

Bridge Investment Program Planning Grants



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**Federal Highway
Administration**

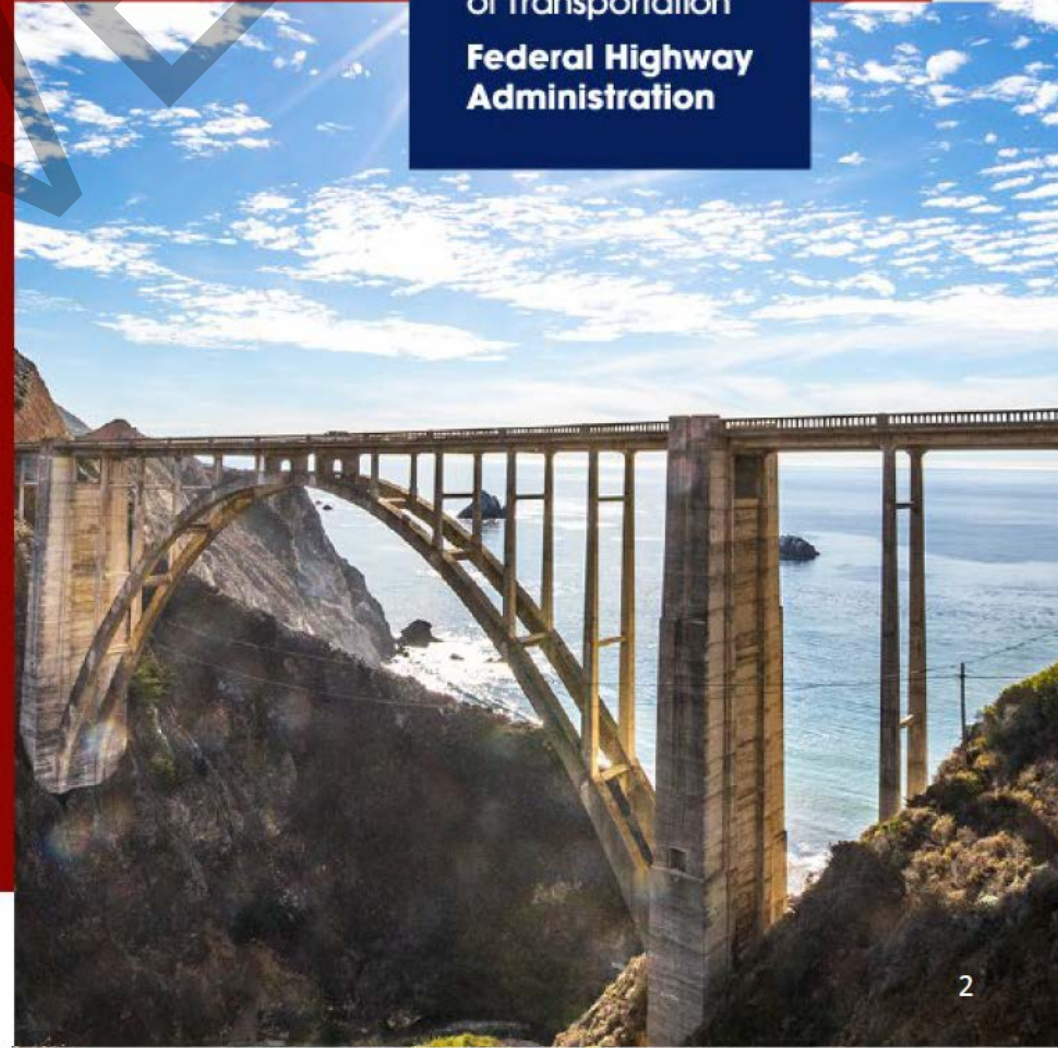
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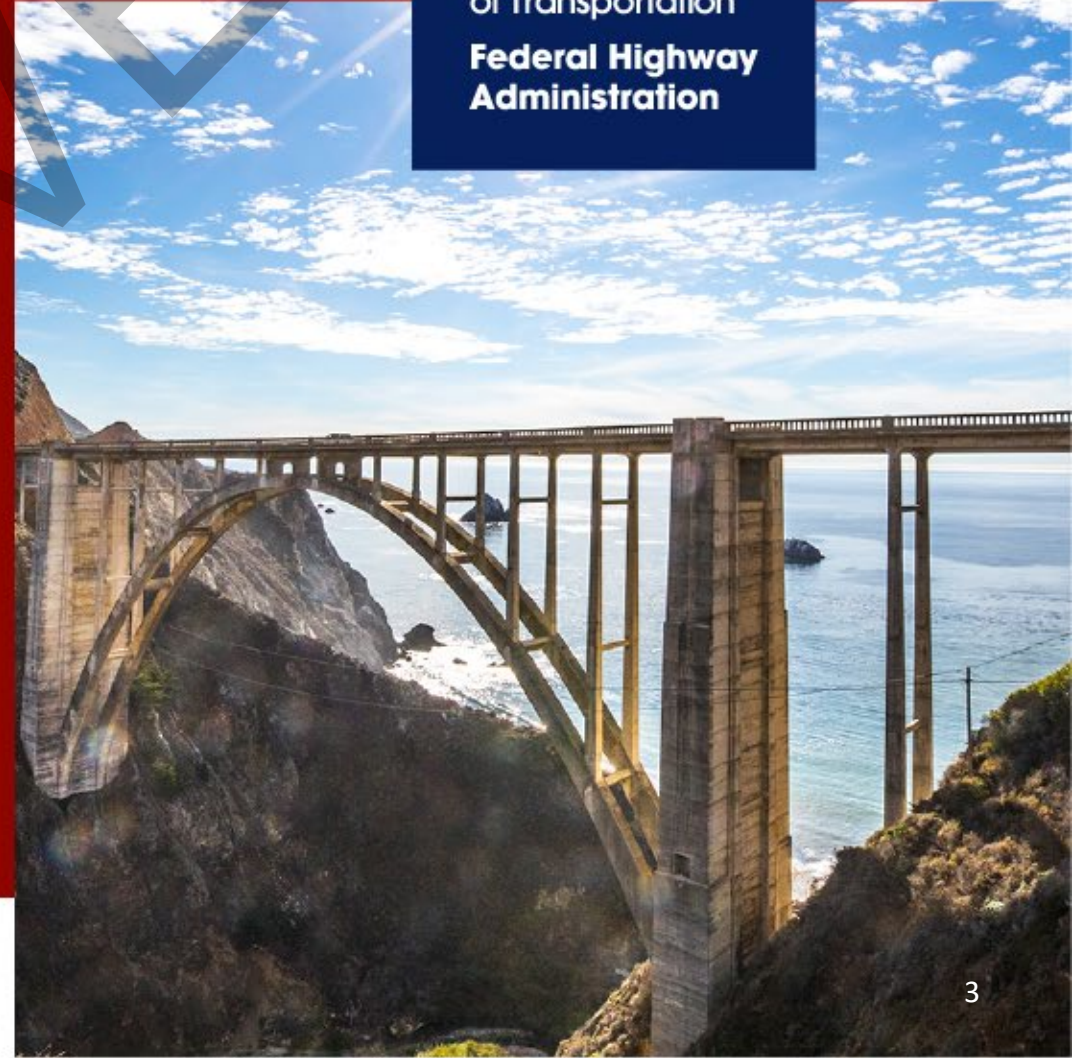
Today's Webinar

- What is the BIP?
- BIP Goals
- Planning Grants
 - Eligibility
 - Application Review/Selection Criteria
 - Application Format and Template
 - Process Details



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What is the BIP?

- The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL*) established a new program, the Bridge Investment Program (BIP) under 23 U.S.C. 124
- In addition, BIL designated funding for FY22 through FY26 for this program
- BIL established two funding categories within BIP: Large Projects (Large Bridge Projects) and Other than Large Projects (Bridge Projects)
- For FY22-FY26, a third funding category was added: **Planning Grants** (Division J, Title VIII of BIL)

*BIL - Enacted as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) (Pub. L. 117-58, Nov. 15, 2021)



Program Goals (23 U.S.C. 124(b)(2))

Improve condition by reducing number of and total person miles traveled over bridges:

- In poor condition
- In fair condition and at risk of falling into poor condition
- That do not meet current geometric design standards
- That cannot meet the load and traffic requirements of the regional transportation network

Improve safety, efficiency, and reliability of the movement of people and freight over bridges

Provide financial assistance that leverages and encourages non-Federal contributions



Planning Grants

- For FY22-FY26, a third funding category was added:
 - Planning Grants
 - (Division J, Title VIII of BIL)*

*BIL - Enacted as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) (Pub. L. 117-58, Nov. 15, 2021)

Planning Grant Eligibility

- Eligible Applicants
- Eligible Projects
- Eligible Project Costs
- Award Size
- Cost Share



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Eligible Applicants (23 U.S.C. 124(d)(2))

1. A State or a group of States;
2. A metropolitan planning organization that serves an urbanized area (as designated by the Bureau of the Census) with a population over 200,000;
3. A unit of local government or a group of local governments;
4. A political subdivision of a State or local government;
5. A special purpose district or a public authority with a transportation function;
6. A Federal land management agency;
7. A Tribal government or a consortium of Tribal governments; or
8. A multistate or multijurisdictional group of entities as described above in 1-7



Eligible Projects

- Projects for:
 - Planning
 - Feasibility analyses and
 - Revenue forecasting
- Associated with:
 - Development of project that would subsequently be eligible for assistance under the BIP.
(See Division J, Title VIII of BIL)

Eligible Project Cost

- Planning
- Feasibility analyses
- Revenue forecasting



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Award Size

- No maximum or minimum
- \$20 million available for FY22

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Cost Share

- Maximum Federal Share
 - Cannot exceed Federal share for the project under 23 U.S.C. 120
 - Cannot exceed 90% for off-system bridges
- Federal assistance, other than BIP funds, can be used to satisfy the remaining project costs as long as the maximum federal share is not exceeded
- Federal land management agency, Tribal government, or a consortium of Tribal governments can use Federal funds from a source other than BIP to pay the remaining cost



Application Review/Selection Criteria

- Statutory Evaluation Requirements
- Project Outcome Criteria
- Overall Ratings
- DOT Priorities
- Selection Process

Planning Project Outcome Criteria



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BIP Program Goals

Project Description

Project Schedule

Project Budget

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BIP Program Goals

- One or more BIP goals that would be achieved by a proposed planning project leading to a Bridge Project or Large Bridge Project:
 - Improve safety, efficiency, & reliability or movement of people & freight over bridges;
 - Improve condition by reducing # of and total person miles traveled over bridges:
 - In poor condition
 - In fair condition and at risk of falling into poor condition, or
 - That do not meet current design standards of regional network
 - Provide financial assistance that leverages and encourages non-Federal contributions



BIP Goals/Project Outcome Criteria

- Highly Qualified
 - Describes in detail how project will advance BIP goal
 - Data supports how proposed project would advance BIP goal
- Qualified
 - Application generally describes with little detail how proposed project will advance BIP goal
 - Data provided is limited or does not directly demonstrate how proposed project will advance BIP goal
- Not Qualified
 - Application does not clearly describe how proposed project will advance the goal
 - Data provided does not demonstrate support or is not included



Project Description

- Description of Bridge or Large Bridge Project the planning process will evaluate:
 - Should include discussion about condition of bridge(s), and
 - Should be supported by documented information available, and
 - Should demonstrate how the project would meet evaluation criteria for Bridge or Large Bridge Project



Project Description/Outcome Criteria

- **Highly Qualified**
 - Describes Bridge Project or Large Bridge Project in detail and provides comprehensive information about condition of bridge(s) along with extensive data that demonstrates how proposed project meets the evaluation criteria for a Bridge or Large Bridge Project
- **Qualified**
 - Application generally describes Bridge Project or Large Bridge Project
 - Information provided about condition of bridge(s) is not comprehensive
 - Data is incomplete to demonstrate how project would meet evaluation criteria for Bridge Project or Large Bridge Project
- **Not Qualified**
 - Application does not describe Bridge Project or Large Bridge Project
 - Application has little or no information about condition of bridge(s) or how project would meet evaluation criteria for Bridge Project or Large Bridge Project



Project Schedule

- Current status of planning process, including all activities completed or under way:
 - All major activities intended to be funded should be described in detail with anticipated start and end dates for each activity
 - Applications should also include a post-Planning grant schedule with planned start and end dates of all major activities that will need to be completed from end of BIP Planning grant through completion of BIP Bridge Project or Large Bridge Project



Project Schedule/Outcome Criteria

- **Highly Qualified**
 - Application provides detailed information on project schedule, including already completed activities and activities under way
 - Project schedule includes anticipated start and end dates for each activity, including detailed post-Planning schedule with sufficient information to determine with certainty the feasibility of project schedule
- **Qualified**
 - Application provides information on project schedule but is not detailed
 - Information provided is vague and the evaluation of feasibility of the schedule cannot be made
- **Not Qualified**
 - Application does not include a project schedule or is incomplete
 - Assessment of feasibility of project schedule cannot be made



Project Budget

- Proposed project budget:
 - Include detailed description of start and end dates for major project activities, milestones, and deliverables
 - Include detailed project budget with total project cost
 - Identify all funding sources and amounts, including estimated BIP grant request amount
 - Include information about all sources of Federal funds that have been requested, including amount requested, and whether requested funding was received.



Project Budget/Outcome Criteria

- **Highly Qualified**
 - Application has detailed budget including source of funds and amounts for each major project activity, milestones and deliverables and
 - Includes detailed budget that shows project cost, all funding sources and amounts, and percentage of total project costs and
 - Is fully responsive and provides detailed information about all Federal funding requests particularly those that would leverage other Federal funding opportunities
- **Qualified**
 - Application includes a cursory budget
 - Includes each major project activity, milestone and deliverable but does not specify source of funds and amounts for each
 - Lacks detail on total project cost, funding sources and amounts, and percentage of total project costs
 - Not fully responsive or provides limited information about all Federal funding requests.
- **Not Qualified**
 - No budget is included in application
 - Information contained in budget is incomplete



Project Outcome Criteria

- Provide a narrative response for each selection criteria
- Address several key points to satisfy program considerations
- Where possible, provide quantifiable or substantive data
- As needed, provide supporting materials via attachments or an additional narrative
- Quality of narrative and supporting materials determines project rating
- 3-point scale – Highly Qualified, Qualified, Not Qualified



Overall Rating

- **Highly Recommended**
 - Meets all Highly Qualified project selection criteria
- **Recommended**
 - Receives one Qualified rating on a project selection criteria and
 - Receives one Qualified or Highly Qualified rating on the remaining project selection criteria
- **Not Recommended**
 - Project is one that does not meet one or more of the statutory eligibility criteria or
 - An eligible application that receives at least one “Not Qualified” on a project selection criteria

DOT Priority Considerations - Planning



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Highly Recommended Projects that demonstrate that in absence of grant, the applicant will be unable to begin or complete the planning process for a Large Bridge Project and one of following:

- Complete planning process for a Large Bridge Project in poor condition with construction starting within 2 years of completion of the planning process or
- Start and complete planning process for a Large Bridge Project in poor condition



Selection Process

- Initial Eligibility Screening
- The application Analysis Team will produce the overall project rating and an evaluation of responsiveness to DOT Priority Considerations
- A Second Level Review Team of FHWA Senior Leadership will identify which projects to advance to the FHWA Administrator
- The FHWA Administrator will determine which projects to advance to the Secretary
- The Secretary makes final project selections



Application Format and Templates

- Application Templates
- **Planning** Format
- Large Bridge Project and Bridge Project Format



Planning Application Template Format

- Basic Project Information (Description, Location, & Parties)
- National Bridge Inventory Data
- Project Costs
- Project Outcome Criteria
- Project Priority Considerations



Application Templates

- Three templates developed, one for each application type
 - **Planning**
 - Large Bridge Project
 - Bridge Project
- Provides an overall document framework for developing an application
- Planning Applications may be supplemented with additional information to support the narrative statements about project outcome criteria, including bridge condition, and priority considerations
- Planning Applications are Not Expected to be supplemented with additional information about:
 - Benefit-Cost Analysis Calculations
 - Calculations for determining risk of fair bridges falling into poor within 3 years



Process Details

How are applications submitted?

- All applications must be submitted through [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov)

When are applications required to be submitted by?

- **Planning grants** – 45 days from publication or July 25, 2022, at 11:59 PM EDT
- Large Bridge Projects – 60 days from publication or August 9, 2022, at 11:59 PM EDT
- Bridge Projects – 90 days from publication or September 8, 2022, at 11:59 PM EDT

Questions?



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FHWA's BIP website:

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bridge/bip/index.cfm>

BIP guidance is available here

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