

WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff Washington Update - October 31, 2016 - Interim Update

On Friday, US DOT announced it is soliciting applications for up to \$850M in FY'17 FASTLANE grants. The FASTLANE program was established in the FAST Act to fund critical multi-modal freight and highway projects across the country.

As with the first solicitation in FY'16, applications consist of a project narrative and a benefit-cost analysis. Applications are due December 15, at 8:00 pm. Here is a [link](#) to the DOT announcement and a [link](#) to the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). The notice will be published in the Federal Register shortly. Here is a [link](#) to a list of the 212 projects, totaling \$9.8B in funding, that submitted applications for the first round of FASTLANE and a [link](#) to the 18 projects, totaling \$759.2M, selected in that round.

According to the NOFO, because the FY'17 evaluation criteria does not differ from the criteria in the FY'16 solicitation and because applications must be submitted within 45 days of this notice, US DOT anticipates that some FY'16 applicants who did not receive FY'16 awards will resubmit their applications with few or no changes. If an applicant is re-applying for a project, the applicant should highlight new or revised information in the application. This will improve the evaluation process by allowing US DOT to avoid redundant evaluations and focus evaluation resources on new information. To the extent that a resubmitted application contains few or no changes, USDOT may rely on previous analysis when considering the project for a FY'17 award."

The total amount of funding that will be available for awards is currently only an estimate because the Department is issuing the NOFO before full-year appropriations legislation has been enacted for FY'17. Although the grant awards will not be made until the next Administration is in office, DOT officials want to get the FASTLANE program on a regular, predictable selection cycle and allow the new Administration, if they so choose, to make prompt grant announcements.