



## **Transportation Committee: \$2.4 billion available in competitive grants for bridge replacement or repair**

---

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has published a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for nearly \$2.4 billion in discretionary grants for bridge replacement, rehabilitation, preservation, and protection projects under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

The FHWA announcement is [here](#). The NOFO and other information on the Bridge Investment Program is [here](#).

There are three different application deadlines, for the three kinds of projects eligible for funding under the new program:

- Planning grant applications are due by July 25, 2022
- Construction grant applications for large projects (over \$100 million total costs) are due by August 9, 2022.
- Construction grant applications for less costly bridges (under \$100 million total costs) are due by September 8, 2022.

The minimum grant for large projects will be \$50 million, with a 50% federal cost share. The minimum grant for smaller projects will be \$2.5 million, with an 80% federal cost

share. One unique feature of the program is the ability for FHWA to make multi-year funding commitments for large projects, similar to the New Starts process at the Federal Transit Administration. According to Stephanie Pollack, the FHWA Deputy Administrator, for this grant cycle they will look at multi-year promises for large projects to be funded within the next four fiscal years, so they will be covered by the advanced appropriations already made by the IIJA. (So we could see a commitment of funds totaling more than the \$2.4 billion for FY 2022.)

Eligible applicants include a State or a group of States, a metropolitan planning organization that serves an urbanized area with a population of over 200,000, a local government or a group of local governments, a special purpose district or public authority with a transportation function, a Federal land management agency, tribal government, or a multijurisdictional group of entities.

Eligible project costs include development phase activities, such as planning, feasibility analysis, revenue forecasting, environmental review, preliminary engineering and design work, and other preconstruction activities; construction, reconstruction, and rehabilitation; environmental mitigation; and, expenses related to protection of a bridge, including seismic or scour protection.

Bridge projects will be competitively selected based on six criteria:

- State of good repair
- Safety
- Mobility and economic competitiveness
- Climate change, resiliency, and the environment
- Quality of life
- Innovation

Projects will also be assessed based on a benefit-cost analysis and project readiness in terms of technical feasibility, project schedule and financing, and environmental permits and other

regulatory reviews.

As with other new programs, the FHWA plans to conduct community outreach and public engagement throughout the application process, including a webinar. Stay tuned for additional information.

Scott Heidner  
Executive Director  
825 S Kansas Avenue, Suite 500  
Topeka, KS 66612  
[scott@economiclifelines.com](mailto:scott@economiclifelines.com)

