

FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION

FY14 Grant Application Solicitation Webinar



Agenda

- **Highlights**
- **Project Focus Areas**
 - **Intercity Passenger Rail Grade Crossing Improvements**
 - **Positive Train Control Implementation**
 - **Passenger Rail Corridor Investment Plans**
- **Evaluation and Selection Criteria**
- **Application Procedures**
- **Application Reminders**
- **Question and Answer**

Highlights

- **Funding Available:** At least \$36.3m
- **Eligible Projects:** 3 project focus areas
 - Intercity Passenger Rail Grade Crossing Improvements
 - Positive Train Control Implementation
 - Passenger Rail Corridor Investment Plans
- **Eligible Applicants:** Varies by project type
- **Non-Federal Match:** 20% (additional grade crossing funds require 50%)
- **Request Amount:** Encouraged to limit funding requests to \$3m per application
- **NOFA Publication Date:** July 11, 2014
- **Application Due Date:** September 15, 2014 (by 5:00 p.m. EDT)
- **Additional Info:** <https://www.fra.dot.gov/Page/P0701>

Highlights – Funding Breakdown

Funding Source	Amount	Project Types	Match
FY14 Appropriation Authority	\$19.8m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passenger Rail Corridor Investment Plans • Positive Train Control Implementation • Intercity Passenger Rail Grade Crossing Improvements 	80-20
FY08/09 Remaining HSIPR	\$11.3m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intercity Passenger Rail Grade Crossing Improvements 	50-50
FY10 Remaining HSIPR	\$5.2m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intercity Passenger Rail Grade Crossing Improvements 	80-20
Total	\$36.3m	—	—

Project Focus Areas

Focus: Passenger Rail Corridor Investment Plans (PRCIP)

- **Eligible Applicants:** States, groups of states, interstate compacts, public agencies established by states for providing intercity passenger rail service
- **Eligible Projects:** PRCIPs consist of two distinct components
 - Service Development Plan
 - Corridor-wide NEPA Document
- Projects must result in the completion of both elements of a PRCIP
- Projects should focus on new corridor studies or expanding the scope / study area of existing planning efforts
- **Non-Federal Match:** 20%

Corridor Planning
Grants

Railroad Safety
Technology Grants

Intercity Passenger
Rail Capital Grants

Project Focus Areas

Focus: Positive Train Control (PTC) Implementation R&D

- **Eligible Applicants:** Passenger and freight railroad carriers, railroad suppliers, and state and local governments
- Eligible applicants must also have either received FRA approval of Technology Implementation Plans and PTC Implementation Plans or demonstrated progress to FRA's satisfaction in developing such plans
- **Eligible Projects:** R&D of technologies to lower costs, speed implementation, increase interoperability, and improve reliability of PTC systems
- FRA is particularly interested in advancing R&D related to cyber and wireless security, back-office reliability, and deployment of an interoperable/shared network for short lines and commuter railroads
- **Non-Federal Match:** 20%

Corridor Planning
Grants

Railroad Safety
Technology Grants

Intercity Passenger
Rail Capital Grants

Project Focus Areas

Focus: Intercity Passenger Rail Grade Crossing Improvements

- **Eligible Applicants:** States, groups of states, interstate compacts, public agencies established by states for providing intercity passenger rail service
- **Eligible Projects:** Capital improvements to highway-rail grade crossings that are related to intercity passenger rail service
- Projects on freight lines that do not carry or have any effect on intercity passenger rail service are not eligible
- **Non-Federal Match:** 20% or 50%
- \$11.3m of the additional residual HSIPR funds included in the NOFA require a 50% non-Federal match, as well as:
 - Only states are eligible applicants for these funds
 - Proposed projects must be on the applicant's STIP
 - States must include intercity passenger rail service as an integral part of statewide transportation planning

Corridor Planning
Grants

Railroad Safety
Technology Grants

Intercity Passenger
Rail Capital Grants

Evaluation & Selection Criteria

Project Type	Evaluation Criteria	Selection Criteria
Passenger Rail Corridor Investment Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential Transportation and Other Public Benefits • Future Program Viability and Sustainability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alignment with the DOT Strategic Goals and Priorities • Project Delivery Performance • Region / Location • Innovation / Resource Development • Partnerships
PTC Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PTC Deployment Benefits • Technical Merit • Project Development Approach 	
Intercity Passenger Rail Grade Crossing Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety Benefits • Transportation Benefits • Project Development Approach 	

Application Procedures: Overview

All applications must include a Project Narrative that address the 9 elements listed below. This narrative may be supported by tables, maps, drawings, and other materials as appropriate.

Standard Content

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Title page with required components | 6. Detailed project description |
| 2. Designated applicant point-of-contact | 7. Evaluation criteria justification |
| 3. Funding amount requests (Federal and non-Federal) | 8. Proposed project implementation and management |
| 4. Applicant eligibility justification | 9. Anticipated environmental/historic preservation impacts |
| 5. Proposed project summary | |

Intercity Passenger Rail Grade Crossing Improvement Projects Only

Applicants **must include the following additional elements in the Project Narrative:**

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| • US DOT crossing inventory number | • Crossing characteristics |
| • Locality (City/town, county, <u>and cross streets</u>) | • Rail service characteristics |
| • Right-of-way owner | • Areas of significant concern |

The Project Narrative may not exceed 25 pages in length (including any appendices). Applications that do not meet this requirement will not be considered for award.

A Closer Look: Project Narrative Elements 1-3

Standard Content

- 1. Title page:** *Must include the following elements in either a table or formatted list:*
 - *Project title*
 - *Location (city, state, district)*
 - *Type of application*
 - *Applicant organization name and the name of any co-applicants*
 - *Amount of Federal funding requested and the proposed non-Federal match*
- 2. Designated applicant point-of-contact:** *Must provide his or her name and contact information, and must be an employee of an eligible applicant.*
- 3. Funding amount requests (Federal and non-Federal):** *Must indicate the amount of Federal funding requested, the proposed non-Federal match, and total project cost, as well as any obligation deadlines associated with the funds.*

The Project Narrative may not exceed 25 pages in length (including any appendices).
Applications that do not meet this requirement will not be considered for award.

A Closer Look: Project Narrative Elements 4-6

Standard Content

4. **Applicant eligibility justification:** *Must explain how the applicant meets the respective applicant eligibility criteria for the type of funding requested, as outlined in Section 3 of the NOFA.*
5. **Proposed project summary:** *Must provide a brief 5-6 sentence summary of the proposed project, capturing the transportation challenges the proposed project aims to address, as well as the intended outcomes and expected benefits of the proposed project.*
6. **Project description:** *Must include a detailed project description that expands upon the brief summary required above. In addition, the project description should clearly explain how the proposed project meets the respective project eligibility criteria outlined in Section 3 of the NOFA.*

The Project Narrative may not exceed 25 pages in length (including any appendices).
Applications that do not meet this requirement will not be considered for award.

A Closer Look: Project Narrative Elements 7-9

Standard Content

7. **Evaluation criteria justification:** *Must include a thorough discussion of how the project meets all of the evaluation criteria for the respective project type. Applicants are reminded to clearly identify, quantify, and compare expected benefits and costs of proposed projects.*
Note: *FRA understands that the level of detail and sophistication of analysis will vary depending on project size.*
8. **Proposed project implementation and management approach:** *Must describe proposed project implementation and management arrangements, and include descriptions of the plans for project contracting, contract oversight, change-order management, risk management, and conformance to Federal requirements for progress reporting.*
9. **Anticipated environmental/historic preservation impacts:** *Must describe anticipated environmental or historic preservation impacts associated with the proposed project, any environmental or historic preservation analyses that have been prepared, and progress toward completing any environmental documentation required under NEPA, NHPA, Section 4(f) of the DOT Act, the Clean Water Act, or other applicable Federal or state laws.*

The Project Narrative may not exceed 25 pages in length (including any appendices).
Applications that do not meet this requirement will not be considered for award.

Application Procedures

Statement of Work Requirements

All applicants must also submit a Statement of Work (SOW) that addresses the scope, schedule, and budget for the proposed project. SOW templates are available for each of the project types on the FY14 Grant Solicitation homepage at www.fra.dot.gov/Page/P0701.

Scope: Applicants are required to complete a “Description of Work” section, which breaks the scope of work for the project into discrete tasks.

Schedule: Applicants are required to complete a “Project Schedule and Deliverables” section, which outlines the period of performance for the grant agreement by listing all of the deliverables required for the applicable tasks and their submission due date to FRA.

Budget: Applicants are required to complete a “Project Estimate/Budget” section, which outlines the initial cost estimate for the project by task and by funding source. The “funding source” estimate should list all funding sources contributing to the project.

Please see the NOFA Section 4.3.2 for more information on developing the Statement of Work.

Required Application Documents

Required Documents	Project Type		
	Grade Crossing Improvements	PTC	Corridor Investment Plans
FRA Forms			
Project Narrative	✓*	✓	✓
Statement of Work	✓	✓	✓
Spatial Data	✓		Optional
FRA's Additional Assurances & Certifications	✓	✓	✓
OMB Standard Forms			
SF 424: Application for Federal Assistance	✓	✓	✓
SF 424A: Budget Information-Non Construction		✓	✓
SF 424B: Assurances-Non Construction		✓	✓
SF 424C: Budget Information-Construction	✓		
SF 424D: Assurances-Construction	✓		
SF LLL: Disclosure of Lobbying Activities	✓	✓	✓

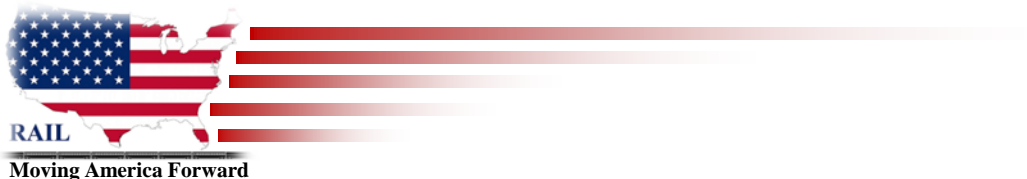
Important Application Numbers

The FRA encourages all applicants to plan to submit their applications early, if possible.

CFDA: 20.314 – Railroad Funding Opportunity

Competition ID: FR-RLD-14-001-049723

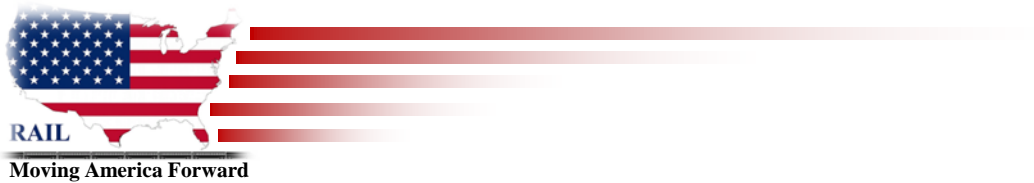
Funding Opportunity: FR-RLD-14-001



Application Reminders

- Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply early to ensure that all materials are received before the **5:00 p.m. EDT, on 9/15/2014 deadline**.
- If you have not already done so, it is critical that you register now for Grants.gov. (*Please note, delayed registration is not an acceptable justification for an application extension*).
- Any supporting application materials that are not submitted through Grants.gov, may be submitted to Mary Ann McNamara.
- To register for Grants.gov, you must have the following:
 - A Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number
 - Acquire or renew registration with the System for Award Management (SAM) Database
 - Acquire authorization for your Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) from the E-Business Point of Contact (E-Biz POC)
- FY 2014 NOFA guidance can be found here (including assurance documentation and SOW templates): <http://www.fra.dot.gov/Page/P0701>
- Guidance on Grants.gov registration can be found here: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/applicant-faqs.html>

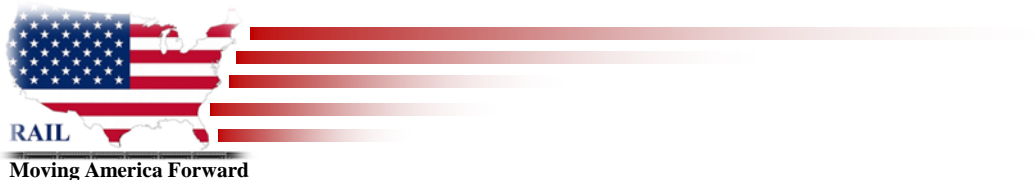
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U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Railroad
Administration**

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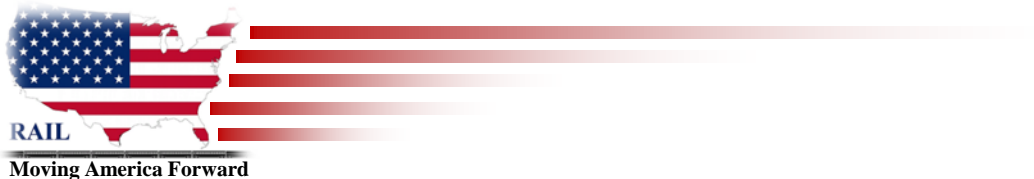


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