About BUILD Grants

The Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development, or BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant program, provides a unique opportunity for the DOT to invest in road, rail, transit and port projects that promise to achieve national objectives. Previously known as Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery, or TIGER Discretionary Grants, Congress has dedicated nearly $7.1 billion for ten rounds of National Infrastructure Investments to fund projects that have a significant local or regional impact.

In each competition, DOT receives hundreds of applications to build and repair critical pieces of our freight and passenger transportation networks. The BUILD program enables DOT to examine these projects on their merits to help ensure that taxpayers are getting the highest value for every dollar invested.

The eligibility requirements of BUILD allow project sponsors at the State and local levels to obtain funding for multi-modal, multi-jurisdictional projects that are more difficult to support through traditional DOT programs. BUILD can fund port and freight rail projects, for example, which play a critical role in our ability to move freight, but have limited sources of Federal funds. BUILD can provide capital funding directly to any public entity, including municipalities, counties, port authorities, tribal governments, MPOs, or others in contrast to traditional Federal programs which provide funding to very specific groups of applicants (mostly State DOTs and transit agencies). This flexibility allows BUILD and our traditional partners at the State and local levels to work directly with a host of entities that own, operate, and maintain much of our transportation infrastructure, but otherwise cannot turn to the Federal government for support.

Program Background

Since 2009, the Program has provided a combined $7.1 billion to 554 projects in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands: $1.5 billion for TIGER I, $600 million for TIGER II, $527 million for TIGER III, $500 million for TIGER IV, $474 million for TIGER V, $600 million for TIGER VI, $500 million for TIGER VII, $500 million for TIGER VIII, $500 million for TIGER IX, and $1.5 billion for BUILD FY 2018.

This opportunity has allowed DOT to fund 51 innovative capital projects in TIGER I and an additional 42 capital projects in TIGER II. TIGER II also featured a new Planning Grant category through which 33 planning projects were also funded. In TIGER III, DOT awarded 46 capital projects in 33 states and Puerto Rico. In TIGER IV, DOT awarded 47 capital projects in 34 states and the District of Columbia. TIGER V saw 52 capital projects in 37 states, while TIGER VI awarded 41 capital projects and 31 planning projects in 46 states and the District of Columbia. TIGER VII awarded 39 capital projects in 33 states and TIGER VIII awarded 40 capital projects to 32 states and two U.S. territories. TIGER IX awarded 41 capital projects across 43 states. This year, BUILD awarded 91 capital projects across 49 states and the District of Columbia.

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Since 2009, the Program has awarded nearly $2.4 billion in Federal funding to 233[i] rural projects across the nation, leveraging an estimated $3.9 billion in non-BUILD/TIGER funding.

The BUILD program enables DOT to use a rigorous merit-based process to select projects with exceptional benefits, explore ways to deliver projects faster and save on construction costs, and make needed investments in our Nation's infrastructure.

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[i]Some projects designated as rural include rural and urban components.

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BUILD Home

Related Links

- BUILD NOFO
- BUILD 2018 Awards

Related Documents

- TIGER Performance Measurement Biennial Report - 2016
- TIGER Performance Measurement Guidance - Appendix A
- TIGER Performance Measurement Report - Appendix B - Full Case Writeups
- TIGER Performance Measurement Biennial Report - 2018

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