How to Apply for FY18 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Grants

August 8, 2018

Objective

- Provide guidance to applicants on how to compete for CRISI grants
 - Grant Program Information
 - Notices of Funding Opportunity
 - How to Apply and Application Content
 - Tips for Preparing Benefit-Cost Analysis
 - Key Takeaways

Grant Program Information

Consolidated Rail Infrastructure & Safety Improvements

Purpose of Program

 To fund projects that improve the safety, efficiency, and/or reliability of intercity passenger and freight rail systems

Federal Funding

- \$318,430,337
 - \$35.5M for initiation/restoration capital projects
 - At least 25% for rural area projects

Federal Share

- Maximum: 80%
- Statutory Preference: 50% or less

Consolidated Rail Infrastructure & Safety Improvements

Application Due Date

September 17, 2018 at 5 PM EDT

Eligible Applicants

- State Entities
- Public Agencies or Publicly Chartered Authorities
- Local Governments
- Amtrak or other Intercity Passenger Rail Carrier
- Class II or III railroads
- Any Rail Carrier or equipment manufacturer in partnership with at least one state entity, public agency, and/or local government
- The Transportation Research Board
- A University transportation center engaged in rail-related research
- A non-profit labor organization

Consolidated Rail Infrastructure & Safety Improvements

Eligible Projects

- Wide Range of Rail Capital Projects
 - Congestion mitigation
 - Ridership growth facilitation
 - Enhancements to multimodal connections
 - Improvements to short-line or regional railroad infrastructure
- Railroad Safety Technology Non PTC
- Track, Station and Equipment Improvements for Intercity Passenger Rail
- Grade Crossing Improvements
- Rail Line Relocation and Improvement
- Regional, State, Corridor Planning and Environmental Analyses
- Safety Programs and Institutes
- Research, Workforce Development, and Training NEW for FY18

Consolidated Rail Infrastructure & Safety Improvements

Application Requirements

- Identify private sector, state, and/or local funding
- Provide benefit-cost analysis
- FY18 applications can apply for more than one track per project – NEW for FY18
- Applications should still identify which tracks applications falls under:
 - (1) Planning (regional, state, corridor planning; not projectspecific)
 - (2) PE/NEPA
 - (3) Final Design/Construction
 - (4) Research, Safety Programs, & Institutes

Consolidated Rail Infrastructure & Safety Improvements

Evaluation Criteria

Technical Merit:

- Project readiness
- Private sector participation
- Consistent with DOT Planning guidance and documents

Project Benefits:

- Effects on system performance, safety, competitiveness, reliability, trip or transit time, and resilience
- Integration with other modes
- Ability to meet existing or anticipated demand

Consolidated Rail Infrastructure & Safety Improvements

Selection Criteria

- Preference for higher matching funds from multiple sources, maximized net benefits, and private sector participation
- Key departmental objectives
 - Supporting Economic Vitality
 - Leveraging Federal Funding
 - Preparing for Future Operations/Maintenance Costs –
 More Explicitly Defined for FY18
 - Innovative Approaches
 - Accountability

Consolidated Rail Infrastructure & Safety Improvements

Funding Restrictions

- Pre-award costs incurred prior to selection, without an FRA NEPA determination, and without prior-FRA written approval are unallowable costs.
- FRA is prohibited under 49 U.S.C. 24405(f) from providing CRISI grants for commuter rail passenger transportation.

Consolidated Rail Infrastructure & Safety Improvements

Key Differences from FY17 CRISI & FY18 CRISI PTC

- PTC only eligible for Intercity Passenger Rail and Class II/III Railroad projects; Commuter Rail and Class I Railroad PTC projects not eligible
- Research, workforce development, and training projects are eligible
- Applications can include multiple phases of a project in a single application (Planning, PE/NEPA, FD/Construction)
- Greater emphasis on lifecycle asset management principles
- Applicants may resubmit FY17 CRISI and FY18 CRISI PTC applications for consideration – indicate whether application has changed since previous submission

Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs)

What is a NOFO?

A NOFO:

- Announces the grant opportunity
- Contains details about the application requirements and procedures to request Federal funding for eligible projects

Where do I start?

 Check the FRA Website Page on Discretionary Competitive Grant Programs at:

https://www.fra.dot.gov/Page/P0997



Click on the link to access the NOFO.

Where is the CRISI NOFO?

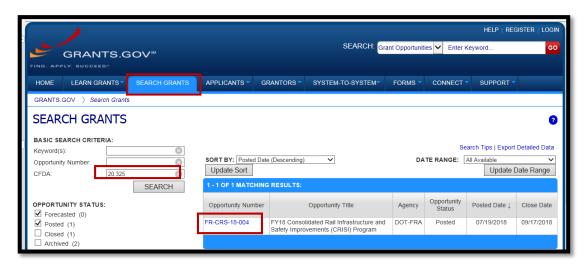


What information is in a NOFO?

- Program summary
- Key Dates
- Addresses
- FRA Contact Information
- Table of Contents
 - Program Description
 - Federal Award Information
 - Eligibility Information
 - Application and Submission Information
 - Application Review Information
 - Federal Award Administration Information
 - Federal Awarding Agency Contacts

Where I find "how to apply" information?

Search grants on Grants.gov



 Click on the Opportunity Number to see the Synopsis

What is the Synopsis?

 Summary information about the grant opportunity in Grants.gov



Application Content

How do I apply?

- Obtain a Dun and Bradstreet number (DUNS)
- Register early in the Federal government's System for Award Management (SAM)
- For Grants.gov, complete an Authorized Organization Representative profile and create a username and password
- Submit an application addressing all requirements outlined in the NOFO

What do I include in my application?

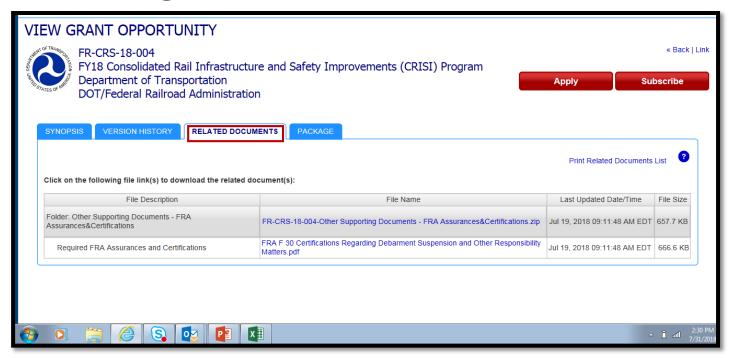
- Required Documents
 - Project Narrative
 - Statement of Work
 - Project Development Supporting Documentation
 - Benefit- Cost Analysis
 - Other required documents, such as NEPA documentation and Planning documents

What forms are required?

- SF424 (Application for Federal Assistance)
- Either: SF 424A or 424C- Budget info for Non-Construction OR Construction
- Either: SF 424B or 424D Assurances for Non-Construction OR for Construction
- FRA's Additional Assurances and Certifications
- SF LLL: Disclosure of Lobbying Activities

Where is the FRA's Additional Assurances and Certifications?

 See the Related Documents in Grants.gov



What do I include in the Project Narrative?

- Cover page
- Brief summary of the project
 - Project components, where it is located, and projected outcome
- Project funding information
- Applicant eligibility
- Project eligibility
- Detailed project description
- Project location/map
- Project implementation and management
- Evaluation and selection criteria
- Project readiness

What table should I include on the Cover Page?

Project Title					
Applicant					
Project Track	1,2,3 and/or 4				
Will this project contribute to the Restoration or Initiation of Intercity Passenger Rail	Yes/no				
Service?					
Was a Federal grant application previously submitted for this project?	Yes/no				
If yes, state the name of the Federal grant program and title of the project in the previous application.	Federal Grant Program:				
previous application.	Project Title:				
If applicable, what stage of NEPA is the project in (e.g., EA, Tier 1 NEPA, Tier 2 NEPA,	NEPA stage:				
or CE)?					
Is this a Rural Project? What percentage of the project cost is based in a Rural	Yes/no				
Area?	Percentage of total project				
	cost:				
City(ies), State(s) where the project is located					
Urbanized Area where the project is located					
Population of Urbanized Area					
Is the project currently programmed in the:	Yes/no				
State rail plan, State Freight Plan, TIP, STIP, MPO Long Range Transportation Plan,	(If yes, please specify in				
State Long Range Transportation Plan?	which plans the project is currently programmed)				

How do I organize the Project Narrative?

- Be sure that the Project Narrative headings and corresponding information are exactly as specified in the NOFO
- The Project Narrative should clearly provide details about the FRA Federal funding requested project
- The Project Narrative must sufficiently address the evaluation and selection criteria to be a competitive application

What is a Statement of Work (SOW)?

- Addresses the scope, schedule, and budget for the proposed project as if it was selected for award
- A Sample SOW Template is located at:

https://www.fra.dot.gov/eLib/Details/L18661.

What do I include in the SOW?

- Organize the scope of work for the project into discrete tasks
 - Be clear regarding the work to be done in each task
- Align tasks with proposed deliverable, schedule and budget line items
- Use the FRA Standard Cost Categories as a way to organize a SOW and Budget
 - https://www.fra.dot.gov/Elib/Document/16 647

CRISI BCA Outline

- Specify your base case, Specify your alternate case, Specify your timeline;
- Show how alt case will result in specific effects (project benefits);
- Break down effect magnitudes as small as possible;
- Assign values to the effects using DOT guidance;
- Sum the costs and benefits separately;
- 6. Discount;
- 7. Calculate Results.

BCA: Scope of Analysis

- The base case should reflect the status quo, the world as it exists today.
 See Pg. 7
- The alternate case is the proposed project;
 - Avoided costs of alternatives not taken are NOT benefits. See Pg. 25
- The Timeline should be appropriate for the proposed project: See Pg. 9
 - Should match the useful life of the project, but not longer than 30 yrs.
 - Projects with UL longer than 30 yrs will have residual value; calculate with straight line depreciation.

BCA: Scope of Analysis

- ONLY the differences between the base case and alt case should be examined.
- These changes should reflect reality:
 - Shippers will not truck product 2000 miles when another freight station is only 30 miles away.
 - Railroads will impose speed/weight restrictions before shutting down totally.
 - Passengers will divert to nearby stations (if available) rather than driving the full distance.

BCA: Benefits & Costs

- The <u>marginal</u> effects of the alt case are the project benefits. See Pg. 7
 - Can include undesirable consequences, which should be shown as negative \$'s.
- The total cost of constructing the project as well as operating and maintaining it for the full timeline are the project costs:
 - Reductions to O&M costs should be regarded as project <u>benefits</u>. See Pg. 23
 - Residual value for remaining useful life is also a benefit (and not subtracted from costs).

BCA: Development

- Macro scale effects should be broken down into the smallest possible elements.
- Replacing a bridge might result in:
 - Removal of slow orders, improving travel speed (Travel time savings)
 - Reduce diversion and congestion on nearby track (Travel time savings)
 - Reduced wait time at the approaches (Travel time savings and emissions)
 - Decreased delays at nearby sidings and yards (Travel time savings and emissions)

BCA: Monetizing Benefits

- Recommended Values are in Appendix A (Pg. 28):
 - For an injury of unknown severity, use the value of KABCO "U".
 - Commuting to and from work is considered "personal <u>local</u>" travel, even if it is between municipalities.
 - "High Speed" Rail means over 125 mph; currently only exists on Amtrak's NEC.
 - VOC savings will generally not apply to rail projects.

BCA: Modal Diversion

- Modal diversion is a <u>marginal</u> choice; only count marginal benefits.
- New/induced users value the service less than existing users. See Pg. 16
- Rail diversion to truck could involve:
 - Increased pavement & bridge damage
 - Increased harmful emissions
 - Increased congestion on highways
 - Decreased safety
 - Lost revenues and increased shipper costs are transfers, not benefits. See Pg. 24
 - For passenger rail, avoided VOC and fares are transfers, not benefits.

BCA: Calculations

Calendar	•	lue of Travel											Total			counted	NDV -1 70/		
Year	Year	ne Savings	Sal	/ings	Be	enefits	Be	Benefits at 7% Costs					Costs		Costs at 7%				
2017	0	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	38,500	\$	-	\$	38,500	\$	38,500	\$	(38,500)	
2018	1	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	15,500	\$	-	\$	15,500	\$	14,486	\$	(14,486)	
2019	2	\$ 23,342	\$	1,428	\$	24,770	\$	21,635	\$	-	\$	150	\$	150	\$	131	\$	21,504	
2020	3	\$ 24,570	\$	1,562	\$	26,132	\$	21,331	\$	-	\$	150	\$	150	\$	122	\$	21,209	
2021	4	\$ 25,061	\$	1,703	\$	26,764	\$	20,418	\$	-	\$	150	\$	150	\$	114	\$	20,304	
2022	5	\$ 26,781	\$	1,841	\$	28,622	\$	20,407	\$	-	\$	150	\$	150	\$	107	\$	20,300	
	Total	\$ 99,754	\$	6,534	\$	106,288	\$	83,792	\$	54,000	\$	600	\$	54,600	\$	53,461	\$	30,331	

Calendar Year	Project Year	lue of Travel ne Savings	nissions vings	s Total Benefits		Discounted Benefits at 7%		Construction Costs				otal Osts	counted	NPV at 7%		
2017	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-	\$	38,500	\$	-	\$ 38,500	\$ 38,500	\$	(38,500)	
2018	1	\$ -	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-	\$	15,500	\$	-	\$ 15,500	\$ 14,486	\$	(14,486)	
2019	2	\$ 23,342	\$ 1,428	\$	24,770	\$	21,635	\$	-	\$	150	\$ 150	\$ 131	\$	21,504	
2020	3	\$ 24,570	\$ 1,562	\$	26,132	\$	21,331	\$	-	\$	150	\$ 150	\$ 122	\$	21,209	
2021	4	\$ 25,061	\$ 1,703	\$	26,764	\$	20,418	\$	-	\$	150	\$ 150	\$ 114	\$	20,304	
2022	5	\$ 26,781	\$ 1,841	\$	28,622	\$	20,407	\$	-	\$	150	\$ 150	\$ 107	\$	20,300	
	Total	\$ 99,754	\$ 6,534	\$	106,288	\$	83,792	\$	54,000	\$	600	\$ 54,600	\$ 53,461	\$	30,331	

Add Benefits and Costs Separately

Calendar Year	Project Year	Value of Travel Time Savings		issions vings	s Total Benefits		Discounted Benefits at 7%		Construction Costs		O&M Costs		Total Costs		counted sts at 7%	NPV at 7%		
2017	0	\$	-	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-	\$	38,500	\$	-	\$	38,500	\$ 38,500	\$	(38,500)	
2018	1	\$	-	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-	\$	15,500	\$	-	\$	15,500	\$ 14,486	\$	(14,486)	
2019	2	\$	23,342	\$ 1,428	\$	24,770	\$	21,635	\$	-	\$	150	\$	150	\$ 131	\$	21,504	
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	Total	\$	99,754	\$ 6,534	\$	106,288	\$	83,792	\$	54,000	\$	600	\$	54,600	\$ 53,461	\$	30,331	

Total \$ / 1.07^{Project Year}

Calendar	•							Discounted		Construction		O&M		Total			counted			
Year	Year	Tin	ne Savings	Savings		Benefits		Benefits at 7%		Costs		Costs		Costs		Costs at 7%		NPV at 7%		
2017	0	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	38,500	\$	-	\$	38,500	\$	38,500	\$	(38,500)	
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	Total	\$	99,754	\$	6,534	\$	106,288	\$	83,792	\$	54,000	\$	600	\$	54,600	\$	53,461	\$	30,331	

Discounted Benefits - Discounted Costs = \$NPV

Calendar Year	Project Year	Value of Travel Time Savings		Emissions Savings		Total Benefits		Discounted Benefits at 7%				O&M Costs			counted ts at 7%	NPV at 7%		
2017	0	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	38,500	\$	-	\$	38,500	\$ 38,500	\$	(38,500)	
2018	1	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	15,500	\$	-	\$	15,500	\$ 14,486	\$	(14,486)	
2019	2	\$ 23,342	\$	1,428	\$	24,770	\$	21,635	\$	-	\$	150	\$	150	\$ 131	\$	21,504	
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	Total	\$ 99,754	\$	6,534	\$	106,288	\$	83,792	\$	54,000	\$	600	\$	54,600	\$ 53,461	\$	30,331	

Discounted Benefits / Discounted Costs = BCR

- Document your assumptions in as much detail as possible.
- If the project has separate elements, report benefits and costs of each subproject separately.
- If your BCA includes modal diversion, include YOUR mix of commodities and traffic volumes.

 Include an unlocked Excel spreadsheet that clearly shows your calculations and discounting.

- Follow USDOT BCA guidance (the most recent version can be found <u>here</u>.)
- Refer to the <u>BCA FAQs</u> for some rail specific examples of how to apply the BCA Guidance

- GradeDEC link: https://www.fra.dot.gov/Page/P0337
- GradeDEC documentation: <u>https://www.fra.dot.gov/eLib/Details/L03761</u>

Environmental Reviews

- Are triggered by a Federal Action
- Interact with the planning process
- Can help with good decisionmaking
- Required by National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

Types of Environmental Reviews

- EIS / ROD: Environmental Impact Statement
- EA / FONSI: Environmental Assessment
- CE: Categorical Exclusion
- Tiered Environmental Documents

Environmental Readiness

- Document NEPA completion or review underway
 - Date of actual or anticipated completion and related milestones
 - Website link to documents
- See additional FRA NEPA compliance information at:

https://www.fra.dot.gov/eLib/Details/ L05286

- Read the NOFO carefully
- Determine what a "successful" project will look like
- Register in SAM and Grants.gov early
- Apply early enough to meet the application deadline
- When applying through Grants.gov, use the "Track My Application" function
- Use the checklist with the application requirements in the NOFO as you complete your application

- Check to see that all budget figures match corresponding figures on the forms, cover sheet, SOW, and in the Project Narrative
 - Numbers in columns and rows should add up properly in budget tables
- Address all of the evaluation and selection criteria on which you will be rated
 - By clearly and directly responding to the criteria, your application will be easier to read and evaluate. Don't bury key points!
- Name key partners, indicate in-place agreements, and include letters of support

- Align your strategies, activities, staffing, and other application content
- For grade crossing improvement projects, include grade crossing numbers
- Only include project costs expected to be incurred after selection of the grant

Thank you!

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