Webinar Outline

Today’s Goal: assist project sponsors and MPO/RTPOs with preparing regional submissions for National Highway Freight Program funding

Agenda:

• National Highway Freight Program (NHFP) Overview
• Project request and submittal process
• Program requirements
• Project scoring criteria
• Schedule
• Available resources and website demonstration
• Questions and answers
National Highway Freight Program

The NHFP provides funds to improve the efficiency of freight movement on the National Highway Freight Network

• Established under FAST Act, and continued under Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

• Five-year, federal-aid highway formula fund

• Eligible uses include a broad array of project activities, such as:
  • Preliminary engineering activities and right-of-way acquisition
  • Construction and rehabilitation
  • Operational improvements
  • Certain freight rail and intermodal projects
Approximately $50 million in NHFP funds are available to eligible local freight projects between 2022 to 2025

- Washington State Legislature directed WSDOT to allocate approximately $50 million of Federal Fiscal Year 2022-2025 NHFP funds to eligible local freight projects [SSB 5165, Sec. 311(8) and LEAP Project ID 2000100]

- Up to 30% can be used for freight rail and intermodal projects [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act §11114(3)(A)]

  Note: WSDOT will not compete for this funding opportunity
WSDOT is requesting MPO/RTPOs, tribes, cities, counties and ports to collaborate and develop regional lists of priority freight projects only for NHFP funding consideration:

**MPOs/RTPOs:**
- Coordinate with your area tribal governments and local jurisdiction members to develop a regional list of priority freight projects
- Complete project submittal package for your region and submit it to WSDOT

**Project sponsors (cities, counties, ports, tribes):**
- Work with your MPO/RTPO and follow the regional process and timeline for project submittal identified by your MPO/RTPO
- Submit your completed project submission form and supporting documentation to your MPO/RTPO

Completed regional project submittal package must be submitted by MPO/RTPOs to WSDOT no later than **March 16, 2022.**
NHFP Program Parameters

MPO/RTPOs and project sponsors should consider these program-related parameters when developing a regional list:

- Approximately $50 million total funding available statewide for local projects in Federal Fiscal Year 2022-2025
- Up to 30% for intermodal and freight rail projects each fiscal year
- A regional list of eligible and priority freight projects that meet eligibility requirements and are competitive for NHFP funding *(a short list, not ranked by order)*
- Project readiness for FFY 2022-2025
- Project sponsor’s capability to complete and deliver the project, including providing match fund
NHFP Project Eligibility Requirements

Please review all NHFP eligibility requirements first:

1. Public roadway, freight rail, or intermodal freight projects providing a clear benefit to freight transportation

   • Eligible freight intermodal or freight rail projects include:

     o Projects within the boundaries of public or private freight rail or water facilities (including ports) that provide surface transportation infrastructure necessary to facilitate direct intermodal interchange, transfer, and access into or out of a freight rail or water facility; or

     o Modernization or rehabilitation of a lock and dam, or on a marine highway corridor, connector, or crossing designated by the USDOT Secretary under section 55601 of title 46 (including an inland waterway corridor, connector, or crossing) that are likely to reduce on-road mobile source emissions
NHFP Project Eligibility Requirements (continued)

Please review all NHFP eligibility requirements first:

2. Ready to obligate the FFY 2022-2025 NHFP funding based upon delivery schedule submitted as a condition of the award.

3. Eligible project activities include preliminary engineering, right of way, and/or construction.

4. Minimum of 13.5% non-federal match.

5. Comply with all federal and state requirements as detailed in the Local Agency Guidelines Manual.

6. Must be included in a formally adopted plan or programming document.

7. Clearly demonstrate how well it meets the project evaluation criteria with supporting data.
Project Scoring Criteria

Scoring criteria were developed in collaboration with MPO/RTPO Technical Working Group – consider these goals and measures when choosing your projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy Goals</th>
<th>Evaluation Criterion</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>System Preservation</td>
<td>• Improve the state of good repair of freight infrastructure</td>
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<td>Freight Safety</td>
<td>• Prevent or reduce injuries or fatalities</td>
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<td>• Reduce conflict with vulnerable transportation users</td>
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<td>Stewardship</td>
<td>• Percent match of non-federal fund</td>
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<td>• Implementation of lowest cost solutions for the specific freight need</td>
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<td>Freight Mobility</td>
<td>• Reduce congestion and improve reliability</td>
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<td>Economic Vitality</td>
<td>• Support the economy and employment</td>
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<td>• Project’s location on the FGTS</td>
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<td>• Degree of connection to intermodal facility</td>
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<td>Protect the Environment and Communities</td>
<td>• Reduce freight negative impacts on water quality</td>
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<td>• Reduce negative impacts on wildlife</td>
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<td>• Reduce negative impacts on vulnerable communities</td>
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Additional Scoring Criteria

“Additional Benefit” categories give credit for improvements that reflect mounting freight system priorities, and which may not compete well against “traditional” freight infrastructure projects.

1. Improve Truck Parking
2. Improve Freight System Resiliency
3. Reduce GHG Emissions
Completed regional project submittal package must be submitted by MPO/RTPOs to WSDOT no later than March 16, 2022.

- **January to Mid-March**: MPO/RTPOs coordinate with members to create a list of priority NHFP projects
- **March 16**: Regional submittal package from MPO/RTPOs due to WSDOT
- **March to May**: WSDOT conducts technical validation and preliminary scoring of projects
- **June**: Project selection committee reviews and selects projects
- **June to July**: Update CUFC/CRFC designation based on project selection results
- **August**: Project selection results announced
- **August to September**: WSDOT drafts and finalizes freight investment plan
- **October**: Submit freight plan including investment plan element to FHWA
Project selection process

A project selection committee will select projects for NHFP awarding

- WSDOT will convene a project selection committee in Spring
  - Committee members will include representatives from cities, counties, ports, MPOs and RTPOs
    - WSDOT will staff the committee
- WSDOT conducts technical validation and preliminary scoring for committee review
- Project selection committee will select projects
- The role of the project selection committee is to:
  - Ensure transparency of the project selection process
  - Take into consideration of other important factors including:
    - Appropriate weighting of policy goals for project prioritization
    - Geographic balance across the state
    - Up to 30% of the funding for freight rail or intermodal projects
Available Resources on Website

WSDOT has prepared multiple information resources to make it easily accessible for a wide range of communities and agencies

• Online materials
  o MPO/RTPO cover sheet
  o Submission form

• Online resources
  o Instruction sheet
  o NHFP data map
  o Scoring criteria
  o Crash data request form and data dictionary

Visit the program webpage for details: https://wsdot.wa.gov/construction-planning/statewide-plans/freight-rail-plans/national-highway-freight-program
Website Demonstration

MPO/RTPO Cover Sheet of regional priority project submittal package for NHFP program

Submission Instructions

For FY 2022-2024 NHFP funding consideration, WSDOT is requesting a regional list of priority freight projects from all Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs) in Washington state. Regional submissions from MPOs and RTPOs must be received by Mar. 16, 2022. Electronic copies of the following are to be included in the submission:

- Completed MPO/RTPO cover sheet of the regional priority project submittal package
- Completed project submittal form for each project contained in the cover sheet
- Any other supporting documentation including project submittal maps

MPOs and RTPOs are strongly encouraged to coordinate with their affected local governments and local subdistrict members, including cities, counties and tribes, to develop the regional list of NHFP priority freight projects. Project sponsors are expected to follow the regional process and timeline identified by their regional MPO/RTPO and submit project submittal forms and supporting documentation to their MPO/RTPO contact.

Note the 2022 state freight lane inventory plan is based on five-year inventories for the NHFP program only to satisfy federal and state requirements.

Summary Information Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project ID</th>
<th>Project Sponsor/Owner</th>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Brief Description</th>
<th>Estimated (Tribal, City, County, Other, or project)</th>
<th>NHFP Requested Amount</th>
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Projects Overview

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<tr>
<th>Project Scope</th>
<th>Project Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Begin Project:</td>
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<td>End Project:</td>
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<td>Note: Provide lat/long in decimal degrees (e.g., W 120.111 Degrees)</td>
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Total Project Length (miles):

Data Map Demonstration

Link to data map: https://wsdot.maps.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=65f728a8f06c4e45954d0e9860b36fc6
Summary

The NHFP is an opportunity to improve the efficiency, safety, mobility, and reduce environmental impacts of freight transportation in Washington and your communities

• This funding opportunity is only for FFY 2022-2025 National Highway Freight Program

• MPO/RTPOs, tribes, cities, counties and ports should collaborate and develop regional lists of priority freight projects
  – MPO/RTPOs: coordinate with your members to complete the project submittal package for your region
  – Project sponsors: work with your MPO/RTPO and follow the regional process and timeline for project submittal identified by your MPO/RTPO

• Regional submittal package from MPO/RTPOs due to WSDOT by March 16

• Submission forms, instruction sheets, and other technical resources are available on the program webpage
Questions?
2022 Freight System Plan
wsdot.wa.gov/construction-planning/statewide-plans/freight-rail-plans/freight-system-plan

National Highway Freight Program

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