

Call for Projects

October 29, 2013

Eastern Federal Lands (EFL) approach to administering the Call for Projects Phase of the Access Program

As a result of the recent MAP-21 legislation which established the Federal Aid Access Program (Access Program) and with the receipt of initial program implementation guidance from Federal Lands Highway Headquarters staff (FHWA, HQ), and EFL's understanding of the MAP-21 legislation, the EFL staff has determined that a consistent approach to work processes and procedures be established at this time.

The internal FHWA-EFL staff resources will consist of, but not be limited to, EFLHD, HQ FLH, and the Federal Aid Division Office (DO) for each of the states within the EFLHD geographic area of responsibility. The external staff partners will come from the various Federal Land Management Agencies (FLMAs), State DOTs (SDOTs), local public agencies and/or local government agencies (LPAs and/or LGAs), and possibly the metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) within each of our states. The FLMA partners in each state will consist of the five legislatively defined principal partner agencies, i.e., the US Forest Service (FS), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE), the National Park Service (NPS), and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) who own and maintain at least one federal land parcel in that state. The FLMA partners will also include, as appropriate, any other FLMA who owns and maintains a federal land parcel in that state where access to that parcel is provided via any travel mode deemed eligible for the receipt of funds under the Access Program requirements.

Once the Programming Decisions Committee (PDC) is formed and validated by the PDC member agencies, a "Call for Projects" will be advertised for each state administered by EFL. The advertisement will be posted on the EFL website with direct electronic notification to Federal Land Management Agencies.

Reflective of the initial Access Program implementation guidance issued by FLH HQ, the Call for Projects notification will follow a written process for screening and rating the proposed projects. EFL has developed this process that is contained in separate documents. A brief outline of the process follows:

1. EFL has established a public website for the Access Program located at: <http://www.efl.fhwa.dot.gov/programs/federal-lands-access.aspx>
2. The PDC will establish the Step 2 rating criteria and point allotments for the application for their respective state.
3. EFL will coordinate with each state DOT to determine the Call for Projects schedule and post this schedule on the EFL website, and send notice to the FLMAs.
4. EFL will coordinate with the FLMAs, PDC members, and other concerned stakeholders prior to the Call for Projects.
5. EFL will announce the Call for Projects and provide the project proposal application on the EFL Access page website or in response to requests from partner agencies.
6. Only State, local or tribal entities may submit projects sponsored by the appropriate FLMAs to the PDC.
7. A minimum of 30 calendar days will be provided for submittal of applications to EFL.

8. State and local sponsors should consider projects that are supported or endorsed by the appropriate FLMA(s). If more than one priority project is identified by an FLMA, that Federal agency should delegate establishment of priorities to their headquarters, regional or state office as appropriate.
9. EFL will provide the initial screening of the proposed projects using the process contained in Step 1 of Appendix A of this document.
10. The PDC will convene a meeting led by EFL and determine the project rating scores as contained in Step 2 of Appendix A of this document.
11. If a member of the PDC has a possible conflict of interest or impartiality on any of the proposed projects, the member should recuse him or herself from the rating and selection process and provide an alternate member from their agency to temporarily replace them.
12. All official PDC decisions shall be unanimous.

Appendix A - Access Program Screening Process



Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division

Access Program

Project Screening and Rating Criteria for General Projects

Instructions: If the answer is yes to criteria below, then allocate points. Points are cumulative.

**First two “Base” criteria shall have points, otherwise project does not move forward to Step 2 (Rating Criteria).

STEP 1: INITIAL SCREENING (max 200 points)		Point allocation	
Economic/Visitation Prioritization			
Do FLMA, StateDOT, and Facility Owner agree that the project is an economic/visitation generator?		45	
Do FLMA, StateDOT, and Facility Owner agree that the project is a priority?		45	
Is Project on current State Transportation Improvement Program?		10	
Base**			
Submitted by facility owner**		40	
Project supported by FLMA**		40	
20% Match		No points	
Leveraging additional funding more than the required 20% match	20% match + (1-10)% of project cost	5	
	20% match + (11-20)% of project cost	10	
	20% match + (21)% of project cost	20	
STEP 2: PROJECT RATING (max 100 points)			
General Projects		Point allocation	
Safety (Max 15 points)			
Improves identified high crash site/identified hazardous conditions	0	No	
	5	Yes	
Improves safety for all transportation modes	0	No Benefit	
	5	Minor Benefit	
	10	Significant Benefit	
Accessibility and Mobility (Max 20 points)			
Identified need on FLMA plan, State or County Comprehensive Plan	0	No	
	5	Yes	
Fills missing link in network & enhances mobility	0	No	
	5	Yes	
Improves alternate transportation mode choices (bike, pedestrian, bus/transit)	0	No	
	10	Yes	

Preservation (Max 25 points)		
Enhances natural and scenic resources	0	No Benefit
	3	Minor Benefit
	5	Significant Benefit
Enhances cultural and historic areas	0	No Benefit
	3	Minor Benefit
	5	Significant Benefit
Reduces operating costs	0	No Benefit
	3	Minor Benefit
	7.5	Significant Benefit
Enhances surface condition	0	No Benefit
	3	Minor Benefit
	7.5	Significant Benefit
Economic Development (Max 20 points)		
Increases Visitation	0	No Benefit
	3	Minor Benefit
	7.5	Significant Benefit
Improves access to Federal Lands	0	No Benefit
	3	Minor Benefit
	5	Significant Benefit
Provides Economic Benefit to the Local Community	0	No Benefit
	3	Minor Benefit
	7.5	Significant Benefit
Environmental Quality and Sustainability (Max 20 points)		
Enhances water quality, fish passage, wildlife connectivity etc.	0	No Benefit
	3	Minor Benefit
	7.5	Significant Benefit
Reduces pollution (air, water, noise, visual)	0	No Benefit
	3	Minor Benefit
	5	Significant Benefit
Consistency with an applicable Land Management Plan	0	Not Consistent
	3	Mostly Consistent
	7.5	Consistent
TOTAL MAXIMUM POINTS (cumulative) = 300		

Appendix A - Access Program Screening Process



Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division

Access Program

Project Screening and Rating Criteria for Studies and Assessments

Instructions: If the answer is yes to criteria below, then allocate points. Points are cumulative.

**First two “Base” criteria shall have points, otherwise project does not move forward to Step 2 (Rating Criteria).

STEP 1: INITIAL SCREENING (max 200 points)		Point allocation	
Economic/Visitation Prioritization			
Do FLMA, State DOT, and Facility Owner agree that the project is an economic/visitation generator?		45	
Do FLMA, State DOT, and Facility Owner agree that the project is a priority?		45	
Is Project on current State Transportation Improvement Plan?		10	
Base**			
Submitted by facility owner**		40	
Project supported by FLMA**		40	
20% Match		No points	
Leveraging additional funding more than the required 20% match	20% match + (1-10)% of project cost	5	
	20% match + (11-20)% of project cost	10	
	20% match + (21)% of project cost	20	
STEP 2: PROJECT RATING (max 100 points)			
Studies and Assessments		Point allocation	
Safety (Max 15 points)			
Improves identified high crash site/identified hazardous conditions	0	No	
	5	Yes	
Improves safety for all transportation modes	0	No Benefit	
	5	Minor Benefit	
	10	Significant Benefit	
Accessibility and Mobility (Max 20 points)			
Identified need on FLMA plan, State or County Comprehensive Plan	0	No	
	5	Yes	
Fills missing link in network & enhances mobility	0	No	
	5	Yes	
Improves alternate transportation mode choices (bike, pedestrian, bus/transit)	0	No	
	10	Yes	

Preservation (Max 25 points)		
Enhances natural and scenic resources	0	No Benefit
	3	Minor Benefit
	5	Significant Benefit
Enhances cultural and historic areas	0	No Benefit
	3	Minor Benefit
	5	Significant Benefit
Reduces operating costs	0	No Benefit
	3	Minor Benefit
	7.5	Significant Benefit
Enhances surface condition	0	No Benefit
	3	Minor Benefit
	7.5	Significant Benefit
Economic Development (Max 20 points)		
Increases Visitation	0	No Benefit
	3	Minor Benefit
	7.5	Significant Benefit
Improves access to Federal Lands	0	No Benefit
	3	Minor Benefit
	5	Significant Benefit
Provides Economic Benefit to the Local Community	0	No Benefit
	3	Minor Benefit
	7.5	Significant Benefit
Environmental Quality and Sustainability (Max 20 points)		
Enhances water quality, fish passage, wildlife connectivity etc.	0	No Benefit
	3	Minor Benefit
	7.5	Significant Benefit
Reduces pollution (air, water, noise, visual)	0	No Benefit
	3	Minor

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		Benefit
	5	Significant Benefit
Consistency with an applicable Land Management Plan	0	Not Consistent
	3	Mostly Consistent
	7.5	Consistent
TOTAL MAXIMUM POINTS (cumulative) = 300		