

Linking Iowa's Freight Transportation System Program



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Introductions



Tammy Nicholson,
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Transportation



Laura Hutzell, Program
Manager, Office of Rail
Transportation

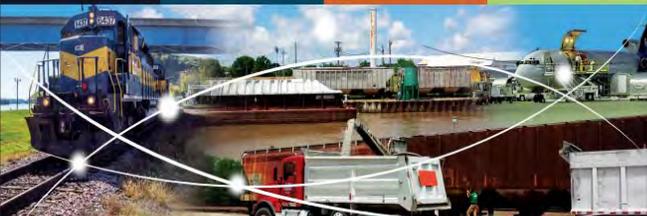
Purpose of Today's Webinar:

- Learn about LIFTS program
- How to apply
- Opportunity to ask questions

Agenda

- Linking Iowa's Freight Transportation System Program
 - Overview & Program Purpose
 - Funding
 - Eligibility
 - Eligible/Ineligible Costs
 - Application
 - Project Evaluation
 - Schedule

Linking Iowa's Freight Transportation System Program



In fall 2015, the Iowa DOT has a one-time funding source of \$2.6 million for the new Linking Iowa's Freight Transportation System (LIFTS) program. This funding will be used for an initial round of project solicitation and awards that will demonstrate the demand and value of the LIFTS program to support future investments.

Linking Iowa's Freight Transportation System Program will provide flexible funding to address freight transportation needs wherever they are and encourage partnerships to leverage federal, local and private funding.

The purpose of the program is to:

- Enhance economic development by improving the multimodal freight transportation system. A strong multimodal infrastructure makes Iowa more attractive to new business development.
- Enhance the ability to provide competitive transportation options for shipment of products and moving goods. Today's companies are demanding the multimodal infrastructure needed to remain competitive in a global marketplace.
- Provide flexible funding for the changing demands of the freight transportation system. Flexible funding allows creative solutions for Iowa's unique infrastructure needs.
- Provide incentives to alternate modes for economic development partnership opportunities. Funding not tied to a specific mode will allow Iowa to leverage limited or more specific funding.

Examples of the types of projects that may be funded include:

- Transload facilities where products can be transferred between rail and truck
- Ramps or docks for loading/unloading air cargo
- Capacity improvements at barge terminal facilities
- Increase weight capacity to use heavier 286,000 lb. rail cars
- Intermodal facility in partnership with private industry
- Expand or reconfigure rail yards to increase capacity or reduce dwell time
- Barge transload facilities where products can be transferred from barge to rail or truck
- Rehabilitate rail, barge or air freight infrastructure to improve condition or capacity to meet needs of Iowa business or industry
- Remove height or width restrictions on existing

Overview

- Grant funding opportunity to improve Iowa's freight transportation system
- Seeks to address gaps in multimodal funding
- Funding not limited to a particular mode

Purpose

- Enhance economic development by improving multimodal freight transportation system
- Provide flexible funding for changing demands of freight transportation system
- Enhance ability to provide competitive transportation options for shipment of products and moving goods
- Provide incentives to alternate modes for economic development partnership purposes

LIFTS Funding

- **For FY 2016**
 - \$2.6 million in grant funds
 - Reimbursement program
 - Demonstrate demand and value of LIFTS program to support future investments

Eligible Applicants

- Applicant Eligibility:
 - Transportation provider or user
 - City or county
 - Planning organization
 - Other entity interested in freight transportation

Match

- Public applicants or public-private partnerships
 - Eligible for **80%** grant funding
- Private applicants
 - Eligible for **50%** grant funding

Title 23 – Eligible Costs

Must demonstrate public benefit.

Must meet USC Title 23 eligibility when utilizing State Infrastructure Bank funding.

USC Title 23 Project Criteria (summarized):

- A public freight rail facility or a private facility providing public benefit for highway users by way of direct freight interchange between highway and rail carriers;
- A modal link to transfer freight between modes
- A non-highway means of access to a freight facility
- A service improvement for a freight rail facility or a modal transfer facility

- Additional criteria for Port Projects:
- If located within the boundaries of a port terminal, includes only such surface transportation infrastructure modifications as are necessary to facilitate direct intermodal interchange, transfer, and access into and out of the port

Eligible Costs

Eligible project costs:

- Modernization, upgrading or expansion of existing and new freight transportation facilities that support direct freight interchange between highway and rail carriers
- Modernization, upgrading or expansion of existing and new modal links, including air freight facilities, water port facilities, intermodal facilities, and transload locations.
- Infrastructure that is integral to a freight transportation system, including bridges, docks, and equipment.
- Right of way acquisition costs
- Planning and feasibility studies of a freight facility
- Equipment that is integral to a freight transportation improvement.

Ineligible Costs

- **Ineligible project costs:**

- Passenger rail
- Public transit and commuter rail
- Recreational trails
- Rolling stock
- Highway-RR crossing safety and surface improvements not associated with a LIFTS eligible project
- Transportation tourist sites
- Highway projects typically eligible for traditional highway funding
- Engineering not associated with a LIFTS eligible project

No part of a project may be started until an agreement is signed. An advanced eligibility waiver may be available that will allow reimbursement of certain preparatory expenditures.

Eligible Projects

- **Examples of the types of projects that may be funded:**
 - Transload facilities where products are transferred between rail and truck
 - Capacity improvements at barge terminals
 - Intermodal Facilities
 - Barge transload facilities where products can be transferred from barge to truck
 - Remove height or width restrictions on existing infrastructure that inhibit the movement of freight
 - Ramps or docks for loading/unloading air cargo
 - Increase weight capacity to use heavier 286,000 lb. rail cars
 - Expand or reconfigure rail yards to increase capacity or reduce dwell time.
 - Safety improvements to increase freight capacity

LIFTS Project Application

Applications will include:

- Contact Information
- Project partners
- Purpose, need and benefits of the project
- LIFTS funding request including match
- Freight transportation Benefits
- Economic benefits
- Public benefits
- Project readiness
- Location map
- Sketch diagram
- Itemized cost estimate
- Project schedule

LIFTS Project Application

- Application available on the LIFTS website
- Application will work best when viewing from Internet Explorer
- Minority Impact Statement is required
- Application deadline **October 23rd** at 3:30pm
- Applications will be accepted by mail or email to Laura at:

Laura.Hutzell@dot.iowa.gov

or

Laura Hutzell
Office of Rail Transportation
800 Lincoln Way
Ames, IA 50010

IOWA DOT
Form 291320 (08-15)

**Linking Iowa's Freight Transportation System (LIFTS)
Project Application**

Complete all questions to the best of your ability, quantifying benefits and costs whenever possible. Due to the diversity of projects eligible for this funding, the department is aware that not all questions may be applicable to a specific project. If a question does not apply, please complete the field with an N/A to indicate the question is not applicable to your project. Attach additional sheets if necessary, noting question number. All questions and completed applications are to be directed to [Laura Hutzell](mailto:Laura.Hutzell@dot.iowa.gov), 515-239-1508.

Section 1 - General Information

1. Project Name: _____
2. Address or location of project: _____
3. Applicant Name: _____
4. Contact Person: _____ Affiliation: _____
5. Complete Mailing Address: _____
6. Business Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
7. E-mail Address: _____
8. Organizations involved in project: _____

Section 2 - General Information

9. Briefly summarize your project in 4-5 sentences:

10. Briefly describe the purpose and need for the project in 4-5 sentences.

11. If the project in this application is associated with a larger development, provide the total cost of the larger development (including any costs in this application) \$ _____
Briefly describe the role this project plays in any larger development.



LIFTS Project Evaluation

Projects will be evaluated by a review of:

- **Freight Transportation Benefits (40%)** including freight connectivity, how the project addresses freight challenges and improves freight mobility and reliability, and provides benefits to customers and shippers,
- **Economic Benefits (30%)** including job creation and retention, state-wide or regional influence, including benefits and cost savings to customers and shippers, other investment by sponsor (leveraging private investment)
- **Public Benefits (20%)** including highway user benefits, safety, congestion relief, environmental and other public benefits
- **Project Readiness (10%)** including design status, environmental clearances, permitting, expected timeline of project

LIFTS Schedule

- **August 21st:** Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)
- **August 27th:** Informative Webinar
- **October 23rd** – Applications due
- **November:** Review Applications
- **December 7/8th** – Present funding recommendation to Commission
- **January 12, 2016** – Seek Commission action

All projects must be complete within 36 months of executed agreement



FAQs

What does it mean to “provide benefits to highway users”?

Answer:

When a non-highway mode of transportation increases their efficiency or volume there are typically benefits to highway users. For example, when more freight is diverted to railcars or barges, which are safer and more efficient modes, there is less highway congestion, fewer emissions, less risk or damages from accidents, less wear and tear on the highway system – all of which benefit the highway user. Depending on the project and its location, there may be other ways in which the highway user benefits on a local or regional basis.

Examples

- By diverting more freight to rail this project is expected to reduce truck traffic on Hwy XX by XXXX trucks weekly
- Save XXX ton-miles of truck travel
- Reduce emissions by XXX
- Because rail is safer than highway, crashes are expected to be X.X% less
- Location of facility will be in rural location, and will reduce city center traffic disruptions, saving XX motorist hours/month



For More Information:

<http://www.iowadot.gov/iowarail/assistance/lifts.htm>

Questions?

