



Federal Lands Access Program

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG.

Background

- The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) established a new funding source called the Federal Lands Access Program, or FLAP.
- FLAP is intended to assist USACE and other Federal Land Management Agencies (FLMAs) improve visitor access and economic development to Federal lands through transportation infrastructure investment on assets that provide access to, are adjacent to, or are located within, Corps land.

Funding

- FLAP funding is sub-allocated to states at approximately \$250 million per year national funding using a statutory formula distribution based on annual visitation, acres of Federal land, miles of federally owned public roads, and number of federally owned public bridges.
- FLAP funding will be available the year funds are allocated plus three more years, for a total of four years.
- Funds are normally obligated to state or local partners and become protected from expiring as long as the funds are expended on a frequent schedule and within the terms of the project agreement.
- All selected projects are required to be under a uniform Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) provided by Federal Lands and will include all project partners as signatories.

Project Selection Process

- A call for projects is formally issued for FLAP funding in a particular state by the respective Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Office of Federal Lands Highway (FLH) Division Office.
- Programming decisions for each state's respective share of FLAP funding are made by the Programming Decisions Committee (PDC) comprised of the Federal Highway Administration, State Department of Transportation, and a local public agency representative (e.g., the state association of county engineers, etc.).
- Many states include project selection criteria and program goals specific to that state. This information can be found at the State's FLAP webpage and is helpful for application preparation.
- AK, AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, and WY also enlist the input from a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) of FLMA representatives to help evaluate projects prior to submission to the PDC. The Corps is generally a member of the TAG.
- Projects can be delivered by FLH, FLMA, State DOT, or Local Public Agency (LPA). The final decision to determine which agency will deliver the project is made by the PDC and may include consultation with the local FHWA Federal Aid Division Office, State DOT members, and LPA officials.

Eligibility

- *Facilities*: roads, bridges, trails, transit systems, parking areas, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, roadside rest areas
- *Activities*: planning, research, engineering, preventive maintenance, rehabilitation, restoration, construction, reconstruction, acquisition of easements and scenic/historic sites, environmental mitigation, and transit system operations.
- Facility must be owned or maintained by a non-USACE entity such as a state, local government, or tribe

Key Facts

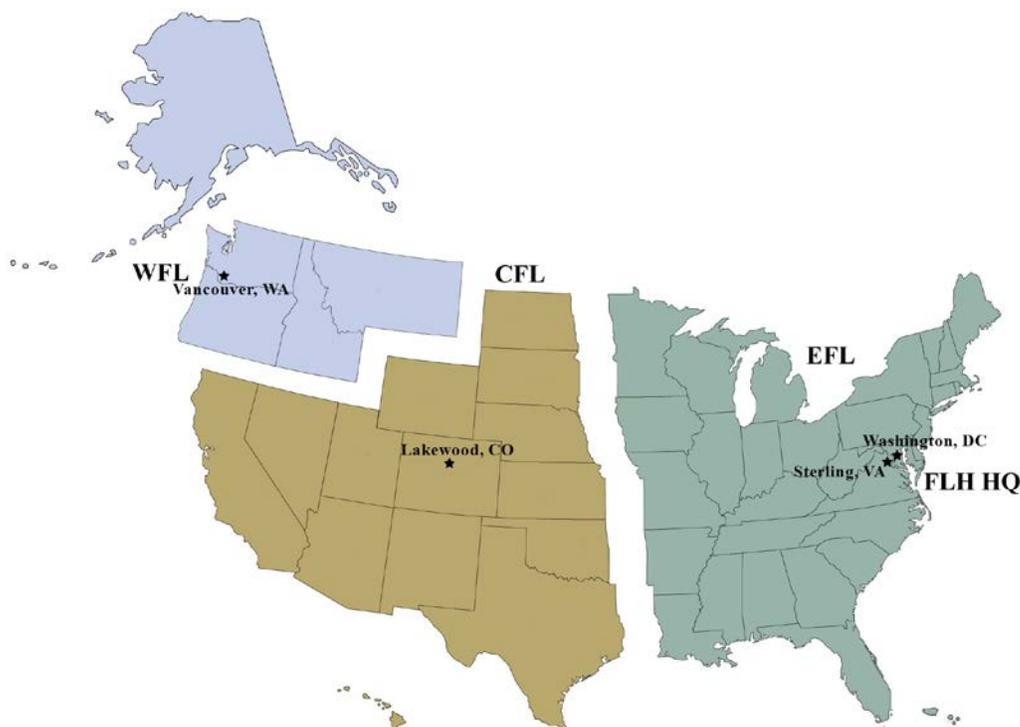
- Local match requirements vary per state, but most require 20%
 - Check with your local FLAP PDC point of contact.
- Preference is given to high-use FLMA sites or high economic generators relative to the region the FLMA serves.
- Funds are managed and administered through the FHWA's FLH Division Offices, and programmed by the PDC in each state.

Getting Started

1. Identify eligible partners among local jurisdictions who will drive the applications and provide the match to support the projects for improving access to USACE lands.
2. Review through the Eligibility and Project Selection Criteria guidance of the FLAP Implementation Guidance and consider existing needs that might meet the requirements. Think about known access and safety issues, and consider various modes—provisions for bicycle and pedestrian access are explicitly named as eligible improvements. Give special consideration to needs at the most popular PSAs, as preference will be given to Federal recreation areas with high visitation or that are Federal economic generators. Given these conditions, what kind of projects might be eligible for FLAP funding that will fulfill the identified needs? Develop a list of potential projects. Proposed projects tend to score higher when they have been identified in prior planning efforts for both the Corps and the entity maintaining the route that leads to Corps land.
3. Seek out your FLAP contact at the respective Federal Lands Highway Division Office to identify and confirm deadlines and requirements in your state. Ask them for information regarding the relevant Metropolitan or Regional Planning Commission whose jurisdiction may include your unit. State, Local Agencies, and Tribes are encouraged to coordinate with FWHA Federal Lands Division office and/or the State FHWA Division, along with the FLMA.
4. Coordinate with the owner or maintainer of the transportation facility (State, County, or Tribe). Coordinate with Corps Division and District level staff to identify potential stakeholders. Build local and regional public support for the project. Assist the owner or maintainer in obtaining letters of support from stakeholders. Provide information about the Project, public use and economic benefits that that support the application and scoring criteria. Complete the Federal Management Agency Support form.
5. Leveraged federal, state, or local funds and projects that serve more than one FLMA may be a strong candidate for selection.
6. You may also be contacted by the local entity maintaining the route to inquire whether your district or project office is interested in supporting a submission. The State and Local Agencies interested in a project need to work closely with the appropriate Corps unit in developing the application. All proposals must be submitted by the State or Local Agency with title or maintenance responsibility in close consultation with the FLMA. While FLTP funds may be used as the match for FLAP projects, at this time USACE is not using their FLTP funds for this purpose.



Federal Lands Highway Division Regions



- Eastern Federal Lands -- Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- Central Federal Lands -- Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Kansas, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Wyoming
- Western Federal Lands -- Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington

Links

- FLAP Website: <http://flh.fhwa.dot.gov/programs/flap/>. See specific State details for application information and requirements.
- Implementation Guidance: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/guidance/guideflap.cfm>
- FLAP Program Fact Sheet: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/factsheets/flap.cfm>
- Programming Decision Committee Contacts: <http://flh.fhwa.dot.gov/programs/flap/pdc-members.htm>

Questions

If you have additional questions contact Meredith Bridgers, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Institute for Water Resources, Meredith.Bridgers@usace.army.mil, 703-428-8458, or Frances Ramirez, Federal Lands Highway Program Coordinator, FHWA Office of Federal Lands Highway, Frances.Ramirez@dot.gov, (202) 493-0271.