



## SACOG Board of Directors

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Receive & File

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### **Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) VI Nomination Process**

The U.S. Department of Transportation has released the Notice of Funding Availability for the Fiscal Year 2015 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery Program

On April 2, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) released the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the seventh round of the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program (<http://www.transportation.gov/tiger/tiger-nofa>). The TIGER program will award a total of \$500 million to fund highway, bridge, transit, intermodal, port, and passenger and freight rail projects. Pre-applications are due by May 4, 2015 followed by final applications on June 5, 2015.

The TIGER program is highly competitive. The previous six rounds of the TIGER program provided over \$4.6 billion to projects in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The SACOG region has been successful in previous funding rounds, securing funding for improvements to the Port of West Sacramento, Sacramento Intermodal station, and environmental documentation for the Broadway Bridge.

As with previous TIGER programs, the 2015 TIGER program will focus on capital projects that “generate economic development and improve access to reliable, safe and affordable transportation for disconnected communities in urban, suburban, and rural areas, while emphasizing improved connections to employment, education, services and other opportunities, workforce development, or community revitalization.” A notable difference from the 2014 TIGER program is the absence of dedicated funding for planning, preparation, or design of capital projects. These activities are still eligible to the extent that they are part of a construction project that receives TIGER funding.

The 2015 TIGER program maintains the \$10 million minimum to \$200 million maximum funding request requirements with an exception for rural areas where applicants may submit requests as low as \$1 million. The match requirement for TIGER funding remains at 20% for non-rural areas, while DOT may fund up to 100% of project costs in rural areas.

SACOG staff has informed local and partner agency staff of the NOFA announcement through emails to recipients of SACOG advisory committee notifications. Local agencies with interest in submitting a TIGER funding request must submit their pre-applications by the May 4<sup>th</sup> deadline to be eligible to submit a final application. DOT estimates the online pre-application form to take up to 30 minutes to complete. Pre-application instructions and a link to the online form are available at <http://www.dot.gov/tiger/apply>. In addition to submitting a pre-application, it is important for potential applicants to ensure that they have a working Grants.gov account as soon

as possible to avoid any complications when attempting to submit a final application.

SACOG staff encourages interested agencies to register for a series of webinars hosted by DOT to assist potential applicants with various aspects of the program and application process.

Attachment A provides schedules, summaries and registration links to the available webinars.

For an overview summary of the TIGER program Attachment B includes DOT's 2015 TIGER Fact Sheet.

SACOG staff will prepare a memo for the May committee cycle explaining how staff recommends handling application endorsement requests.

#### Attachments

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**2015 TIGER Webinar Series**

Register for any of the following webinars at <http://www.dot.gov/tiger/outreach>:

- **Wednesday, April 8, 2015** 1:00-3:00 PM: How to Compete for TIGER Discretionary Grants
- **Tuesday, April 14, 2015** 1:00-3:00 PM: How to Compete for TIGER Discretionary Grants
- **Thursday, April 23, 2015** 1:00-3:00 PM: Preparing a Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA)
- **Tuesday, April 28, 2015** 1:00-3:00 PM: How to Compete for TIGER Discretionary Grants

# TIGER Grants Overview

**T**IGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) Grants provide a unique opportunity for the DOT to invest in road, rail, transit, bicycle/pedestrian, port, and multi-modal projects that achieve critical national objectives. Since 2009, Congress has dedicated more than \$4.6 billion for seven rounds to fund competitive projects that have a significant impact on the Nation, a region, or a metropolitan area. Through the TIGER program, DOT has awarded grants to 342 projects in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

*What makes the TIGER program unique?*

## **Flexibility**

TIGER can provide capital funding directly to any public entity, including municipalities, counties, port authorities, tribal governments, MPOs, or others in contrast to traditional Federal transportation programs that provide funding to limited groups of applicants (mostly State DOTs and transit agencies). This flexibility allows our traditional partners at the state and local level to work directly with a host of entities that own, operate, and maintain much of our transportation infrastructure, but otherwise have limited ways to receive Federal support.

## **Innovative Funding**

TIGER's competitive structure and broad eligibility allow project sponsors to develop multi-modal, multi-jurisdictional projects that may not be eligible for funding through traditional DOT programs. For example, in 2009, the TIGER program partnered with the State of California (Caltrans) and the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG)—the regional planning agency that represents 18 cities and county government to award \$20.2 million to the Otay Mesa Port-of-Entry project—the largest freight border crossing between California and Mexico – to provide a direct six-lane highway link and reduce Interstate congestion.

## **Leveraging Resources**

TIGER projects have historically achieved, on average, co-investment of 3.5 dollars (including other Federal, State, local, private and philanthropic funds) for every TIGER dollar invested. The Razorback Regional Greenway TIGER 2010 project successfully leveraged \$15 million from the Walton Family Foundation to support development of this 36-mile bicycle and pedestrian network in Northwest Arkansas.

## **Encouraging Partnership**

The TIGER program encourages States and localities to work together to bring more innovative, cross-modal proposals to the table. Priority is given to transportation projects that demonstrate strong collaboration among a broad range of participants, integration of transportation with other public service efforts, and/or projects that are the product of a robust planning process. For example, the Miami Trail/Everglades Restoration project, awarded \$20 million in TIGER 2014, has extensive stakeholder collaboration and support including the National Park Service, the US Army Corps of Engineers, State and local agencies, and numerous conservation advocacy organizations.

## **Rural Investments**

The TIGER program enables DOT to use a rigorous process to select projects with exceptional benefits, explore ways to deliver projects faster and save on construction costs, and make investments in our Nation's infrastructure that make communities more livable and sustainable, including in rural areas. Since 2009, the TIGER program has provided over \$790 million to 117 projects in rural areas across the United States.



