



SACOG Board of Directors

Board of Directors Regular Meeting
Meeting Date: 5/17/2018
Agenda Item No.: 2018-May-27.

Subject: Federal Advocacy Update (Est. time: 0 minutes)

Receive and File

Prepared by: Christina Lokke

Approved by: James Corless

Attachments: No

1. Issue:

Federal Advocacy Update

2. Recommendation:

None, this item is receive and file.

3. Background/Analysis:

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) recently launched the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program and issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to apply for \$1.5 billion in discretionary grant funding. The BUILD Transportation grants replace the existing Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program.

4. Discussion/Analysis:

The USDOT is accepting applications for funding from the BUILD program, previously known as TIGER. The spending bill passed in March included an increase in TIGER program funding from \$500 million to \$1.5 billion for transportation projects that will have a "significant local or regional impact". This is a slight shift in purpose as the FY17 language focused on projects that have an impact on the "Nation, metropolitan area, or region". Applications are due July 19, 2018.

Almost one-third of the funding is directed towards rural projects and \$15 million is available for the planning, preparation, or design of projects. The minimum grant amount remains at \$5 million (\$1 million in rural areas) and the maximum grant amount remains at \$25 million. The bill allows the federal government to provide up to 80 percent of a project's cost. The program will continue to be limited so that no state may receive more than 10 percent, or \$150 million, of available funds.

USDOT is hosting a series of webinars about the BUILD grant application process. More

information and registration information is available at www.transportation.gov/BUILDgrants/outreach. For more information about the BUILD program, visit www.transportation.gov/BUILDgrants.

5. Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:

This item has no direct fiscal impact.

This staff report aligns with the following SACOG Work Plan Goals:

#7 - Deliver Key High-Profile Transportation Projects