

Transportation Funding 101: Federal Funds

PRTPO EXECUTIVE BOARD BRIEFING
18 October 2019
Bremerton National Airport



Transportation Funding 101: Federal Funds

Federal Transportation Funding Basics

Federal Funds - Why the Bad Rap?

Oft-Overlooked Federal Funding Opportunities

Upcoming Federal Funding Opportunities



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Federal Transportation Funding Basics



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Federal Transportation Funding Basics

- A Federal funding program in multiple acts

1991 ISTEA

Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991

1998 TEA-21

Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century

2005 SAFETEA-LU

*Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act
– A Legacy for Users*

2012 MAP21

Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act

2015 FAST Act

Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act



Transportation Funding 101: Federal Funds

Federal Transportation Funding Basics

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Numerous funding programs in each federal act:

FHWA

- ❖ Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG)
 - *Includes Bridge Program*
- ❖ Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)
 - *Includes Safe Routes to School Program*
- ❖ Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)
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- ❖ Ferry Boat Formula Program
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and more...



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*Most flexible.
Multimodal.
Awarded thru
county processes
in this region,
except Kitsap.*

and more...



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*Awarded thru
PRTPO process.
Restricted uses,
mostly bike/ped.*

and more...



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State awards most funds
for local projects

and more...



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Numerous funding programs in each federal act:

FTA

- ❖ Bus and Bus Facilities (Section 5339)
- ❖ Enhanced Mobility for Seniors, People w/Disabilities (Section 5310)
- ❖ Passenger Ferry Grant Discretionary Program
- ❖ Rural Transportation Assistance Program (Section 5311)
- ❖ Urbanized Area Formula Grants (Section 5307)
 - *Kitsap Transit only*

and more...



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State awards most funds
for local projects thru
Consolidated Grants

and more...



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Federal Transportation Funding Basics

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- Most federal grants require a match
 - Matches vary by grant but typically range from 13.5% to 20%
 - Minimum match is rarely a competitive match for grants
 - Cannot match a federal grant with federal dollars
 - *Except BIA funds from tribes – federal formula funds for transportation can provide match for other federal grants*

Transportation Funding 101: Federal Funds

Federal Transportation Funding Basics

- A Federal funding program in multiple acts
- Most federal grants require a match
- These are reimbursement programs – no cash up front
 - *Local agency fronts the cost and is reimbursed up to a maximum amount*

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Transportation Funding 101: Federal Funds

Federal Funds – Why the Bad Rap?

Federal money is often easier
to **get** than to **spend**.

Transportation Funding 101: Federal Funds

Federal Funds – Why the Bad Rap?

- Obligation Authority targets are not to be missed
 - WSDOT establishes RTPO/County obligation targets every year
 - Delays to project obligation jeopardize project funding
 - *Delays are common – in particular, any phase of construction projects (PE, RW, CN) are complex to obligate*
 - State policy authorizes WSDOT removal of federal funds from projects that miss obligation targets and has no requirement to replace funds

Transportation Funding 101: Federal Funds

Federal Funds – Why the Bad Rap?

- Obligation Authority targets are not to be missed

- Project delivery implications for “federalizing” a project
 - Rigid construction management and documentation procedures
 - *Small agencies often not “certified” to manage their own projects*
 - All phases and all revenue sources subject to federal requirements
 - ROW acquisition and environmental requirements are long and costly
 - Construction project phases must be completed in ten years
 - *Or pay back federal funds*
 - Federal \$\$ drive up project delivery costs and administration costs

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- Lots of use restrictions come with federal funds

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- Amount of funds available to program is small given the complexity of federal requirements



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Transportation Funding 101: Federal Funds

Of-often overlooked Federal Funding Opportunities

- Transit projects – buses, vanpools, shelters, ADA and other access improvements
- Roadway resurfacing within the existing paved footprint
- Transportation planning, plans, and studies are eligible activities, as well as public engagement activities

These kinds of projects can obligate fast, require minimal environmental review, and are relatively easy to administer.

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Upcoming Federal Funding Opportunities

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*Look for a FLAP call for projects by May 2020.
Contact Thera or Ed for PRTPO help with consistency and letter of support, to review application materials, bounce ideas, etc.*

and more...



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Upcoming Federal Funding Opportunities

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

- TAP projects are often described as non-motorized or active travel projects, but also include other “alternative” project types
- PRTPO can award \$215,000 per year in TAP funds to priority regional projects and should award multiple years at one time
- In 2020, PRTPO will identify recipients for these funds from a call for projects that will be developed by the TAC and Board over the next few months and carried out after the first of the year