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
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Federal Transportation Funding Basics

➢ A Federal funding program in multiple acts

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)
➢ Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP)
➢ Ferry Boat Formula Program
➢ National Mega-Grants (INFRA, BUILD, selected by USDOT)

and more...
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Most flexible. Multimodal. Awarded thru county processes in this region, except Kitsap.
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Awarded thru PRTPO process. Restricted uses, mostly bike/ped.
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and more…
Numerous funding programs in each federal act:

- 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…

Serving the communities of the Clallam-Jefferson-Kitsap-Mason County Region
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and more…

State awards most funds for local projects thru Consolidated Grants

Serving the communities of the Clallam-Jefferson-Kitsap-Mason County Region
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Federal Transportation Funding Basics

➢ A Federal funding program in multiple acts

➢ 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
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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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Federal Transportation Funding Basics

- A Federal funding program in multiple acts
- Most federal grants require a match
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- Cannot “obligate” funds unless project in the STIP
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Federal Funds – Why the Bad Rap?

Federal money is often easier to **get** than to **spend**.
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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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Federal Funds – Why the Bad Rap?

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➢ Project delivery implications for “federalizing” a project

➢ Some grantors – like TIB – reward projects that don’t have federal funds in the revenue package
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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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Oft-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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And more...

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.
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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