

DOT/OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

FY 2016 Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-term Achievement of National Efficiencies (FASTLANE) Program

Category: Port/Maritime, Roadway & Railway Corridors, Port Development **Funding Method:** Discretionary

Purpose: The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act established the Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects (NSFHP) program to provide Federal finance assistance to projects of national or regional significance and authorized the program at \$4.5 billion for fiscal years 2016 through 2020. NSFHP grants, administered by the Build America Bureau at the Department of Transportation, are also referred to as Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-term Achievement of National Efficiencies (FASTLANE) grants. The program provides dedicated, discretionary funding for projects that address critical freight issues facing our nation's highways, bridges, railroads, and intermodal infrastructure and establishes broad, multiyear eligibilities for freight infrastructure. Eligible projects include: highway freight projects carried out on the National Highway Freight Network (NHFN), highway or bridge projects carried out on the National Highway System, railway-highway grade crossing or grade separation projects, or a freight project that is 1) an intermodal or rail project, or 2) within the boundaries of a public or private freight rail, water (including ports), or intermodal facility. A project within the boundaries of a freight rail, water (including ports), or intermodal facility must be a surface transportation infrastructure project necessary to facilitate direct intermodal interchange, transfer, or access into or out of the facility and must significantly improve freight movement on the NHFN (including by shifting freight off of this network).

Who is

Eligible: Eligible entities include a State or group of States, a metropolitan planning organization that serves an urbanized area with a population of more than 200,000 individuals, a unit of local government or group of local governments, a political subdivision of a State or local government, a special purpose district or public authority—including a port authority, a Federal land management agency that applies jointly with a State or group of States, a tribal government or consortium of tribal governments, or a multi-State group of public entities.

Eligibility

Criteria: NSFHP grants may be used for the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, acquisition of property, environmental mitigation, construction contingencies, equipment acquisition, and operational improvements directly related to system performance. They may also be used to fund developmental phase activities, including planning, feasibility analysis, revenue forecasting, environmental review, preliminary engineering, design and other preconstruction activities, provided the project meets statutory requirements. NSFHP grants will be divided into large and small projects. The FAST Act specifies large project grants must be at least \$25 million and small projects must be at least \$5 million. The FAST Act specifies the minimum project size for large projects is the lesser of \$100 million; or 30% of a State's Federal-aid apportionment; or 50% of the larger participating State's apportionment for projects located in more than one State but at least a \$25 million grant request and small project size is under \$100 million with a grant request of at least \$5 million.

Program POC: For information about highway projects, contact Crystal Jones, crystal.jones@dot.gov, 202-366-2976. For information about maritime projects, contact Robert Bouchard, robert.bouchard@dot.gov, 202-366-2976. For information about rail projects, contact Stephanie Lawrence, stephanie.lawrence@dot.gov, 202-493-1376. For all other questions, contact Howard Hill, howard.hill@dot.gov, 202-366-0301. A TDD is available for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing at 202-366-3993. <https://www.transportation.gov/buildamerica/FASTLANEgrants>

How to Apply: Applications must be submitted through www.Grants.gov. Only applicants who comply with all submission requirements described in this notice and submit applications through www.Grants.gov will be eligible for award.

Authorization: Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, 2015