

Federal Lands Access Program

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



How to Get Started

Funding Opportunity Bulletin - New Program Supporting Access to Federal Lands

The purpose of this funding opportunity bulletin is to alert national park units and partners of the opportunity to partner with State and local governments for projects eligible under this program. To receive NPS support projects must be aligned with Department of the Interior priorities and be endorsed by the NPS regional and WASO transportation offices. Park unit managers are responsible for coordination with state, local governments, NPS region, NPS WASO and the Secretary offices before making commitments to local communities, see [DOI guidance memorandum](#).

The Federal Highway Administration recently established a new funding source, the [Federal Lands Access Program \(FLAP\)](#), to assist national parks and other federal lands in improving access to their sites. The goal of the FLAP program, authorized under 23 U.S.C. 204, established under Section 1119 of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), Public Law 112-141 is to improve transportation facilities (i.e. public highway, road, bridge, trail, or transit system) that are located on, adjacent to, or provides access to federal lands. The transportation facility must be owned and/or maintained by a state, county municipality, and not a federal land agency [§1103; 23 USC 101(a)(7)].

The Director's A Call-to-Action #4 (C2A4) Team "In My Back Yard" has prepared this bulletin to take advantage of opportunities to improve access to park units, especially those in urban areas across the country.

Partnership Opportunity

The FLAP provides \$250 million by formula to the [States in Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2013 and FY 2014](#). As a State program, the National Park Service (NPS) has an opportunity to partner with states and local partners on transportation facility projects of importance to the parks. Transportation facilities must be owned and/or maintained by a state, county, town, township, municipal, tribal or local government and not a federal land agency [§1103; 23 USC 101(a)(7)]. Complementary Federal Lands Transportation Program (FLTP) funding can be used for projects on federal land units (e.g., NPS, Bureau of Land Management, Department of Defense, Fish and Wildlife, etc.) Park units **MUST** coordinate with State and Federal Highway coordinators. This is a new program in FY'13 and the Federal Land Division Offices are at different stages toward implementing the FLAP program.

Getting Started

1. Identify a project which meets the [Eligibility and Project Selection Criteria](#). Projects which provide for pedestrians and bicycles are explicitly included. Preference will be given to high-use federal recreation areas or federal economic generators.
2. Contact the appropriate Federal Highway's FLAP Coordinator and request information about the program in the state in which your project is located
3. Seek out the State representative on the "Programming Decision Committee" (PDC) to identify deadlines and requirements in your state and Metropolitan or Regional Planning Commission. The appropriate Federal Lands Access Program Coordinator should have the information on the status of each state's PDC.
4. Contact the [NPS Regional Transportation Program Coordinator](#) and the [NPS Regional Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program leader](#) (names listed below) for advice and recommendations of other partners and how to build support
5. Identify eligible partners who will drive the applications and provide the match to support the projects and build the partnership with the NPS.
6. Build local and regional support for the project.

Federal Highway's FLAP Coordinators

Eastern Federal Lands (33 States)
David Payne, 571-434-1543
David.Payne@dot.gov

Central Federal Lands (15 States)
Allen Grasmick, 720-963-3664
Allen.Grasmick@dot.gov

Western Federal Lands (6 States)
Tom Erkert, 360-619-7791
Tom.Erkert@dot.gov



Important Features of the FLAP

- Eighty percent of the funding from this program will be distributed to 12 western states leaving \$50M /year to be divided among the other 38 states.
- In most states, the FLAP will require a 20% local match. This percentage may be less for those states that have a higher acreage of federal land, and thus a higher level of funding from FLAP. The NPS' core transportation program – the Federal Land Transportation Program (FLTP) funds are eligible and can be considered as a match. The use of FLTP funds must be coordinated with respective [NPS Regional Transportation Managers](#). Other NPS appropriated funds are also allowed for matches as long as they are not included in Title 23 USC “Highways” and Title 49 USC “Transit”.
- This program is authorized for FY 2013 and FY 2014.
- Funding requires a local match and preference is given towards projects which access Federal high-use recreation sites or Federal economic generators.
- The funds are administered through the [FHWA's Federal Lands Highway \(FLH\) Division Offices](#) (Eastern, Central and Western), which either holds funds or transfers funds to the State Departments of Transportation, depending on the state.

Programming Decision Committee

Funding decisions are made by a three-member Programming Decision Committee (PDC), consisting of representatives from the State Department of Transportation (DOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and a representative of local interests.

Project Eligibility

Eligible projects include: Transportation planning, research, engineering, preventive maintenance, rehabilitation, restoration, construction, and reconstruction of Federal Lands Access Transportation Facilities located on or adjacent to, or that provide access to, Federal land, and

- Adjacent vehicular parking areas;
- Acquisition of necessary scenic easements and scenic or historic sites;
- Provisions for pedestrians and bicycles;
- Environmental mitigation in or adjacent to Federal land to improve public safety and reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality while maintaining habitat connectivity;
- Construction and reconstruction of roadside rest areas, including sanitary and water facilities; and
- Other appropriate public road facilities, as determined by the Secretary;
- Operation and maintenance of transit facilities; and
- Any transportation project eligible for assistance under Title 23 that is within or adjacent to, or that provides access to, Federal land.

Complete list of [project selection criteria](#)

C2A4 (Call to Action #4) Project Staff

Please contact C2A4 Staff for more information on the contents of this bulletin.

Jenny Staroska
Jennifer_Staroska@nps.gov
303.969.2297



Visitors experience Mississippi River National Recreation Area via Nice Ride MN, the Twin Cities' bike share system

Sources

[FHWA Fact Sheet](#)

[FHWA Guidance](#)

[Webinar](#) (October 26 recording and presentation available)

[FLAP Webinar](#) (Advocacy Advance)

[Federal Lands Highway Division Offices](#)