



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Highway
Administration**

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**Federal Land Management Agencies
State Department of Transportation
Regional, County & Local Governments
Tribal Governments**

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Eastern Federal Lands Access Program Call for Projects Alert- GEORGIA

Greetings:

The Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division (EFLHD) of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will be accepting Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) applications to develop a multi-year program of projects for Federal Fiscal Years (FY) 2019 through FY 2020. All final project approvals will be contingent upon the availability of funds in the year for which they are being requested.

The Call for Projects application period opens December 1, 2017 and runs through March 1, 2018. Please explore our FLAP website located at <http://flh.fhwa.dot.gov/programs/flap/> and follow the links to the state webpage to download the application, review the state's program goals, associated scoring criteria, FAQ's and tips for preparing a good application. Applications should be submitted via email to EFL.planning@dot.gov by the end of the day (11:59 PM) on March 1, 2018 to be considered. If required, applications transmitted via mail, FedEx, UPS, etc. or fax will also be accepted.

An estimated total of \$2.5M will be available for programming in your State.

What is the purpose of the Federal Lands Access Program?

The purpose of the FLAP is to provide safe and adequate transportation access to and through Federal Lands for visitors, recreationists, and resource users. The FLAP supplements State and local resources for public roads, transit systems, and other transportation facilities, with an emphasis on high-use recreation sites and economic generators.

Where can projects be located?

Proposed projects or studies must be associated with a public highway, road, bridge, trail or transit system that is located on, is adjacent to, or provides access to Federal lands for which the transportation facility's title or maintenance responsibility is vested with a State, county, city, township, tribal, municipal, or other local government entity.

What types of applications will be considered?

Applications will be accepted for any of the following general topical areas:

Capital Improvements- These proposals include rehabilitation, restoration, construction, and reconstruction of roads, bridges, multiuse trails, and other long term transportation system asset improvements. This includes, but is not limited to, actions such as safety improvements, widening, realignments, resurfacing, culverts and pavement drainage structures, signing, guardrail, walls and associated roadway appurtenances.

Enhancements- These proposals are road and trail related improvements such as interpretative signing, kiosks, viewpoints, adjacent vehicular parking areas, roadside rest areas (including sanitary and water facilities), provisions for pedestrians and bicycles, acquisition of scenic easement and scenic or historic sites, trailheads, trails, and improvements that improve public safety and reduce vehicle-wildlife mortality while maintaining habitat connectivity. Examples of the latter might include aquatic organism passages (AOPs).

Surface Preservation- These proposals include surface preservation of roads, trails, and adjacent vehicular parking areas. Related activities would include chip sealing, crack sealing, and aggregate courses. FLAP funds are **not** intended for routine maintenance projects (e.g., potholes, mowing, snow removal, same type guardrail replacement, etc.).

Transit- These proposals include funding for the construction of public transit facilities (e.g. ferry docks, helipads, boat ramps) and limited duration operation/maintenance of transit services and facilities (including vehicles) and the purchase of transit vehicles.

Planning- These proposals include engineering feasibility studies, corridor management planning, bicycle/pedestrian planning and alternative transportation system planning that will provide valuable information for future FLAP proposals.

Research- These proposals include evaluating solutions that enhance access, safety or sustainability. They address issues such as wildlife-vehicle collision avoidance measures, context sensitive roadside safety features, and congestion management strategies.

Safety- Certain types of Highway Safety Improvement Projects (HSIP) are eligible to be funded at 100 percent of the federal share as provided in Title 23 U.S.C. 120(c) <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/federalaid/141125.cfm>.

Who may apply?

The applicant must be the facility owner, have maintenance responsibility, or must supply a letter from the facility owner/maintainer indicating the application is being submitted on their behalf. Project applications must be sponsored and/or supported by the appropriate Federal Land Management Agency (FLMA) unit whose access would be enhanced by the proposed action. This acknowledgement of sponsorship and support must be demonstrated by an application signature and/or letter of support attached to the application from an appropriate representative of the benefitting FLMA unit. Early coordination between the appropriate FLMA and state/county/local/tribal government is encouraged to ensure adequate time for thorough review and input before the submittal due date. All project applications must be submitted using the EFLHD Access Program Application form located on the FLAP program website for each state.

Are matching funds required?

Generally, a 20% matching share of the project's ***total estimated cost for completion*** is required for this program. Other Federal funds (non-Title 23 or Title 49, with the exception of Title 23 Federal Lands Transportation Program (FLTP) or Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) funds), may be used as match for the FLAP award amount. Typically, a cash match is preferred by most states. **NOTE**: An EFLHD project management fee of 2-8% of the total estimated project cost may be added to the total FLAP project budget if the

project is programmed. This fee will require a match by the applicant. Please note that FLAP is a Title 23 Federal Aid Highway Reimbursable Program and ***not*** a lump-sum grant program.

How would the projects be delivered?

On the application form you should explicitly select EFLHD, State DOT or Local Public Agency or Other as the preferred delivery organization. EFLHD also welcomes the opportunity to provide “cradle to grave” project delivery services as the lead agency on behalf of the applicant if their resources are limited or fully engaged on other projects or priorities. This approach allows State or local resources to be utilized on their other priorities. State DOTs are eligible to deliver their own projects.

Local agencies requesting to deliver their own project must be certified by the State DOT or demonstrate prior experience with the use of federal transportation funds (Title 23) to deliver projects in compliance with Federal Highway Administration regulations. Local project delivery will require State DOT stewardship and oversight. Additional information regarding local agency project delivery roles and responsibilities may be found at the following website:

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/federal-aidessentials/stateresources.cfm>

The range of potential EFLHD delivered services includes: Planning/Feasibility Studies, Preliminary and Final Engineering Design, Federal Environmental Compliance, Construction Contract Advertisement, Construction Contract Administration, Construction Engineering & Inspection, and Federal Stewardship and Oversight. However, the lead agency designation and participating agencies’ roles and responsibilities will be considered during both the initial application evaluation and the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) development Phases. Decisions regarding lead and participating agency roles will be based on the type of project, project complexity, and how the work is proposed to be delivered.

If the applicant would like to request the option of EFLHD delivery, please contact Lewis Grimm, EFLHD Planning Team Leader at: Lewis.Grimm@dot.gov or at 703-404-6289.

Requests for EFLHD delivery must be submitted no less than 30 days prior to the closing date of the Call for Projects period to allow time for the EFLHD independent government cost estimate for the provision of these requested services to be developed. Applications (minus the estimated project budget values) will still need to be submitted to EFLHD by the applicant prior to the closing date of the Call for Projects.

Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)

As provided in Title 23 U.S.C. 120(c); Certain types of HSIP projects can be funded at 100 percent. This applies to projects that may include the following: maintaining minimum levels of retroreflectivity of highway signs or pavement markings, shoulder and centerline rumble strips and stripes, traffic control signalization, traffic circles/roundabouts, safety rest areas, commuter carpooling and vanpooling, rail-highway crossing closure, or installation of traffic signs, traffic lights, guardrails, impact attenuators, concrete barrier end treatments, breakaway utility poles, or priority control systems for emergency vehicles or transit vehicles at signalized intersections. Additional information regarding the Highway Safety Improvement Program may be found at the following website: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/federalaid/141125.cfm>

Eligibility of specific projects, strategies and activities generally are based on:

- consistency with a State's Strategic Highway Safety Plan;
- crash experience, crash potential, crash rate, or other data-supported means;
- compliance with Title 23 requirements; and
- State's strategic or performance based safety goals to reduce fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads.

Please coordinate up front with your State DOT HSIP Safety Manager (or similar title) or the FHWA Federal Aid Division Safety Engineer for eligibility approval of your project’s scope. Include the signed Safety

Approval form with your application (located on the website). Specific HSIP eligibility questions should be directed to the FHWA Federal Aid Division office in your State. A list of FHWA Federal Aid Division offices is available at www.fhwa.dot.gov/about/field.cfm.

What if I have questions?

You are welcome and encouraged to contact any of the FLAP Programming Decisions Committee (PDC) members for your state with your questions using the contact information contained in the website. Additionally, questions about project eligibility or the EFLHD application process can be directed to Lewis Grimm or Richelle Ellis, FHWA/EFLHD (contact information shown below). Also, please find on the FLAP website for each state an EFLHD FAQ document, Scoring Criteria, State Goals for the program and EFLHD FLAP Tip Sheet with suggested factors to be considered for submitting a good application. We also invite you to view a brief presentation titled “*EFL FLAP Informational Presentation*” located on the FLAP website that may be helpful.

Thank you for your interest in the FLAP program. We look forward to working with you in developing a multiyear program of projects for the period of FY2019-FY2020.

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Eastern Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP)



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Tips for preparing a good FLAP application:

- Review Programming Decision Committee (PDC) documentation materials provided on the website for your state (i.e. state goals and Call for Projects scoring allocation categories). Still have questions? Contact one of the PDC members. <http://flh.fhwa.dot.gov/programs/flap/>
 - Coordinate with the adjacent Federal Land Management Agencies (FLMA) unit(s) for concurrence and to obtain a staff application signature or letter of support for the proposed project; Use these partners to assist with obtaining FLMA information (i.e. visitation, Land Management goals, safety data, etc.).
 - The facility owner must be the applicant (have ownership or a long-term maintenance agreement); include your agency name and title; the benefitting FLMA unit **cannot** be the applicant.
 - Answer the application questions to the best of your ability; be succinct and concise; Use the best data available, include any assumptions.
 - Be practical, “right size” the scope, schedule and budget – include options for scaling/phasing the project if applicable (i.e., a 3 mile resurfacing project broken into 3 separate, 1 mile long segments with associated costs). You could receive partial funding!
 - Include photos and quality maps that show project location, termini and linkage to the Federal Land accessed.
 - Be clear about your match amount (20% of the total estimated project cost) and funding sources (No Title 23 or Title 49 funds, other than Federal Lands Transportation Program funds or Tribal Transportation Program funds, can be used as match). Include resolution for approval of funds (as needed by a local Governing Body such as a city council or county commissioners).
 - Be sure your state allows for in-kind contributions toward match. In-kind match requires justification and approval by the State DOT/FHWA. In-kind match must be utilized or occur only after a FLAP project agreement is executed. (i.e., Right of Way transfer, Engineering/Environmental services, etc.).
 - Delivery agency: When selecting the delivery agency (FWHA, State DOT, Local Agency or Other), be sure that the agency has agreed with the scope and provided their budget for project delivery *prior to submission of the application*. Local Agencies requesting to deliver their own project must be certified by the State DOT to deliver projects in compliance with Federal Highway Administration regulations or demonstrate prior experience with Title 23 Transportation funds. <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/federal-aidessentials/stateresources.cfm>
- If you would like to request FHWA-Eastern Federal Lands (EFL) to deliver your project, please coordinate with EFL *prior to submission* to request development of a cost estimate. Contact Lewis Grimm, EFL Planning Team Leader, 703-404-6289 or at Lewis.Grimm@dot.gov
- Title 23 U.S.C. Section 120(c)(1) allows certain types of Highway Safety Improvement Projects (HSIP) to be funded at 100 percent. <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/federalaid/141125.cfm> Please coordinate up front with your State DOT HSIP Safety Manager (or similar title) or the FHWA Federal Aid Safety Engineer for eligibility approval of your project's scope. Include the signed HSIP approval form with your application.