



# Bridge Investment Program Planning Grants FY 2023-2026 Planning and Bridge Project Grants NOFO



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of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

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

January 31, 2024

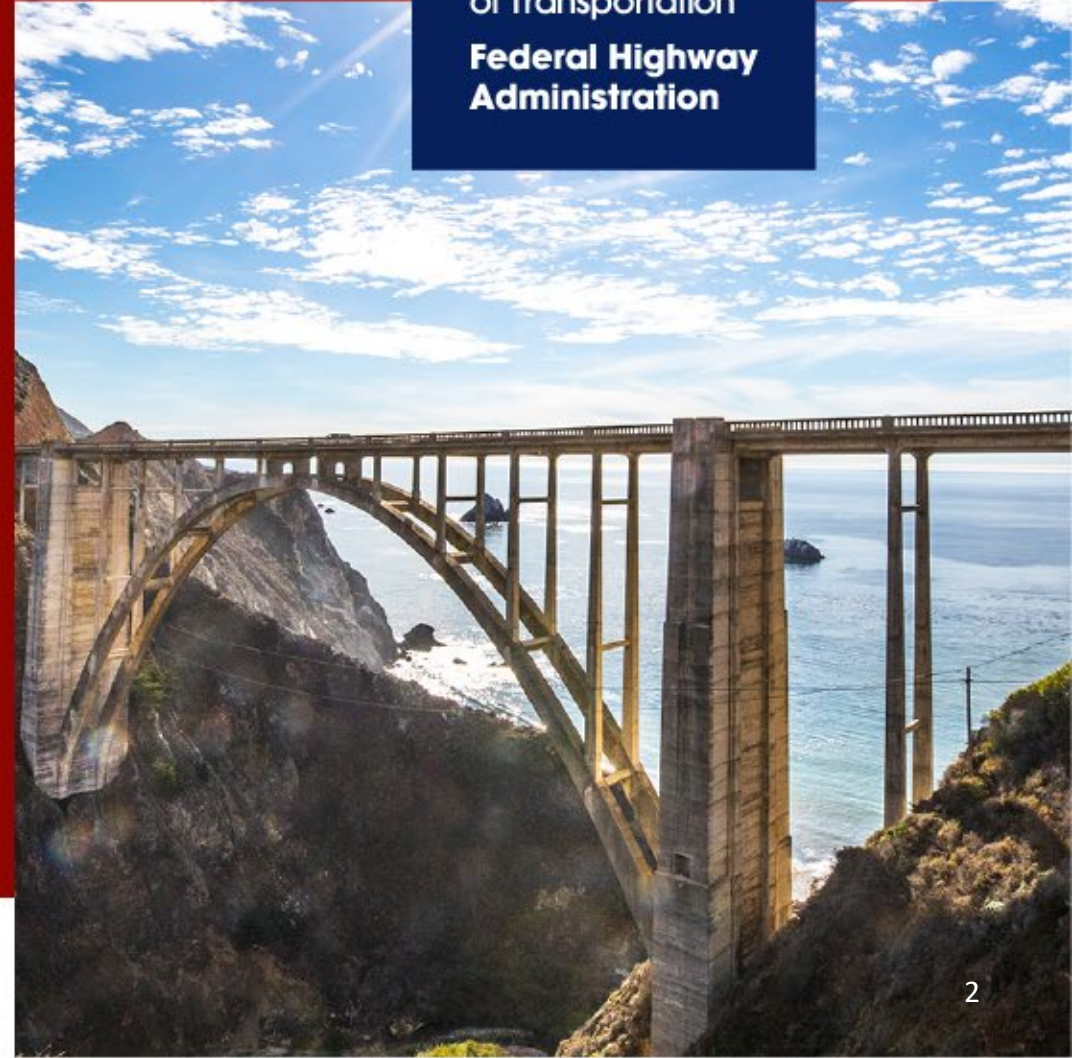
# Disclaimer

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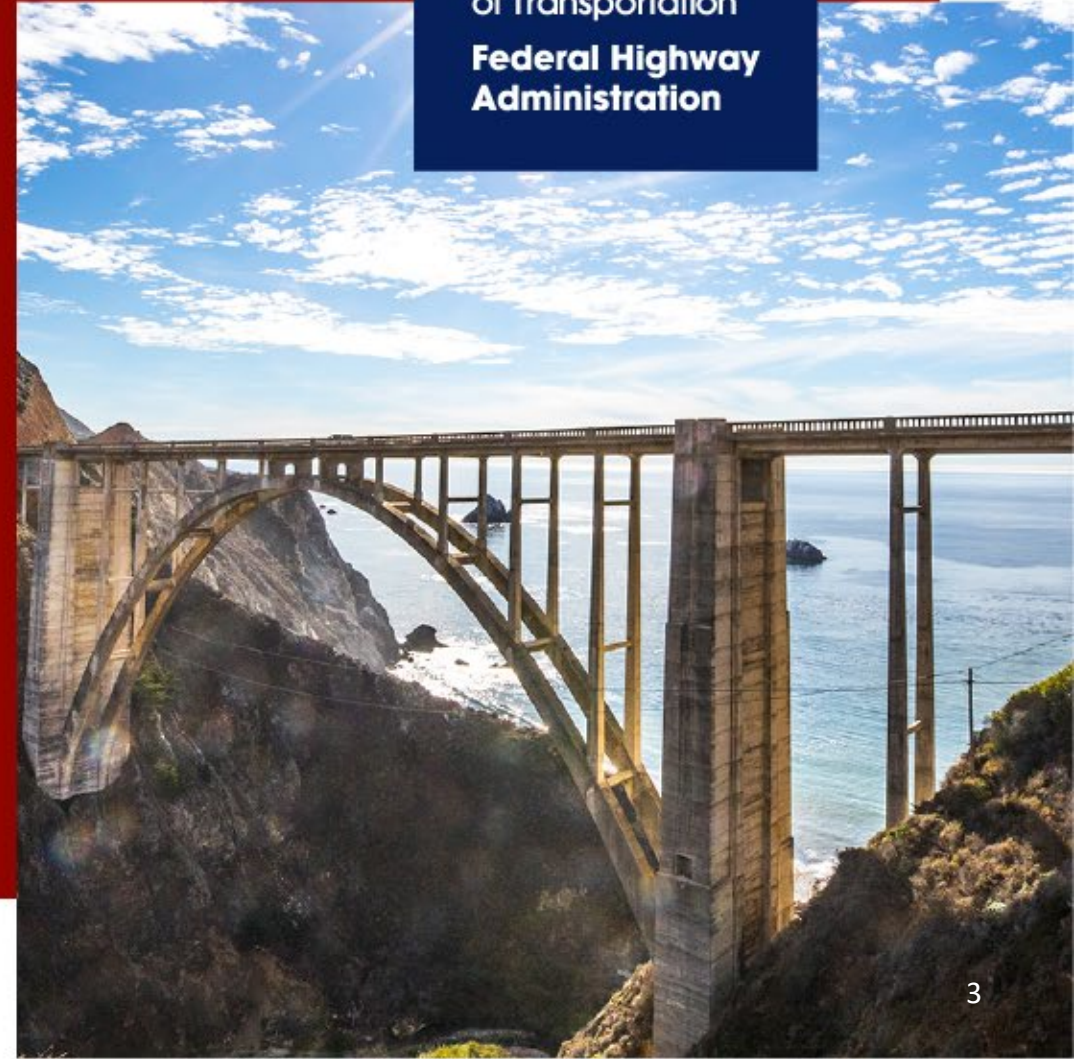
# Today's Webinar

- What is the BIP?
- Program Eligibility
- Application Review
- Application Format and Templates
- Application Submission Details



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# What is the BIP?

- Section 11118 of 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 Project Grants) and Other than Large Projects (Bridge Project 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. No. 117-58, Nov. 15, 2021)



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

Improve condition of bridges 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

# Program Eligibility

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



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

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; and
8. A multistate or multijurisdictional group of entities as described above in 1-7.



# Eligible Projects

## Planning Grant

Project for planning, feasibility analyses, and revenue forecasting associated with the development of a project that would subsequently be eligible to apply for assistance under the BIP (See Division J, Title VIII of BIL)

Note:

- Environmental review, preliminary engineering, design work, and other preconstruction activities apart from Planning and Environmental Linkage (PEL) activities are ineligible project activities.
- Bridges included in a Planning grant application, including each of the bridges in a bundle of projects, are required to be on the National Bridge Inventory since these projects should subsequently be eligible to apply for assistance under the BIP.





# Eligible Project Costs

Costs for activities for projects in the early phases of project development per the BIP statute in Division J, Title VIII (BIL, Pub. L. No. 117-58) and 23 CFR 636.103:

- planning,
- feasibility analyses, and
- revenue forecasting



# Award Size

- No minimum or maximum BIP Planning grant award amount size
- The cost of the ultimate construction project (the project that will apply for a Bridge Project or a Large Bridge Project grant) must be no less than \$3.125 million

## Note:

- No more than \$20 million will be awarded to Planning grants from any one FY of funding.

# Available Funding



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BIP Fiscal Year Funding	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Total Available for Planning Grants (Highway Infrastructure Program General Fund)	\$20,000,000	\$20,000,000	\$20,000,000	\$20,000,000



# Total Cost Share

- Maximum Federal Share
  - Cannot exceed Federal share for the project under 23 U.S.C. 120
- 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

- Merit Criteria
- Overall Rating
- Statutory Secretarial Considerations
- DOT Priority Considerations
- Review and Selection Process



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# Merit Criteria

- BIP Program Goals
- Project Description
- Project Schedule
- Project Budget



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# Merit Criteria - Continued

- Provide a narrative response for each merit 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
- Each application will be assigned a rating of Highly Qualified, Qualified, or Not Qualified



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# Merit Criterion 1: 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 the number 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

\*This slide is an overview of the criteria and more details are in the NOFO



# Merit Criterion 2: Project Description

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

\*This slide is an overview of the criteria and more details are in the NOFO



# Merit Criterion 3: 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
  - 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

\*This slide is an overview of the criteria and more details are in the NOFO





# Merit Criterion 4: Project Budget

- Proposed project budget:
  - 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.

\*This slide is an overview of the criteria and more details are in the NOFO



# Overall Rating

- **Highly Recommended**
  - Meets all eligibility requirements
  - Received a Highly Qualified rating on all Merit Criteria
- **Recommended**
  - Meets all eligibility requirements
  - Received one Qualified rating on a Merit Criterion and either a Qualified or Highly Qualified rating on the remaining Merit Criteria
- **Not Recommended**
  - Does not meet one or more of the statutory eligibility criteria, or
  - An eligible application that receives at least one Not Qualified rating on a Merit Criterion



# Statutory Secretarial Considerations

## Statutory Secretarial Considerations

- Considerations for project selection
  - See Section E.1.f of NOFO



# DOT Priority Considerations

Highly Recommended Projects that:

1. Demonstrate in absence of a BIP Planning grant, the applicant will be unable to begin or complete the planning process for a Large Bridge Project, and
2. Are for one of following:
  - To complete planning process for a Large Bridge Project for a bridge in poor condition with construction starting within 2 years of completion of the planning process, or
  - To begin and complete planning process for a Large Bridge Project for a bridge in poor condition



# Review and Selection Process

- Application Intake and Eligibility Review
  - Applications submitted before the applicable application deadline will be considered for the current review cycle
    - February 19, 2024, for FY23/FY24 Funding Cycle
    - October 1, 2024, for FY25 Funding Cycle
    - October 1, 2025, for FY26 Funding Cycle
  - Applications determined to be eligible move to the Technical Review
  - Technical Review is comprised of a review of the Merit Criteria, Overall Rating, and DOT Priority Considerations



# Review and Selection Process - Continued



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- A Technical Review Management Team will review technical review ratings and recommendations
- A FHWA Senior Review Team 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
- All applicants will have the option to request a debrief from DOT after grant awards are announced

# Suggested Planning Grant Application Format



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- Project Information
- National Bridge Inventory Data
- Project Costs
- Merit Criteria
- DOT Priority Considerations
- Administration Priorities and Departmental Strategic Plan Goals



# Application Template

- Provides an overall document framework for developing an application
  - <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bridge/bip/index.cfm>
- Expected to be supplemented with additional information
  - Additional information to support narrative statements about Merit Criteria, including bridge condition, and priority considerations
- Applicants are strongly encouraged, but are not required, to use the application template



# Application Submission 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?

- February 19, 2024, for FY23/FY24 Funding Cycle
- October 1, 2024, for FY25 Funding Cycle
- October 1, 2025, for FY26 Funding Cycle

Questions?



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