

Special Topics Webinar

Project Readiness and NEPA: What **TIGER** Applicants Should Know

Presented by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for
Transportation Policy
United States Department of Transportation



U.S. Department
of Transportation

TIGER

- Requirements of NOFA
- Overview of NEPA and Environmental Review
- Examples from previous successful TIGER applicants
- Important Considerations
- Question and Answer



TIGER

- \$527 million multimodal, merit-based discretionary grant program
- Heavily Oversubscribed
- Funds must be obligated by September 30, 2013
- NEPA Decision and most permits by June 30, 2013





2011 Application Process

September 9th - Pre-Application Registration

October 3rd - Pre-Applications Due

October 4th - Final Applications Open

October 31st - Final Applications Due



TIGER

- NEPA should be substantially complete at time of application.
- Applicants must demonstrate compliance with NEPA and all applicable Federal, State and local requirements
 - Completed NEPA decision documents for **transportation element**
 - Drafts of NEPA documents with discussion of status of NEPA review
 - Approved permits

TIGER

NEPA



U.S. Department
of Transportation

National Environmental Policy Act

- President Nixon signed into law on January 1, 1970
- Applies to all major Federal actions
- A procedural statute that requires Federal agencies to consider the environmental impacts of their actions



Other Environmental Laws and Considerations

- Clean Water Act
- Clean Air Act
 - Transportation Conformity
 - General Conformity
- Endangered Species Act
- National Historic Preservation Act
- Section 4(f) of the DOT Act
- Environmental Justice
- Noise
- Tribes
- Wetlands
- State and local environmental requirements



NEPA Classes of Action

- Categorical Exclusion
 - Projects that have been determined through experience to not have significant effects on the environment
 - Effects are cumulative OR individual
 - Must be listed in lead agency implementing procedures (resource available on TIGER website)
 - Extraordinary circumstances can result in further documentation



NEPA Classes of Action

- Environmental Assessment
 - Completed when impacts of a proposed project are unknown
 - May lead to a Finding of No Significant Impact
 - May lead to an Environmental Impact Statement
 - Public involvement in preparation-agency discretion as to how but not discretionary to do it



NEPA Classes of Action

- Environmental Impact Statement
 - Comprehensive accounting of the impacts of a proposed project
 - Requires extensive public and agency involvement
 - Identifies mitigation
 - Results in a Record of Decision



FHWA CE Examples

- New Jersey Meadowlands Adaptive Signal System for Traffic Reduction (MASSTR)
- Ann Arbor East Stadium Bridges Improvement Project
- US 17 Septima Clark Parkway Drainage Improvements, Charleston, SC



Charleston Infrastructure Needs



Meadowlands MASSTR

FHWA EA/FONSI Examples

- Staples, Minnesota North/South Corridor with Railroad Overpass Project
- US 491 Navajo Nation Roadway Widening and Safety Improvements
- Milton-Madison Replacement Bridge Project, Kentucky and Indiana



Replacement Bridge Under Construction Using Truss Sliding

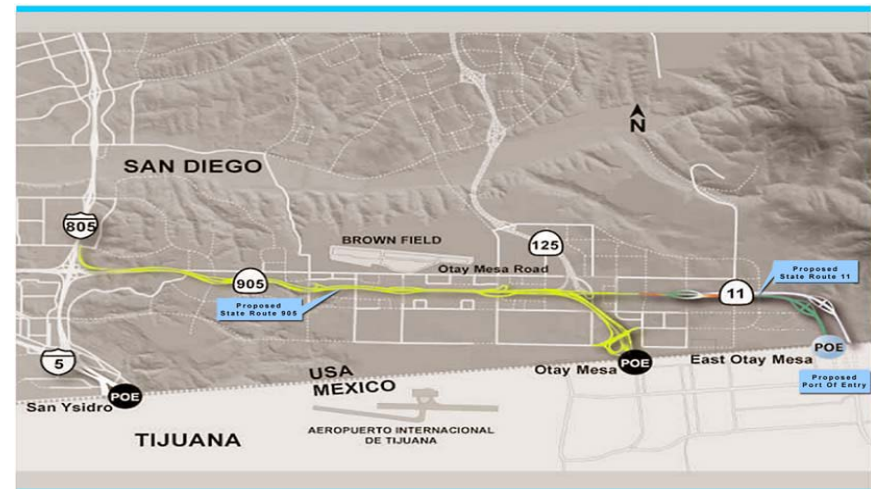


FHWA EIS/ROD Examples

- Otay Mesa East Port of Entry Interchange
- Doyle Drive Golden Gate Bridge Approach
- Seattle South Park Bridge Replacement



South Park Bridge Conceptual Design



Interchange at State Route 905/125

FTA CE Examples

- Intermodal/Multimodal Center, Bus Acquisition, Railcar Rehabilitation
- Past TIGER Recipients:



Des Moines Multimodal Hub (Des Moines, Iowa)
TIGER II, \$10MM



Moscow Intermodal Transit Center (Moscow, Idaho)
TIGER II, \$1.5MM

FTA EA/FONSI Examples

- Bus Storage and Maintenance Facility, Streetcars, Bus Rapid Transit
- Past TIGER Recipients:



Atlanta Streetcar (Atlanta, Georgia)
TIGER II, \$47.7MM



Dilworth Plaza &
Concourse
Improvements
(Philadelphia, PA),
TIGER II, \$15MM

FTA EIS/ROD Examples

- Projects involving new right-of-way, Commuter Rail, Light Rail Transit
- Past TIGER Recipients:



Woodward Avenue Light Rail Transit (Detroit, Michigan)
TIGER I, \$25MM



Crenshaw-LAX Transit Corridor (Los Angeles, California)
TIGER II, \$20MM

FRA TIGER CE Examples

- Indiana-Station Improvements
- Maine-Rail Preservation
- Nebraska-Freight Rail
Reactivation and Rehabilitation
- Pennsylvania-Rail and Road
Expansion
- Texas-Station Enhancements
- North Carolina-Multimodal
Station Area Plan
- Massachusetts-Bridge
Rehabilitation

Aroostook Rail Preservation, Maine



Tower 55, Texas



FRA TIGER EA/FONSI Examples

Colton Crossing, California

- Major Rail Facilities on Existing Rail System



- Crescent Corridor (with FHWA) – Memphis and Birmingham Intermodal Facilities
- National Gateway Phase 1, Ohio/Pennsylvania (with FHWA)
- Colton Crossing, California (by FHWA)
- Niagara Falls, New York Intermodal Terminal – (passenger rail station and bus terminal)

MARAD Examples



MARAD NEPA EXAMPLES

Typical scenarios:

EIS

- Projects where port infrastructure/expansion activities are expected to have significant impacts or are of a large/complex scope that exceed the existing footprint and use activities or may significantly affect sensitive areas.

EA

- Projects where port infrastructure/expansion activities are within the existing footprint but activities exceed or change existing uses.

CE

- Projects that meet criteria defined in MAO 600.1 that typically involve repair, replacement, or modernization activities where the character and footprint of the facility has not changed.



Segmentation/Independent Utility

- Large projects unlikely to get full funding
- Can project be broken into finite components?
- If so, each component must have **independent utility**



Multi-Modal Projects

- TIGER funds a variety of projects
- Frequently multiple modes involved in project
- Not always clear who is modal lead
- Determination made by the Department on a case-by-case basis



Question and Answer Session

- Representatives from the following modes are available:
 - Federal Highway Administration
 - Federal Transit Administration
 - Federal Railroad Administration
 - Maritime Administration
 - Office of the Secretary

Additional questions can be sent to: TigerGrants@dot.gov

