

## TIGER Discretionary Grant Program:

# SAFETY & STATE OF GOOD REPAIR

# TIGER

The Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery, or TIGER I and TIGER II Discretionary Grant programs, provide a unique opportunity for the U.S. Department of Transportation to invest in road, rail, transit and port projects that promise to achieve critical national objectives. Congress dedicated \$1.5 billion for TIGER I and \$600 million for TIGER II to fund projects that have a significant impact on the Nation, a region or a metropolitan area. TIGER's highly competitive process, galvanized by tremendous applicant interest, allowed DOT to fund 51 innovative capital projects in TIGER I, and an additional 42 capital projects in TIGER II. Each project is multi-modal, multi-jurisdictional or otherwise challenging or difficult to fund through existing programs. The TIGER programs placed particular emphasis on DOT's contributions to key National goals, including improvements to the safety and state of good repair of the roads, bridges, rail, port and transit systems our Nation depends on.



*Improvements to US-18 will address safety concerns and reduce fatalities on a deteriorating highway connecting Pine Ridge and Oglala, SD on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation*

### Safer Roads

DOT takes seriously its responsibility to ensure the Nation's transportation networks are as safe as possible. Through the TIGER programs, DOT focuses investments on projects with broad safety benefits.

The TIGER program provided funds for several road projects, including rural roads, with exceptional safety concerns. The U.S. 491 highway in New Mexico provides North-South connections for the Navajo Nation and local and long-distance trucking in an extremely rural and economically distressed area in northwest New Mexico. Prior to construction, this stretch of highway experienced fatality rates between two and three and a half times the state average. TIGER funds will enable the Navajo DOT to construct two additional lanes and to separate north-south traffic on this corridor, limiting fatal accidents. The U.S. 491 project will also improve safety at intersections along the route with turn lanes for acceleration and deceleration and other intersection improvements.

### Transit Safety and State of Good Repair

The Moynihan Station project received an \$83 million TIGER I grant to address safety and capacity concerns at Penn Station, the Nation's busiest passenger train station serving over 640,000 riders daily.



*King CO, WA, is using TIGER grants to replace the closed South Park Bridge*



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*TIGER funds help reconstruct three freight rail bridges in New Bedford, MA*

This project will alleviate extremely congested conditions and enable even greater numbers of passengers to use the station more safely and expeditiously. The project will repair, rehabilitate, and extend platforms and create new, safer street and platform access. New construction will allow an expanded Penn Station to more quickly and safely serve more riders.

### Rebuilding Deficient Bridges

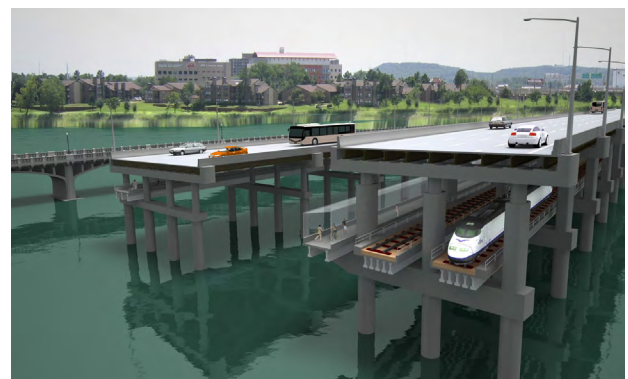
Both rounds of TIGER focused on the state of our Nation's bridges, including a handful of the large projects that State and local governments have trouble funding. While there are many examples of bridges from around the country that are unfortunately deteriorating and in great need of repair, with limited TIGER funds DOT focused its investments on bridges that not only exhibited acute need, but also demonstrated substantial State and local support for repair and incorporated broad multi-modal goals in their design and reconstruction.

King County, WA sought TIGER I funds to replace the South Park Bridge – one of only two river crossings on the high-traffic freight and commuter corridor south of Seattle – and avoid its forced closure for safety concerns. While the application was compelling, relying on the bridge's last sufficiency rating of 4 (out of 100) King County was ultimately not successful in the first round of TIGER. After missing out on the TIGER award King County closed the South Park Bridge for

safety reasons.

For TIGER II, however, King County presented an exceptionally broad coalition of partners – and funding commitments – including the Cities of Seattle and Tukwila, the State of Washington, the Port of Seattle, the Puget Sound Regional Council and private companies. Financial commitments from these partners totaled \$94 million of the \$130 million construction cost. The South Park Bridge Replacement was awarded TIGER II funding which will complete the funding package to restore this vital bridge, strengthening economic competitiveness for the region while improving commuter connectivity and reducing congestion.

The Oklahoma DOT received TIGER I funding to upgrade the structure of Tulsa's I-244 bridge over the Arkansas River. Structural improvements will minimize operations and maintenance expenditures and replace an existing facility rated as one of the five worst bridges in Oklahoma, and will also help address the City's broad multi-modal objectives. The reconstructed bridge will expand transportation options in Tulsa to accommodate high-speed intercity and commuter rail, pedestrian and bicycle use in addition to highway traffic. Bringing the I-244 bridge into a state of good repair is a vital piece in Tulsa's plans for economic development through freight and commuter traffic and transit-oriented development including multiple modes of transportation.



*Innovative multimodal design rendering of Tulsa's I-244 Bridge replacement*



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