



May 28, 2009

Dear Planning Partners:

The United States Department of Transportation has issued an interim notice of funding availability for Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grants for capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). This notice can be found in the Federal Register at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-11542.pdf>.

Since this is a new program, the notice requests comments on the proposed selection criteria and guidance for awarding TIGER Discretionary Grants by June 1, 2009. If there are substantive changes necessary based on comments, a supplemental Federal Register notice will be published by June 17, 2009.

In summary, ARRA appropriated \$1.5 billion of discretionary grant funds to be awarded by the U.S. Department of Transportation for capital investments in surface transportation. The notice indicates \$200 million of the \$1.5 billion is to be used to pay the subsidy and administrative costs of the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 1998 (TIFIA) program, a federal credit assistance program.

The application deadline for the TIGER Discretionary Grants program is September 15, 2009. Eligible TIGER Discretionary Grants projects include highway or bridge projects, public transportation, passenger and freight rail transportation projects, and port infrastructure investments. The grants can range from \$20 million up to \$300 million to support high impact transportation projects.

The notice identifies the following selection criteria to award TIGER Discretionary Grants:

- Awards will be on a competitive basis to "projects that have a significant impact on the Nation, a metropolitan area, or a region."
- TIGER Discretionary Grants may be used for up to 100% of project costs, but priority must be given to projects for which federal funding is required to complete an overall financing package that includes non-federal sources of funds.
- Priority must also be given to projects that can be completed by February 17, 2012.
- The primary selection criteria include long-term outcomes, and job creation and economic stimulus.
- The secondary selection criteria include innovation and partnership.
- The following long-term outcomes will be given priority: 1) state of good repair, 2) economic competitiveness, 3) livability, 4) sustainability and 5) safety.

- The US DOT must take measures to ensure an equitable geographic distribution of funds and an appropriate balance in addressing the needs of urban and rural communities.
- Project selection announcement no later than February 17, 2010.

The Missouri Department of Transportation will be submitting two projects for consideration in the TIGER Discretionary Grants program. The first project is for the reconstruction of approximately 30 miles of Interstate 70 using the dedicated truck lane concept. This innovative project would serve as the national model for the truck lane concept on this federally approved four-state, 800 mile "*Corridor of the Future*". MoDOT's \$240 million project application will request \$200 million in TIGER Discretionary Grants funds and will include \$40 million (20% maximum) in MoDOT interstate matching funds.

MoDOT will also be partnering with Arkansas for submittal of the Bella Vista Bypass project in Southwest Missouri. While the application will be submitted by the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department, MoDOT will be providing the matching funds component of the application for the completion of the Missouri portion of the Bella Vista Bypass if TIGER Discretionary Grants funds are secured. MoDOT's matching funding component of this application is already programmed in the STIP. MoDOT's existing Amendment 3 major project funds, combined with TIGER Discretionary Grants funds awarded to Arkansas, would provide for the completion of the Bella Vista bypass in both states.

MoDOT recognizes that other qualifying Missouri entities may wish to submit applications for projects to be considered for TIGER Discretionary Grants funding. Details regarding the application process and requirements are identified within the Federal Register notice. The notice indicates that applications are to be submitted directly to the TIGER Discretionary Grants program manager electronically via e-mail at TIGERGrants@dot.gov. However, potential applicants should contact me, as soon as possible, so that I may advise the Governor's office of impending applications for the TIGER Discretionary Grants program in Missouri.

Local entities seeking MoDOT's support of their application for a state system project must demonstrate compliance with the proposed grant selection criteria and identify a 20 percent non-Federal match for requested TIGER Discretionary Grants funds.

If you have questions regarding the details of the TIGER Discretionary Grants program or MoDOT's proposed project applications, please feel free to contact me at 573-751-1227.

Sincerely,

Michelle Teel
MoDOT Representative
Transform Missouri Initiative

Planning Partners

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