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➔ Second Round: Implementation Assistance Program

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Railroad-DOT Mitigation Strategies

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Renewal Projects

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Specifications for Rapid
Highway Renewal

Leadership Endorsement Guidance

First Round Assistance Opportunities

Implementation Q&As

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Contact

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Implementation Assistance Application

General Information

Application Number: R16
Application Due: 9/6/2013

Date Posted: 8/2/2013
Status: Open

Last Updated: 8/2/2013
Lead Agency: Federal Highway
Administration

Background

The challenge facing public transportation agencies and railroads is how to ease the project agreement process in a time of rapid highway construction. The interaction between both industries occurs thousands of times each year on construction of highway projects in the proximity of railways. With each interaction, railroads must carefully review the safety, engineering, and operational impacts during construction and for decades to come. Although most reviews proceed smoothly, both the highway agencies and the railroads agree that delays and setbacks in project development and construction do occur. For the highway agency, delays while waiting for railroad reviews and agreements can cause increased project costs and extended disruption to users.

The collection of model agreements, sample contracts, training materials, and standardized best practices developed through SHRP2 will enable public agencies and railroads to identify and find solutions to sources of conflicts and delays. These tools reflect research that take into account both the railroad and public agency perspectives, processes, funding and budgets, and acknowledges best practices. The report, *Strategies for Improving the Project Agreement Process Between Highway Agencies and Railroads*, outlines recommended practices and offers model agreements that can be modified to meet the legal and contractual requirements of individual transportation agencies and railroad to expedite negotiations.

The implementation of this product consists of the following set of resources and strategies:

- Best practices and streamlined processes
 - Institutional arrangements
 - Innovative partnering techniques
 - Approaches to ensure collaboration

- Standardized Model Agreements
 - Partnering Memorandum of Understanding
 - Master Project Agreement
 - Preliminary Engineering Agreement
 - Resurfacing Agreements
 - Highway Overpass Agreement
 - Warning Devices Agreement
 - Pipe and Wire Agreement

This collection of resources as well as practices drawn from partnering, good project management strategies, and process improvement efforts, will expedite the review process.

Expected Benefits

- Expedited project agreement processing and project delivery
- Improved communication and coordination between transportation agencies and railroads
- Fewer project delays resulting in reduced project delay costs
- Safer projects through standardized design and standard work zone requirements

Leadership Endorsement

Each application submitted from an organization or agency must have the endorsement of the Chief Executive Officer, or designee. The letter of endorsement is submitted as an attachment to the application.

Priority Ranking

When multiple applications are submitted from an organization or agency, each application must have a designated priority ranking. Please rank all applications in one grouping including all product submissions from your agency. For purposes of ranking do not separate your organization's applications into categories for individual products, or levels of incentives such as Lead Adopter or User Incentive.

For example, your agency submits four applications; one application for each product C19, R07, R09, and R16. Your agency must rank each application in priority order from 1 to 4, with 1 as the highest priority and 4 as the lowest priority. For your convenience, you will find a box at the top of each application to designate the priority ranking.

FHWA and AASHTO will take into consideration the agency's rankings when reviewing and evaluating the applications for implementation assistance.

Lead Adopter Incentive

 **Apply Now**

Number of awards available: 4

Funding level: Up to \$75,000 in direct funding assistance for implementation of one or more strategies and technical assistance provided by FHWA contractor for facilitation, technical assistance and support, peer exchanges and communication and outreach activities (i.e. workshops, process improvement development, etc.) to incorporate the product as part of the project delivery process.

Open to: State DOTs; Local agencies and MPOs through State DOTs

Requirements and Deliverables from Participants

- Commitment of State DOT and Railroad leadership to explore the use of model agreements, recommended best practices and processes with railroads in their State for streamlining the project review and agreement process;
- Identification of at least one area Class I railroad in which to develop and implement one or more of the model agreements;
- Demonstration of R16 agreements on a project or projects;
- Willingness to develop a process improvement plan to implement one or more model agreements, best practices, and processes;
- Willingness to share any lessons learned, developed agreements, standardized processes and frameworks developed or improved under the implementation assistance program;
- Participation in R16 product evaluation including a qualitative, organizational, before/after assessment conducted by an independent consultant for FHWA;
- Willingness to share knowledge with at least two other State DOTs interested in this product; and
- Willingness to participate in regional or national knowledge sharing events to promote the product.

Attach letter of endorsement from CEO or designee
no file selected

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Indicate priority ranking for this application

Contact Information

State

Organization

Point of Contact

Title

Business Phone

Business Email

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1. Briefly provide a description of the agency's interest and goals for this product. Including what the State DOT will be assessing, evaluating or implementing.
2. Briefly describe any past conflicts and efforts associated with highway projects in the vicinity of railways.
3. Briefly provide the technical and other resources needed to implement this product and dollar amount requested.
4. Briefly describe demonstrated executive level support for participation.
5. Describe the proposed use for these funds.

Please complete all highlighted fields

User Incentive

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Number of awards available: 4

Funding level: Up to \$25,000 in direct funding and technical assistance provided by a FHWA contractor for facilitation, communication and outreach, peer exchanges and technical support to assess, evaluate or implement one or more strategies.

Open to: State DOTs; Local agencies and MPOs through State DOTs

Requirements and Deliverables from Participants

- Commitment of State DOT leadership to explore the use of Model Agreements, recommended best practices and processes in partnership with railroads in their State;
- Identification of one or more strategies to assess, evaluate or implement to improve the communication, coordination and cooperation with railroads in their state;
- Willingness to share any lessons learned, developed agreements, standardized processes and frameworks developed or improved under the implementation assistance program;
- Participation in R16 product evaluation including a qualitative, organizational, before/after assessment conducted by an independent consultant for FHWA;
- Willingness to share knowledge with other State DOTs interested in this product or willingness to participate in regional or national knowledge sharing events to promote the product.

Attach letter of endorsement from CEO or designee
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2. Briefly describe any past conflicts and efforts associated with highway projects in the vicinity of railways.
3. Briefly provide the technical and other resources needed to assess, evaluate or implement this product, the dollar amount requested and the proposed use of the funds.
4. Briefly describe demonstrated executive level support for participation.

Please complete all highlighted fields