



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Highway
Administration**

Western Federal Lands Highway Division
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January 2, 2013
Sent Via Electronic Mail

In Reply Refer To: HFL-17

Federal Land Managers
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
Regional & Local Governments
Tribal Governments

Re: Request for Project Proposals
2013 Alaska Federal Lands Access Program

Greetings:

The Alaska Federal Lands Access Program (AK Access Program) is soliciting proposals for capital improvement construction, enhancement, planning, and alternative transportation projects in FY 2013 through FY 2018. Project approvals will be contingent upon availability of funds. Attached are the Federal Lands Access Program Project Proposal form and Evaluation Criteria. The proposals must be received by **February 28, 2013**.

Applications would be completed by the State/Borough/City or Tribal Governments with the specific Federal Land Management Agency (FLMA) co-signing the application. Close coordination with the specific FLMA on a proposed project is important. This letter includes a list of contacts for each FLMA.

The AK Access Program would like to emphasize that:

- There is only \$7 million annually for this program;
- The program would like to distribute funds across the State of Alaska and between FLMAs; and
- Leverage the limited Access Program funds with other funding sources.

What is the purpose of the Federal Lands Access Program (Access Program)?

The purpose of the Access Program is to provide safe and adequate transportation access to and through Federal lands for visitors, recreationists, and resource users.

Where can projects be located?

Proposed projects must be located on a public highway, road, bridge, or trail system that is located on, is adjacent to, or provides access to Federal lands for which title or maintenance responsibility is vested in a state or municipal government.

Who may apply?

The state and local agencies interested in a project should work closely with the appropriate FLMA in developing the application. All proposals must be submitted by the state or local agency with title or maintenance responsibility in close consultation with the FLMA. The entity with title or maintenance responsibility must be a state or municipal government.

FLMAs can apply for an enhancement project for a site owned and maintained by the FLMA that is an enhancement to a state or municipal government's transportation facility. The FLMA would need to get the state or municipal government that owns the adjacent route to sign the enhancement application also.

What types of proposals will be considered?

Projects proposals will be accepted for capital improvement, enhancement and planning projects that are included in the activities listed below. Capital improvement projects include rehabilitation, restoration, construction, and reconstruction of roads and trails. This includes improvements such as, but not limited to, safety improvements, widening, realignments, surfacing, culverts, bridges, signing and associated roadway appurtenances. Enhancements are road and trail related improvements such as, but not limited to, interpretative signing, kiosks, viewpoints, restrooms, provisions for pedestrians and bicycles, scenic easements, trailheads, and improvements that reduce vehicle-wildlife conflicts. Planning projects include corridor plans, transportation plans, and studies related to transportation.

The following activities will be considered in this call:

- 1) Rehabilitation, restoration, construction and reconstruction of transportation facilities.
- 2) Adjacent vehicular parking areas.
- 3) Provisions for pedestrian and bicycles.
- 4) Environmental mitigation in or adjacent to Federal land to improve public safety and reduce vehicle-wildlife mortality while maintaining habitat connectivity.
- 5) Construction and reconstruction of roadside rest areas, including sanitary and water facilities.
- 6) Other appropriate public road facilities, as determined by the Secretary.
- 7) Operation and maintenance of transit facilities.

Proposed projects should also be identified in a statewide, regional, county, local, or tribal transportation plan and a Federal Land Management Plan.

What size of project will be considered?

The AK Access Program is currently estimated to receive about \$7.0 million annually. The final amount will be determined within the next few months based on data provided by the FMLAs.

Projects in all funding amounts will be considered and evaluated. However, due to limited program funding amounts, projects will receive additional consideration when the project size is under \$7.0 million and there is funding leveraged from other sources.

In addition, the program requires a match of 9.03 percent of the total project costs. The match will follow the current guidance requirements established by Alaska Department of Transportation for Federal-Aid projects.

How will the projects be evaluated?

A Project Selection Team will evaluate and prioritize the proposed projects according to following areas: Safety, Preservation, Recreation, Economic, Mobility, and Environmental (see attached Evaluation Criteria). In addition, preference shall be given to projects that provide access to, are adjacent to, or are located within high-use Federal recreation sites or Federal economic generators, as identified by the FLMA.

The Project Selection Team will include representatives from the Federal Highway Administration, Alaska Department of Transportation, Alaska Municipal League, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S Army Corp of Engineers.

How will a final decision be made on the proposals?

After the project proposals are evaluated and prioritized, the Program Decision Committee (Federal Highway Administration, Alaska Department of Transportation, and Alaska Municipal League) will make a final decision on the project proposals. The Committee will make these decisions while also considering such things as project support, project readiness, agency priorities, applicant's share of project costs, availability of funds, project development delivery schedules, previous federal investment specifically related to the project, environmental and right-of-way time constraints. The Committee also will coordinate with the FLMAs prior to making a final decision. The final decision on the project proposals should be made by summer 2013.

How do I submit a proposal?

The best available data should be used in completing the project proposal forms. Maps and photos should be included to support the proposal. Letters of support from other entities that will not be signing the official application may also be included. Email the completed proposal form with all required maps, signatures, and photos to WFL.CallForProjects@dot.gov. The proposal must be received by **February 28, 2013**. The total file size for the proposal form (including maps and photos) should not exceed 10 megabytes.

What about previously approved Forest Highway projects?

Attached is the Forest Highway Program and Federal Lands Access Program Project Status list. The list shows which projects have been approved for funding by either the Forest Highway Program or the Access Program.

Projects that are shown as "Funded" do not need to resubmit a project proposal.

Who should I contact if I have questions?

Should you have any questions, please contact Pete Field or the Federal Lands Access Program coordinator for your agency:

Agency	Contact	Phone	Email Address
Federal Highway Administration	Pete Field	360-619-7619	peter.field@dot.gov
Alaska Department of Transportation	Mike Vigue	907-465-2065	mike.vigue@alaska.gov
Alaska Municipal League	Kathie Wasserman	907-586-1325	kathie@akml.org
US Forest Service	Amy Thomas or Marie Messing	503-808-2473 or 907-586-8834	aethomas@fs.fed.us or mmessing@fs.fed.us
National Park Service	Paul Schrooten	907-644-3388	paul_schrooten@nps.gov
Bureau of Land Management	Randy Goodwin	907-474-2369	Randy_Goodwin@blm.gov
US Fish & Wildlife Service	Troy Civitillo	907-786-3579	troy_civitillo@fws.gov
US Army Corp of Engineers	Tim Feavel	907-488-2748	tim.a.feavel@usace.army.mil

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Peter C. Field

Pete Field
Program Coordination Manager

PF/nr

Attachments (3):

ecc: Sam Carlson, Director of Engineering Management, USFS Region 10, AK
Christy Darden, Deputy Director, USFS Region 6 and 10, OR
Amy Thomas, Federal Liaison, USFS, Region 6, 10 and 1, OR
Marie Messing, Transportation Systems Engineer, USFS, Region 10, AK
Paul Schrooten, Regional Transportation Program Coordinator, NPS, AK
Randy Goodwin, Alaska Travel Mngmt and OHV Coordinator, BLM, AK
Troy Civitillo, Facility Prgms/Refuge Roads Coordinator USFWS, AK
Tim Feavel, Senior Park Ranger, ACOE, AK
Jeff Ottesen, Program Development Director, AKDOT, AK
Mike Vigue, Chief of Surface Transportation Programs, AKDOT, AK

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Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, AKML, AK
John Lohrey, Statewide Programs Team Leader, FHWA, AK
Phyllis Chun, Planning & Programs Manager, WFLHD, WA
Tom Erkert, Federal Lands Access Program Manager, WFLHD, WA
Ted Wood, Project Management Engineer, WFLHD, WA
Dennis Quarto, Project Development Engineer, WFLHD, WA
Cheryl Clark, Technical Systems Engineer, WFLHD, WA