "set-aside" amount that is available?

No there is no specific tribal set aside, we may have instances where tribal governments may be located in urbanized areas. The statutory rural set aside is for rural applicants regardless of their tribal governments or non-tribal government.

Any follow-up to that? Okay. Thank you everyone, I hope this has been helpful and a good use of your time. As it stated, this recording will be posted to the Tiger website within a day or two. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to email TigerGrants@dot.gov and we look forward to talking to all of you who are available to purchase paid on Friday. Enjoy the rest of your day.

That does conclude our conference for today, you may all disconnect