



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Highway
Administration**

Western Federal Lands Highway Division
610 E. Fifth Street
Vancouver, WA 98661
Phone 360-619-7700
Fax 360-619-7846

September 1, 2026

In Reply Refer to: HFL-17

Federal Land Management Agencies
Idaho Department of Transportation
Regional, County & Local Governments
Tribal Governments

Greetings:

2026 Request for Proposals
Idaho Federal Lands Access Program

The Western Federal Lands Highway Division (WFLHD) of the Federal Highway Administration is soliciting for capital improvement, enhancement, transit, planning, research, and safety proposals to receive funds through the Idaho Federal Lands Access Program in fiscal years 2029 - 2031. Proposal awards will be contingent upon availability of funds. **Proposals must be received by Friday, January 22, 2027.**

What is the purpose of the Federal Lands Access Program?

The purpose of the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) is to improve transportation facilities that provide access to, are adjacent to, or are located within Federal Lands. The FLAP helps supplements State and local resources for public roads, transit systems, and other transportation facilities, with an emphasis on high-use recreation sites and economic generators.

Where can proposals be located?

Proposals must be located on Federal Lands Access Transportation Facilities. Federal Lands Access Transportation Facilities means a public highway, road, bridge, trail, or transit system that is located on, is adjacent to, or provides access to Federal lands for which title or maintenance responsibility is vested in a state, borough, town, township, tribal, municipal, or local government. Maintenance means the preservation of the entire roadway surface, shoulders, roadside ditches, drainage structures, bridges, and traffic control devices necessary for safe and efficient operations. Vested maintenance responsibility means that the majority of the cost for these activities is borne by the state, borough, town, township, tribal, municipal, or local government.

Applicants are to include supporting documentation which clearly shows which agency has title and/or maintenance responsibility of the facilities.

Who may apply?

All proposals must be submitted jointly by the agency with title or vested maintenance responsibility (State, county, town, township, tribal, municipal or local government) for the Federal Lands Access Transportation Facility and the Federal Land Management Agency(ies) (FLMA) whose lands are accessed. Early coordination between the appropriate FLMA and

state/county/local/tribal government is encouraged to ensure adequate time for thorough review and input before the submittal due date.

Proposals must be signed by the appropriate following agency officials:

<u>Federal Agency</u>	<u>Signing Official</u>
National Park Service	Park Superintendent
US Forest Service	Forest Supervisor
US Fish & Wildlife Service	Hatchery/Refuge Manager
Bureau of Land Management	Field Manager
Bureau of Reclamation	Area Manager
US Army Corps of Engineers	Natural Resources Manager
Department of Defense	Installation Commander
<u>Local Agency</u>	<u>Signing Official</u>
Idaho Transportation Department	District Engineer
County	Commissioner
Highway District	Commissioner
City, Town	Mayor
Tribe	Tribal Chair
Transit District	District Manager/Director

Proposals that do not have the signatures that are listed above will not be eligible for consideration. If the FLMA was not listed above and/or you have any questions regarding the appropriateness of the signing official, please contact the WFL Programming Team (see contact info below). Electronic signatures are acceptable.

What types of proposals will be considered?

Proposals will be accepted for the following:

Capital Improvements - These proposals could include:

- Rehabilitation, restoration, construction, and reconstruction of roads and bridges;
- Safety improvements, widening, realignments, surfacing, culverts, signing, guardrail, walls and associated roadway appurtenances. and
- Trail-related improvements such as interpretive signing, kiosks, viewpoints, and vehicular parking areas at trailheads.

Surface Preservation - These proposals include chip seal, crack sealing and aggregate courses for roads, trails and adjacent vehicular parking areas.

Transit - These proposals include construction of transit facilities and limited duration operation/maintenance of transit services and facilities (including vehicles).

Planning - These proposals include engineering studies, corridor management planning, multimodal transportation planning and road safety audits. These studies or plans should primarily address access to federal public lands that will provide valuable information for future eligible FLAP nomination proposals.

Proposals should also be consistent with a statewide, regional, county, local, or tribal transportation plan and a Federal Land Management Plan. Proposals that are specifically identified in a transportation plan will receive additional consideration.

What size proposal will be considered?

The Idaho Federal Lands Access Program is currently estimated to receive about \$17 million annually. Projects will not receive additional consideration when other funding sources are leveraged, however, it is encouraged to further the FLAP funding. This call does not limit the requested amount and every project will be reviewed based on merit and feasibility. Larger projects are encouraged, especially if the project can be subdivided into smaller phases. For example, if a project could be included in a larger corridor improvements project, please provide that information in the proposal because there may be opportunities to leverage other fund sources. If FLAP funds the first phase or a portion of a larger project, it is not a commitment to fund future phases solely from FLAP.

The best available data should be used in developing the initial cost estimate. Typically, if project construction costs exceed the originally approved program amount, the proposal proponents will be responsible to provide the additional funds.

Are matching funds required?

The program does not require matching funds; however, it is encouraged for the applicant provide additional funds to further the Federal Lands Access Program funding. Applicants may elect to provide additional funds to contribute to the project. Additional contributions secured or being sought to implement towards the project should be described in the proposal.

Are Tribes eligible to apply for Federal Lands Access Program funding?

Tribes may apply for Federal Lands Access Program funding if the road or facility being proposed for funding is owned or operated by the Tribe and provides access to a Federally-owned land (not a Tribal land or private land). For example, a Tribally-owned road (as opposed to a BIA-owned road) that provides access to a national park or national forest is eligible for the Federal Lands Access Program.

How do I submit a proposal?

The best available data should be used in completing the project proposal forms. Maps and photos must be included to support the proposal. Maps must include project locations, project limits or termini, high use federal recreation sites, federal economic generators, and most importantly, **show the Federal Lands accessed by the proposal**. Letters of support from other entities may also be included. **The Excel document must be used to generate project costs and a copy of the Excel file must be submitted along with the PDF application document.**

Email the completed proposal form with all required signatures, maps, photos and any letters of support and the cost estimate Excel file of the estimate to:

WFL.CallForProjects@dot.gov

The proposal must be received by **January 22, 2027**. The entire proposal packet (the proposal form, estimate, signature pages, maps, photos, and any letters of support) should not exceed 10 megabytes in file size and must not exceed 30 pages. Please include supporting documentation on facility ownership; it will not be counted towards the proposal page limit.

Copies of this letter, evaluation criteria, proposal instruction checklist, proposal form, and webinar announcement can be downloaded from the following website.

[Idaho Federal Lands Access Program | FHWA](#)

How will the proposals be evaluated?

A Technical Advisory Group (TAG) will review the proposals according to the following evaluation criteria (see attached for additional details): Recreation/Economic, Safety, Asset Investment, Mobility, and Readiness/Support. Preference shall be given to proposals that provide access to high-use federal recreation sites or federal economic generators, as identified by the Federal Land Management Agency.

The TAG will be facilitated by the WFLHD and include representatives from the Idaho Transportation Department, Local Highway Technical Assistance Council, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, National Park Service, U.S Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Forest Service. The TAG may request additional information during the evaluation process. Proponents should be ready to provide documentation that substantiates, clarifies or appends any information provided in the proposals.

How will a final decision be made on the proposals?

The Program Decision Committee (PDC) made up of representatives from WFLHD, Idaho Transportation Department and the Local Highway Technical Assistance Council will make a final decision on the proposals. The PDC will make these decisions based on the evaluation criteria and recommendations of the TAG, and coordination with the Federal Land Management Agencies prior to making a final decision.

The TAG should complete initial proposal evaluations by March 2027. Final recommendations of the TAG and PDC final decisions on the proposals are currently scheduled for Summer 2027.

Who will be the lead agency for project delivery?

The preferred lead agency for project delivery will usually be WFLHD. Project delivery consists of Federal environmental compliance, design, construction contract advertisement, and construction contract administration. However, the lead agency and participating agencies roles will be considered during proposal evaluation. On a case-by-case basis, it may be determined that another Federal agency or the local agency is the best fit to deliver the project. Decisions regarding lead and participating agency roles will be based on project type, project complexity, proposed delivery, previous experience in delivering Federal Highway (Title 23) funded projects, and ability to meet Federal Highway Administration project delivery requirements. WFLHD or the FHWA Division Office will be responsible for stewardship and oversight of the project to assure compliance with Federal requirements.

The administration and S&O of FLAP funded State and sub-recipients of the State delivered projects will be performed by the FHWA Idaho Division Office (FHWA-ID) once a programming letter has been sent to all interested parties. The S&O of FLAP State and LHTAC delivered projects will fall under the purview of the existing S&O agreement between the FHWA-ID and ITD. FLAP funds will be made available for obligation in the Fiscal Management Information System (FMIS) following all FHWA practices and requirements.

FLAP funded projects delivered by ITD or LHTAC will align with ITD's Local Agency Program for Federal-aid Highway project.

The PDC may elect to have projects scoped on a case-by-case basis. The PDC may program a placeholder amount for the proposed project. The placeholder amount can be changed by the PDC based on a final programming decision pending the scoping effort. The scoping report with options for the project will be presented to the PDC for a final programming decision.

What if I have questions?

In conjunction with this request for proposals, WFLHD will conduct an informational webinar on October 28th, 2026. This webinar will provide information to potential applicants on the FLAP, eligibility, evaluation criteria, how to submit proposals, and helpful hints for filling out proposal forms. See the attached webinar announcement for details.

In the meantime, if you have questions you can contact the WFLHD Programming Team or the FLAP coordinator for your agency.

Agency	Contact	Email Address
Federal Highway Administration Western Federal Lands Highway Division	Programming Team	WFL.CallForProjects@dot.gov
Idaho Department of Transportation	Bradley Wolfinger	bradley.wolfinger@itd.idaho.gov
Local Highway Technical Assistance Council	Muhammad Zubery	MZubery@lhtac.org
US Forest Service	Kevin Bourne	kevin.bourne@usda.gov
National Park Service	Jon Christensen	Jon_Christensen@nps.gov
Bureau of Land Management	Thane Syverson	tsyverson@blm.gov
US Fish & Wildlife Service	Anders Kosnett	Alexander_kosnett@fws.gov
US Army Corps of Engineers	Alana Mesenbrink	Alana.f.mesenbrink@usace.army.mil
Highways for National Defense Program	Douglas Briggs	Douglas.e.briggs.civ@mail.mil
Bureau of Reclamation	Heather Lawrence	hlawrence@usbr.gov

Additional information, guidance, and FAQs regarding the Federal Lands Access Program may also be found at the following website:

[Idaho Federal Lands Access Program | FHWA](#)

Sincerely yours,

WFLHD Programming Team

Enclosures:

Proposal Form

Joint Endorsement Form

Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Proposal Instruction Checklist

Webinar Announcement

Schedule

cc:

Matthew Miller, Planning, Programming & Environment Branch Chief, WFLHD

Bradley Wolfinger, ITD

Muhammad Zubery, LHTAC

Kevin Bourne, USFS, Region 4

Keith Meredith, USFS, Region 1

Jon Christensen, NPS, Pacific West Regional

Thane Syverson, BLM Idaho

Anders Kosnett, USFWS, Pacific Region

Alana Mesenbrink, USACE

Douglas Briggs, Highways for National Defense, SDDC-TEA

Jamie Todt, Highways for National Defense, SDDC-TEA

Kyle Holman, FHWA Idaho Division

Kirk Loftsgaarden, Project Management Branch Chief, WFLHD

Benjamin Vincent, Highway Design Branch Chief, WFLHD

Michael Baron, Technical Systems Branch Chief, WFLHD