TIGER

How to Compete for a TIGER Grant

Presented by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy

August 3, 2011
• $527 million national, multimodal, merit-based 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

September 9\textsuperscript{th} - Pre-Application Registration
October 3\textsuperscript{rd}  - Pre-Applications Due
October 4\textsuperscript{th}  - Final Applications Open
October 31\textsuperscript{st} - Final Applications Due
Changes from TIGER 2

- No Planning Funds this round
- 3 Application Limit (per sponsor)
- TIFIA Letter of Interest
Eligibility

• Surface transportation capital projects only
• Open to state, tribal, and local entities, and other subdivisions
• Private entities, including non-profits, must partner with a public lead
• Eligible ≠ Competitive
Rural Applicants

• Defined as any area not in an Urbanized Area (pop. 50,000), as defined by the Census Bureau

• $1 million minimum grant

• No match requirement, though competitive applications often feature a match
Address Criteria and Outcomes

- Application outline in the NOFA
- Detail how federal funds will be used to 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
Competitive Applications

• **Clarity**: Project descriptions are clear and concise with pictures and maps.

• **Leveraging**: non-federal match, including private funds, demonstrates commitment. Funded applications in TIGER I and II was 3:1 local funds to federal funds.

• **Independent Utility**: funding must go to an operable segment with transportation benefits.

• **Project Readiness**: ready to go to construction quickly. NEPA process begun.
Competitive Applications

- **Benefit-Cost Analysis**: Demonstrate demand; well-documented calculations and references; show the net societal benefits of the project, not just local.

- **Innovative**: multi-modal, multi-jurisdictional, difficult to fund through formula funds.
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

- **July 27th**: "Talking Freight"
- **August 17th**: Benefit Cost Analysis
- **August 17th**: Rural Opportunities – in Huntington, WV
- **August 22nd**: Project Readiness/NEPA
- **August 24th**: Public Private Partnerships & TIFIA
- **August 24th**: Rural and Tribal – NADO Annual Conference
- **August 30th**: MARAD Port Outreach
For This Year’s Round...

• Focus on best project(s) – those that align well with the program’s selection criteria

• Develop an application that your neighbor could read and understand

• Questions sent to TIGERGrants@dot.gov