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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4901

May 21, 2009

John Dickert
Mayor
City of Racine
730 Washington Avenue
Racine, WI 53403-1146



Dear John:

In an effort to keep you apprised of grant opportunities that may assist your community under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, I would like to share with you the information that I have recently received from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) about its open grant solicitation for the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grants Program

The DOT reports that under this program, "...funds will be awarded to State and local governments who submit applications for projects that include, but are not limited to, capital investments in highway or bridge projects, public transportation projects, passenger and freight rail, and port infrastructure investments." Applications must be submitted by September 15, 2009.

In an effort to be of assistance to you, I have enclosed a copy of the DOT's fact sheet on the TIGER Discretionary Grants Program, as well as a copy of the DOT's news release announcing the availability of these TIGER discretionary grant funds. Please note that these documents address program criteria and eligibility requirements. I hope you find this grant update useful to your community.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need help in the future. I am always happy to respond and be of service to you. Best wishes.

Sincerely,



Paul Ryan
Serving Wisconsin's 1st District

Enclosure

JANESVILLE
CONSTITUENT SERVICES CENTER
20 SOUTH MAIN STREET, SUITE 10
JANESVILLE, WI 53545
(608) 752-4050 . FAX: (608) 752-4711

KENOSHA
CONSTITUENT SERVICES CENTER
5455 SHERIDAN ROAD, SUITE 125
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(262) 654-1901 . FAX: (262) 654-2156

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CONSTITUENT SERVICES CENTER
216 6TH STREET
RACINE, WI 53403
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09-3574

\$1.5 BILLION TIGER DISCRETIONARY GRANTS PROGRAM OUTLINE OF SOLICITATION AND SELECTION CRITERIA

Interim Notice of Funding Availability: On Monday, May 18, 2009, the Department of Transportation published a notice of funding availability and solicitation of applications from applicants seeking funds under this program.

Public Comments: The solicitation announces the availability of funding for TIGER Discretionary Grants, project selection criteria, application requirements and the deadline for submitting applications, which is September 15, 2009. Because this is a new program, however, the solicitation also provides two weeks for comments on the proposed selection criteria and guidance for awarding TIGER Discretionary Grants. The Department will take all comments into consideration and may publish a supplemental notice revising some elements of the solicitation. Any such amendment will be published by June 17, 2009.

Eligible Applicants: Funds under this program will be awarded to State and local governments, including U.S. territories, tribal governments, transit agencies, port authorities, other political subdivisions of State or local governments, and multi-State or multi-jurisdictional applicants.

Eligible Projects: Projects that are eligible for TIGER Discretionary Grants include, but are not limited to, capital investments in: (1) highway or bridge projects; (2) public transportation projects; (3) passenger and freight rail transportation projects; and (4) port infrastructure investments, including projects that connect ports to other modes of transportation and improve the efficiency of freight movement.

Selection Criteria: TIGER Discretionary Grants will be awarded based on the following selection criteria, which incorporate the criteria specified in the Recovery Act:

- (a) **Long-Term Outcomes:** The Department will give priority to projects that have a significant impact on desirable long-term outcomes for the Nation, a metropolitan area, or a region. The following types of long-term outcomes will be given priority:
 - (i) **State of Good Repair:** Improving the condition of existing transportation facilities and systems, with particular emphasis on projects that minimize life-cycle costs.
 - (ii) **Economic Competitiveness:** Contributing to the economic competitiveness of the United States over the medium- to long-term.
 - (iii) **Livability:** Improving the quality of living and working environments and the experience for people in communities across the United States.
 - (iv) **Sustainability:** Improving energy efficiency, reducing dependence on oil, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and benefitting the environment.
 - (v) **Safety:** Improving the safety of U.S. transportation facilities and systems.
- (b) **Job Creation & Economic Stimulus:** Consistent with the purposes of the Recovery Act, the Department will give priority to projects that are expected to quickly create and preserve jobs and stimulate rapid increases in economic activity, particularly jobs and activity that benefit economically distressed areas.
- (c) **Innovation:** The Department will give priority to projects that use innovative strategies to pursue the long-term outcomes outlined above.
- (d) **Partnership:** The Department will give priority to projects that demonstrate strong collaboration among a broad range of participants and/or integration of transportation with other public service efforts.

The solicitation provides additional guidance on the selection criteria. The Department will give more weight to the Long-Term Outcomes and Jobs Creation & Economic Stimulus criteria than

to the Innovation and Partnership criteria. Projects that are unable to demonstrate a likelihood of significant long-term benefits in any of the five long-term outcomes will not proceed in the evaluation process. For the Jobs Creation & Economic Stimulus criterion, a project that is not ready to proceed quickly is less likely to be successful.

Program-Specific Criteria: The Department will use certain program-specific criteria to help differentiate between similar projects (for example, New Starts projects, or bridge replacements). To the extent two or more similar projects have similar ratings based on the selection criteria the program-specific criteria will be used to assign priority among these projects.

Distribution of Funds: The Recovery Act prohibits the award of more than 20 percent of the funds made available under this program to projects in any one State. The Recovery Act also requires that the Department take measures to ensure an equitable geographic distribution of funds and an appropriate balance in addressing the needs of urban and rural communities.

Waiver of Minimum Grant Size Requirement: The Recovery Act specifies that TIGER Discretionary Grants may be no less than \$20 million and no greater than \$300 million. However, the Department has discretion under the Recovery Act to waive the \$20 million minimum grant size requirement for significant projects in smaller cities, regions or States. Applicants for TIGER Discretionary Grants of less than \$20 million are encouraged to apply.

TIFIA: Up to \$200 million of the \$1.5 billion available for TIGER Discretionary Grants may be used to pay the subsidy and administrative costs of the TIFIA program if it would further the purposes of the TIGER Discretionary Grants program. Given the average subsidy cost of the existing TIFIA portfolio, \$200 million in TIGER TIFIA Payments could support approximately \$2 billion in Federal credit assistance. Applicants seeking TIGER TIFIA Payments should apply in accordance with all of the criteria and guidance specified for TIGER Discretionary Grant applicants and will be evaluated concurrently with all other applications.

Grant Administration: The Department expects that each TIGER Discretionary Grant will be administered by the modal administration in the Department with the most experience and/or expertise in the relevant project area. Applicable Federal laws, rules and regulations will apply to projects that receive TIGER Discretionary Grants, including all of the reporting and other requirements included in the Recovery Act.



U.S Department of Transportation
Office of Public Affairs
1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E.
Washington, DC 20590
www.dot.gov/affairs/briefing.htm

News

DOT 69-09
Friday, May 15, 2009

Contact: Jill Zuckman
Tel.: (202) 366-4570

Secretary LaHood: TIGER Discretionary Grants Will Target Major-Impact Transportation Projects, Job Creation

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced the availability of \$1.5 billion in TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) Discretionary Grants for capital investment in surface transportation projects. Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis to projects that have a significant impact on the nation, a region or metropolitan area and can create jobs and benefit economically distressed areas.

“TIGER discretionary funding will open up the door to many new innovative and cutting-edge transportation projects,” said **Secretary LaHood**. “This is exciting news and I believe that these projects will promote greater mobility, a cleaner environment and more livable communities.”

The grants can range from \$20 million up to \$300 million to support high impact transportation projects. Secretary LaHood can waive the minimum grant requirement for beneficial projects in smaller cities, regions or states. The U.S. Department of Transportation will require rigorous economic justifications for projects over \$100 million. To ensure responsible spending, the department will require all fund recipients to report on their activities on a routine basis.

The solicitation published in the *Federal Register* today provides clear criteria for the department to make merit-based decisions on the new discretionary program.

Primary selection criteria include contributing to the medium- to long-term economic competitiveness of the nation, improving the condition of existing transportation facilities and systems, improving the quality of living and working environments through livable communities, improving energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving the safety of U.S. transportation facilities.

-- (more) --

DOT 69-09
Friday, May 15, 2009

The Department will also give priority to projects that are expected to quickly create and preserve jobs and stimulate rapid increases in economic activity, especially projects that will benefit economically distressed areas.

Applications for TIGER discretionary grants must be submitted by September 15, 2009, from state and local governments, including U.S. territories, tribal governments, transit agencies, port authorities and others. Comments on the criteria must be received by June 1, 2009. The *Federal Register* notice can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

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