



CAGTC

Coalition for America's Gateways & Trade Corridors

**The New Federal INFRA Grant Program:
*Opportunities & Challenges for States & Localities***

Leslie Blakey, President

What is CAGTC?

- Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors: Founded in 2001 as a national advocacy organization for freight infrastructure
- Mission: Raise public recognition and Congressional awareness of the nation's freight needs and to promote sufficient funding in federal legislation for our multimodal goods movement system
- Composition: 60+ member organizations that are geographically and politically diverse from the public & private sectors

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Gateway to Solutions

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LONG BEACH
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Florida East Coast
RAILWAY



WILL COUNTY
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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Oregon
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INFRA Grants

- Created by the FAST Act in 2015
 - Named the Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects program by statute; referred to as FASTLANE by Obama Administration
- FY2017-FY2018 round provides ~\$1.5 billion in funding
 - ~\$710 billion rolled over from Oct. 2016 NOFO; ~\$900 million in contract authority from FAST (subject to FY18 THUD)

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INFRA Grants

- Eligible Projects:
 - Highway freight projects on the NHFN
 - Highway or bridge projects on the NHS
 - Grade crossing/separation projects
 - Freight rail, water (including ports), or other freight intermodal projects— subject to a \$500 million cap over 5 years
- Minimum project size:
 - Large projects: lesser of \$100 million or 30% state FY16 apportionment
 - Small projects: doesn't meet large project requirements
- Minimum grant amount:
 - Large projects: \$25 million
 - Small projects: \$5 million

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INFRA Grants: New Merit Criteria

- Support for National or Regional Economic Vitality
 - Prioritize projects that address congestion in major urban areas, bridge gaps in service to rural areas, and attract private economic development
- Leverage Federal Funding
- Use Innovative Approaches in 3 Areas:
 - Environmental review and permitting
 - Experimental project delivery authorities
 - Safety and technology
- Performance and Accountability

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INFRA Grants: Other Changes

- USDOT indicated they may elect to go above and beyond the 25% threshold for rural areas
- Will focus on projects that result in construction
 - The FAST Act also allows for projects that fund development phase activities
- \$326 million of the \$500 million intermodal cap remains for freight rail, water (including ports), or other freight intermodal projects

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INFRA Grants: How To Apply

- NOFO provides a suggested application format
- Grants.gov portal to open by Aug. 1, 2017
- Applications due by 8pm on Nov. 2, 2017
 - USDOT encourages early submissions

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INFRA Grants: Key Questions

- Is submitting your old FASTLANE application with an appendix a good idea?
- Do applicants need an entirely new BCA?
- Should applications address every merit criteria? Are the criteria weighted?
- For leveraging – does USDOT prefer private funding over state/local?
- What about FASTLANE round 2 small projects awaiting awards– should they still apply for INFRA?
- Who's making these decisions and when will we see them?

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