

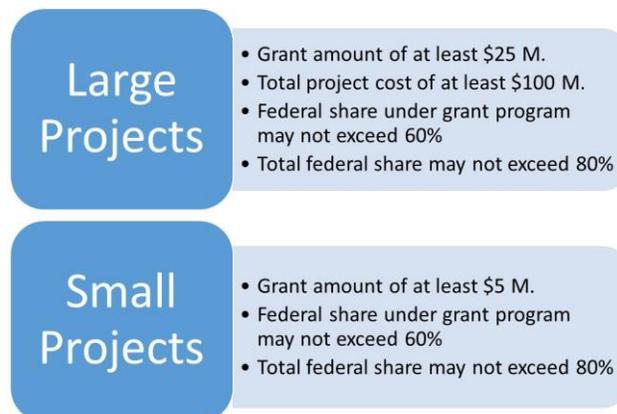
- Development phase activities, including planning, feasibility analysis, revenue forecasting, environmental review, preliminary engineering and design work, and other preconstruction activities.
- Construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, acquisition of real property (including land relating to the project and improvements to land), construction contingencies, acquisition of equipment, and operational improvements directly relating to improving system performance.
- A wide range of other activities supporting freight movement including ITS, truck parking, highway ramp metering, truck-only lanes, climbing and runaway truck lanes, traffic signal optimization, etc.

FASTLANE - Discretionary Program

The FAST Act established the Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects Program, now known as FASTLANE. FASTLANE is a discretionary grant program intended to provide Federal financial assistance to freight and highway projects of national or regional significance. Approximately \$4.5 billion is authorized for this program over the five years of the FAST Act. Eligible projects include:

- Highway freight projects on the National Highway Freight Network(NHFN)
- Highway or bridge projects on the National Highway System (NHS)
- Freight intermodal or freight rail projects
- Railway-highway grade crossing or grade separation projects

FASTLANE grants will fund 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.



A specified amount of funds will be reserved each year for small projects, as well as for projects in rural areas. A rural area is considered any area outside of an Urbanized Area with a population over 200,000. In Colorado, this includes Denver-Aurora, Colorado Springs, and Fort Collins.

A Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) was issued on February 26 for FY 16. The FY 16 FASTLANE program will include \$800 million, with \$76 million reserved for small projects, and \$190 million reserved for projects in rural areas. Applications for FY 16 are due on April 14. Given the tight turnaround required, staff is coming to the TC in March to seek concurrence with recommendations for both the FASTLANES and TIGER programs (See **TIGER and FASTLANES memo**).

While the schedule for FY 16 does not permit a more thorough discussion, staff will seek TC input on strategy for future years of the program. This could include the possibility of considering priorities for FASTLANES in tandem with other funding programs, such as the National Highway Freight Program and SB 228.

Next Steps

Develop framework for the National Highway Freight Program.

