



COLORADO

Department of Transportation

Division of Transportation Development
Multimodal Planning Branch
4201 E. Arkansas Ave., Shumate Bldg.
Denver, CO 80222

DATE: December 7, 2016
TO: Transportation Commission
FROM: Debra Perkins-Smith, Director, Division of Transportation Development
SUBJECT: FASTLANE Discretionary Grants

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to update the Transportation Commission on project applications for the second round of FASTLANE discretionary grants, due December 15, 2016.

Action

Staff requests Transportation Commission approval to move forward with the submittal by CDOT of two FASTLANE project applications. Staff also requests Transportation Commission approval to commit matching funds to these projects, if an award is received, as well as to an application being submitted by La Plata County for US 550.

Background

USDOT announced the second round of FASTLANE discretionary grants on October 28, with an application deadline of December 15. FASTLANE is a discretionary grant program intended to provide Federal financial assistance to freight and highway projects of national or regional significance. Approximately \$850 million is available for the current round. FASTLANE grants can be used for small and large projects. Large projects are eligible for a minimum award of \$25 million, and small grants for a minimum award of \$5 million. Each applicant may submit no more than three applications each round.

Details

The previous (and first) FASTLANE round was announced on February 26, 2016. CDOT submitted applications for the following three projects: Truck Parking Information Management System (TPIMS), US 287 Lamar Bypass, and US 85 Centennial Highway/Rail Corridor. The Transportation Commission also committed to match an application submitted by La Plata County for US 550. No Colorado projects were successful in the first round of FASTLANE. A review of first round awards provided some insight on what it may take to be competitive. Key findings include:

- CDOT applications in the first round had the minimum required amount of match, 40%, while the average match of successful applications was 62%.
- Grant requests for large CDOT project applications ranged from \$96 million to \$113 million, significantly larger than the average FASTLANE grant award of \$42 million.
- High benefit-cost ratio is important, with cost-effectiveness being a key factor in USDOT's preliminary review process.

At the November Transportation Commission workshop, the Commission directed staff to identify one project to submit under each of the two project categories (large and small). The Commission indicated a willingness to commit up to \$40-\$50 million in match for a large project, including the US 550 project if La Plata County chose to resubmit. In the unlikely event multiple FASTLANE grants are awarded to Colorado, the Transportation Commission will match the CDOT awards first. Staff considered options for new project applications, but given the short turnaround, ultimately decided to focus on revising applications from the previous round based on the findings above. Staff reviewed revised project scopes, grant request, match amounts, and benefit-cost, and identified the US 85 Centennial Highway/Rail Corridor and the Truck Parking Information Management System (TPIMS) as the large and small project applications, respectively, most likely to compete well. The attached resolution includes a breakdown of the anticipated total project cost, and match commitment for these two projects, as well as the US 550 project to be submitted by La Plata County.

Next Steps

- Transportation Commission action on resolution committing support and match for project applications.
- Submittal of updated project applications by December 15.

Attachment

- Resolution



Resolution # TC-XXXX

Instructing the Department to submit applications for projects under the USDOT FASTLANE Discretionary Grant program and support projects benefiting the state system submitted by other Colorado applicants.

WHEREAS, the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act established a new discretionary grant program for nationally significant freight and highway projects known as the Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-Term Achievement of National Efficiencies (FASTLANE); and

WHEREAS, a Notice of Funding Opportunity was issued by the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) on October 28 for the \$850 million available under the second round of the FASTLANE discretionary program; and

WHEREAS, applications for the FASTLANE discretionary grant program are due to the U.S. Secretary of Transportation on December 15, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the FASTLANE discretionary grant program includes large and small project categories; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) staff evaluated and analyzed potential projects for the Department to submit under both FASTLANE categories; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Department is instructed to submit applications for the following projects in each category:

- Small Project Category: Colorado Truck Parking Information Management System (TPIMS)
- Large Project Category: US 85 Centennial Highway/Rail Corridor

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Department supports the submittal of FASTLANE applications benefiting the state system by other applicants, including:

- Small Project Category: US 550/US 160 Connection (to be submitted by La Plata County)

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in order to show the Department’s financial commitment to the FASTLANE projects, meet application requirements, and enhance the viability of the applications, the Commission commits to funding up to the amounts in the table below, with the funds to be allocated to the projects only if a federal award is made.

Project	CDOT Region Commitment / Previous Commitments	Additional Transportation Commission Commitment	Up to Total Match	Anticipated Total Project Cost
Colorado Truck Parking Information Management System	\$1 M (RoadX)	\$4.5 M	\$5.5 M	\$10.5 M
US 85 Centennial Highway/Rail Corridor	\$2.75 M (RPP)	\$45.05 M	\$47.8 M (exc. in-kind and private contributions)	\$131.8 M
US 550/US 160 Connection	\$13 M (RPP) \$10 M (FASTER Safety) \$10 M (NHPP/STP)	\$27 M	\$60 M	\$75 M

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, if multiple projects are awarded in Colorado, the Commission will give first priority to providing matching funds to projects submitted by CDOT, and will consider at that time the Commission’s ability to match multiple projects.

Herman Stockinger, Secretary

Date

Transportation Commission of Colorado