

Long-Term Outcomes .....	The Department will give more weight to this criterion than to either of the Secondary Selection Criteria. In addition, this criterion has a minimum threshold requirement. Projects that are unable to demonstrate a likelihood of significant long-term benefits in any of the five long-term outcomes identified in this criterion will not proceed in the evaluation process.
Jobs Creation & Economic Stimulus .....	The Department will give more weight to this criterion than to either of the Secondary Selection Criteria. This criterion will be considered after it is determined that a project demonstrates a likelihood of significant long-term benefits in at least one of the five long-term outcomes identified in the long-term outcomes criterion.
Innovation & Partnership .....	The Department will give less weight to these criteria than to the Primary Selection Criteria.
Project-Specific Criteria .....	The Department will only give weight to these criteria to the extent the Department needs to differentiate multiple similar projects that are rated similarly based on the Primary and Secondary Selection Criteria.

To be selected for a TIGER Discretionary Grant, a project must be an Eligible Project and the applicant must be an Eligible Applicant. The Department may consider one or more components of a large project to be an Eligible Project, but only to the extent that the components themselves, not the project of which they are a part, are Eligible Projects and satisfy the selection criteria specified in this notice. For these projects, the benefits described in an application must be related to the components of the project for which funding is requested, not the full project of which they are a part.

**C. Distribution of Funds**

As noted above in Section I (*Background*), the Recovery Act prohibits the award of more than 20 percent of the funds made available under this program to projects in any one State. The Recovery Act also requires that the Department take measures to ensure an equitable geographic distribution of funds and an appropriate balance in addressing the needs of urban and rural communities. The Department will apply an initial unconstrained competitive rating process based on the selection criteria and program-specific criteria identified above in Section II(A) (*Selection Criteria*) and Section II(C) (*Program-Specific Criteria*) to determine a preliminary list of projects recommended for TIGER Discretionary Grants. The Department will then analyze the preliminary list and determine whether the purely competitive ratings are consistent with distributional requirements of the Recovery Act. If necessary, the Department will adjust the list of recommended projects to satisfy the statutory distributional requirements while remaining as consistent as possible with the competitive ratings.

As noted above in Section II(B)(2)(b)(i) (*Jurisdictional & Stakeholder Collaboration*), applications submitted jointly by multiple States should include an allocation of project costs to assist the Department in making

these determinations. In addition, the Department will use the subsidy and administrative cost estimate, not the principal amount of credit assistance, to determine any TIGER TIFIA Payment's effect on these distributional requirements.

**D. Transparency of Process**

In the interest of transparency, the Department will disclose as much of the information related to its evaluation process as is practical. The Department expects that the TIGER Discretionary Grants program may be reviewed and/or audited by Congress, the U.S. Government Accountability Office, the Department's Inspector General, or others, and has and will continue to take steps to document its decision making process.

**IV. Grant Administration**

The Department expects that each TIGER Discretionary Grant will be administered by the modal administration in the Department with the most experience and/or expertise in the relevant project area (the "Cognizant Modal Administration"), pursuant to a grant agreement between the TIGER Discretionary Grant recipient and the Cognizant Modal Administration. In accordance with the Recovery Act, the Secretary has the discretion to delegate such responsibilities.

Applicable Federal laws, rules and regulations will apply to projects that receive TIGER Discretionary Grants, including all of the requirements included in the Recovery Act.

As noted above in Section II(B)(1)(b) (*Jobs Creation & Economic Stimulus*), how soon after award a project is expected to expend Grant Funds and start construction will be considered on a case-by-case basis and will be specified in the project-specific grant agreements. The Department reserves the right to revoke any award of TIGER Discretionary Grant funds and to award such funds to another project to the extent that such funds are not timely expended and/or construction does not begin in accordance with the project

schedule. The Department's ability to obligate funds for TIGER Discretionary Grants expires on September 30, 2011.

**V. Waiver of Minimum Grant Size Requirement**

The Department has discretion under the Recovery Act to waive the \$20 million minimum grant size requirement for Smaller Projects. Applicants for TIGER Discretionary Grants of less than \$20 million for Smaller Projects are encouraged to apply and should address the same criteria as applicants for TIGER Discretionary Grants in excess of \$20 million. The term "grant" in this provision of the Recovery Act does not include TIGER TIFIA Payments.

**VI. TIGER TIFIA Payments**

Up to \$200 million of the \$1.5 billion available for TIGER Discretionary Grants may be used for TIGER TIFIA Payments. Given the average subsidy cost of the existing TIFIA portfolio, \$200 million in TIGER TIFIA Payments could support approximately \$2 billion in Federal credit assistance. Applicants seeking TIGER TIFIA Payments should apply in accordance with all of the criteria and guidance specified in this notice for TIGER Discretionary Grant applicants and will be evaluated concurrently with all other applications. Any applicant seeking a TIGER TIFIA Payment is required to comply with all of the TIFIA program's standard application and approval requirements, including submission of a Letter of Interest prior to submission of a TIFIA application (the TIFIA program guide can be downloaded from <http://tifa.fhwa.dot.gov/>). The Letter of Interest must be submitted at least six weeks prior to the Application Deadline.

The Department does not expect applicants for TIGER TIFIA Payments to have received an instrument from TIFIA obligating Federal credit assistance for the project before the application is submitted; however, applicants should demonstrate that they are ready to proceed rapidly upon receipt of a TIGER

TIFIA Payment in accordance with the guidance specified above in Section II(B)(1)(b) (*Job Creation & Economic Stimulus*). The Department's TIFIA Joint Program Office will assist the Department in determining a project's readiness to proceed rapidly upon receipt of a TIGER TIFIA Payment.

Applicants seeking TIGER TIFIA Payments may also apply for a TIGER Discretionary Grant for the same project and must indicate the type(s) of funding for which they are applying clearly on the face of their applications. An applicant for a TIGER TIFIA Payment must submit an application pursuant to this notice for a TIGER TIFIA Payment even if it does not wish to apply for a TIGER Discretionary Grant.

Unless otherwise expressly noted herein, any and all requirements that apply to TIGER Discretionary Grants pursuant to the Recovery Act, this notice, or otherwise, including all reporting and Recovery Act related requirements, apply to TIGER TIFIA Payments. TIFIA applicants that do not receive TIGER TIFIA Payments will not be required to comply with any of these requirements.

## VII. Contents of Application

An applicant for a TIGER Discretionary Grant should include all of the information requested below in its application. The Department reserves the right to ask any applicant to supplement the data in its application, but expects applications to be complete upon submission. To the extent practical, the Department encourages applicants to provide data and evidence of project merits in a form that is publicly available or verifiable. For TIGER TIFIA Payments, these requirements apply only to the applications required under this notice; the standard TIFIA loan application requirements, including the standard \$30,000.00 application fee, are separately described in the Program Guide and Application Form found at <http://tifa.fhwa.dot.gov/>.

### A. Length of Applications

The narrative portion of an application should not exceed 25 pages in length. Documentation supporting the assertions made in the narrative portion may also be provided, but should be limited to relevant information. If possible, Web site links to supporting documentation should be provided rather than copies of these materials. At the applicant's discretion, relevant materials provided previously to a Cognizant Modal Administration (as defined below) in support of a different DOT discretionary program (for

example, New Starts or TIFIA) may be referenced and described as unchanged. To the extent referenced, this information need not be resubmitted for the TIGER Discretionary Grant application.

### B. Contact Information

An application should include the name, phone number, e-mail address and organization address of the primary point of contact for the applicant. The Department will use this information to inform parties of the Department's decision regarding selection of projects, as well as to contact parties in the event that the Department needs additional information about an application.

### C. Project Description

An application should include a detailed description of the proposed project and geospatial data for the project, including a map of the project's location and its connections to existing transportation infrastructure. An application should also include a description of how the project addresses the needs of an urban and/or rural area. An application should clearly describe the transportation challenges that the project aims to address, and how the project will address these challenges. This description should include relevant data such as, for example, passenger or freight volumes, congestion levels, infrastructure condition, or safety experience.

### D. Project Parties

An application should include information about the grant recipient and other project parties.

### E. Grant Funds and Sources and Uses of Project Funds

An application should include information about the amount of grant funding requested, sources and uses of all project funds, total project costs, percentage of project costs that would be paid for with TIGER Discretionary Grant funds, and the identity and percentage shares of all parties providing funds for the project (including Federal funds provided under other programs).

### F. Selection Criteria

An application must include information required for the Department to assess each of the criteria specified in Section II(A) (*Selection Criteria*), as such criteria are explained in Section II(B) (*Additional Guidance on Selection Criteria*), and each of the relevant criteria specified in Section II(C) (*Program-Specific Criteria*). Applicants are encouraged to demonstrate the

responsiveness of a project to any and all of the selection criteria with the most relevant information that applicants can provide, regardless of whether such information has been specifically requested, or identified, in this notice. Any such information shall be considered part of the application, not supplemental, for purposes of the application size limits identified above in item A (*Length of Applications*). If an applicant is unsure whether any of the program-specific criteria apply to its project and should be addressed in its application the applicant should contact the Department pursuant to the procedures specified below in Section X (*Questions and Clarifications*). Information provided pursuant to this paragraph must be quantified, to the extent possible, to describe the project's impacts on the Nation, a metropolitan area, or a region. Information provided pursuant to this paragraph should include projections for both the build and no-build scenarios for the project for a point in time at least 20 years beyond the project's completion date or the lifespan of the project, whichever is closest to the present.

### G. Federal Wage Rate Requirement

An application must include a certification, signed by the applicant, stating that it will comply with the requirements of subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code (Federal wage rate requirements), as required by the Recovery Act.

### H. National Environmental Policy Act Requirement

An application must detail whether the project will significantly impact the natural, social and/or economic environment. If the NEPA process is completed, an applicant must indicate the date of, and provide a Web site link or other reference to, the final Categorical Exclusion, Finding of No Significant Impact or Record of Decision. If the NEPA process is underway but not complete, the application must detail where the project is in the process, indicate the anticipated date of completion and provide a Web site link or other reference to copies of any NEPA documents prepared.

### I. Environmentally Related Federal, State and Local Actions

An application must indicate whether the proposed project is likely to require actions by other agencies (e.g., permits), indicate the status of such actions and provide a Web site link or other reference to materials submitted to the other agencies, and/or demonstrate