

Today, US DOT published the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the FAST Act's freight discretionary grant program. This program, named "Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects (NSFHP)" program in the FAST Act, has been renamed the "Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-term Achievement of National Efficiencies (FASTLANE)" grant program by US DOT. Here is a [link](#) to the NOFO. It details eligible applicants, eligible projects, minimum project size requirements, and application procedures. In FY'16, \$800M is available for this program. Applications are due by 8pm EDT on April 14, 2016.

Included below is a press release on the FASTLANE grant program. Here is a [link](#) to FAQs prepared by US DOT. US DOT will be holding a series of [webinars](#) on the NOFO during the month of March.

Thursday, March 3, 2016 - 1-3pm – How to Compete for FASTLANE Grants
Wednesday, March 9, 2016 - 1-3pm – How to Compete for FASTLANE Grants
Thursday, March 10, 2016 - 2-4pm – FASTLANE Grants: Preparing a BCA
Thursday, March 17, 2016 - 1-3pm – How to Compete for FASTLANE Grants

For more information on the FASTLANE grant program, see the USDOT FASTLANE [website](#).

USDOT Requests Applications for \$800 Million New FASTLANE Grant Program

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) announced that it is now soliciting applications for the Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-term Achievement of National Efficiencies ([FASTLANE](#)) grant program. The FASTLANE program is a new program in the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act to fund critical freight and highway projects across the country. The FAST Act authorizes \$800 million in funding for the FASTLANE program for fiscal year 2016, with 25 percent reserved for rural projects, and 10 percent for smaller projects.

"Our nation needs a strong multimodal freight system to both compete in the global economy and meet the needs of consumers and industry," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. "We now have an opportunity to fund high-impact projects that address key challenges affecting the movement of people and freight."

The [FASTLANE grant program](#) provides funding for projects of national or regional significance. FASTLANE grants provide dedicated funding for projects that address major issues facing our nation's highways and bridges. For the first time in the U.S. Department of Transportation's 50-year history, the program establishes broad, multiyear eligibilities for freight infrastructure, including intermodal projects.

FASTLANE grants will address many of the challenges outlined in the USDOT report *Beyond Traffic*, including increased congestion on the nation's highways and the need for a strong multimodal transportation system to support the expected growth in freight movement both by

ton and value. It is also in line with the Department's draft [*National Freight Strategic Plan*](#) released in October 2015, which looks at challenges and identifies strategies to address impediments to the efficient flow of goods throughout the nation.

FASTLANE grants, authorized by the FAST Act's Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects (NSFHP) program, will fund small and large projects, based on project size, that meet statutory requirements. Large projects (equal to the lesser of \$100 million or a certain specified statutory percentage of the project state's FY 2015 apportionment) are eligible for a minimum award of \$25 million. Small projects, which consist of projects below the minimum large project size threshold, are eligible for a minimum award of \$5 million.

The NSFHP program is authorized at \$4.5 billion through 2020. Applications for FY 2016 are due on April 14, 2016. For more information, including a schedule of webinars on the program, please visit www.transportation.gov/FASTLANEgrants. The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is available [HERE](#).