



# 2017 Linking Iowa's Freight Transportation System Program (LIFTS)

# 2016 LIFTS Pilot Program

**\$2.7 Million was awarded on Feb 9, 2016 as grants using repaid State Infrastructure funding**

- **2016 Results:**
  - 25 grant requests totaled \$17.2 Million
  - A \$14.4 million gap in funding
  - \$2.7 million was awarded on February 9, 2016 as grants
  - Six projects were awarded funding

# FAST ACT

- Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act signed into law in 2015.
- Expands the eligibility of multimodal freight projects for federal transportation funding through the establishment of the National Highway Freight Program (NHFP)
- 10% of Iowa's NHFP apportionment may be used for freight intermodal or freight rail projects.
- Transportation Commission chose to award this funding through the administration of the LIFTS program.
- \$2.6 million in the October 2017 funding cycle.
  - This includes two years worth of funding
  - Thereafter \$1.3 million annually.

## Differences: 2016 and 2017 Programs:

- Federal money vs State SIB money
- Projects must be carried out under the same regulations and processes as a federal-aid highway project.
- Pre-application will be required
- Completion may take longer due to Federal requirements



## 2017 LIFTS Program



# LIFTS is designed to:

- Enhance economic development by improving the multimodal freight transportation system in Iowa
- Provide flexible funding for changing demands of the freight transportation system
- Enhance the ability to provide competitive transportation options for shipment of products and moving goods
- Provide incentives to alternate modes for economic development opportunities

# Who can apply?

## Eligible applicants:

- Transportation provider or user
- City or county
- Private company/industry
- Other entity interested in freight transportation

## Private applicants:

- Eligible for **50%** grant funding

## Public applicants or public-private partnerships:

- Eligible for **80%** grant funding

# Project Eligibility

- Infrastructure and operational improvements
- Efforts that reduce the environmental impacts of freight movement
- Infrastructure resiliency and security enhancements
- Real-time transportation information systems
- Electronic screening, credentialing, and security technologies



# Project Eligibility (continued)

- Modernization, upgrading, expansion or reconstruction of existing and new freight facilities that support direct freight interchange between modes
- Modernization, upgrading, expansion or construction of existing or new freight modal links, including but not limited to air freight facilities, barge terminal facilities, intermodal facilities, transload locations, cross docks, or similar facilities.



# Federal Requirements

# Federal Requirements

- The LIFTS program is funded through the NHFP, a federal-aid highway program administered by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- Awarded projects will be subject to all federal requirements required of highway projects
- Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) procedures will not be followed, though they may be similar

# National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

- LIFTS projects will be subject to NEPA compliance
- Requires verification that the project is not harmful to the environment through review of (partial list):
  - Noise
  - Air quality
  - Cultural resources
  - Water quality
  - Floodplains
  - Farmland protection
  - Regulated material sites
  - Threatened and endangered species

# Buy America

- FHWA Buy America policies will apply to projects funded under the LIFTS program.
- These policies require a domestic manufacturing process for all steel or iron products that are permanently incorporated in the project

# Prevailing Wages (Davis-Bacon)

- All LIFTS projects will be required to comply with Davis-Bacon wage requirements
- Contractors will need to conform to federal prevailing wages and provide bi-weekly payrolls
- Project sponsors (or their consultants) will need to review contractor payrolls bi-weekly for wages paid and resolve any discrepancies

# Project Accounting

- Public project sponsors should have procedures in place to satisfy federal requirements for project accounting
- Private entities may be subject to additional review to ensure accounting systems meet the minimum federal requirements:
  - Segregation of costs
  - Internal control
  - Record retention
- Subject to audit

# Competitive Bidding

- Infrastructure projects will be let through the Iowa DOT Office of Contracts using Iowa DOT Standard Specifications and additional special provisions as applicable
- Other procurement will follow specific procedures provided by Iowa DOT
- Low bid awards

Required Contract Provisions FHWA-1273

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/programadmin/contracts/1273/1273.pdf>



# Other Requirements

- Uniform Relocation Property Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act (the Uniform Act) for acquisition of right-of-way
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) effort
- Federal, state, local permits
- Project must be maintained for the duration of its useful life (20-years for most infrastructure)

# Pre-Application

- Two phase application process
- Allows Iowa DOT to review project details prior to full application to identify:
  - Project eligibility concerns
  - NEPA or other federal requirements concerns
- Iowa DOT will provide comments back to applicants to assist in development of full application

# Administering Office

- Once awarded by the Iowa Transportation Commission, projects sponsors will work with the Office of Systems Planning to develop their projects
- Office of Rail Transportation will continue to advise
- Project kick-off meeting/conference call to assess plans for development, process requirements, etc.
- One Iowa DOT project contact following award from cradle-to-grave

# Resources

- General procedures contained with the existing Iowa DOT Instruction Memorandums (IMs) will be followed.
- IMs are written for local public agencies developing highway projects, but will be translated to LIFTS
- Iowa DOT project contact will walk awarded projects through procedures

Project Development Guide

[https://iowadot.gov/local\\_systems/publications/im/guide.pdf](https://iowadot.gov/local_systems/publications/im/guide.pdf)

Instructional Memorandums

[https://iowadot.gov/local\\_systems/publications/im/imtoc.pdf](https://iowadot.gov/local_systems/publications/im/imtoc.pdf)

# LIFTS Project Evaluation

Category	Weight
Freight Mobility Benefits	25 %
Economic Benefits	25 %
Public Benefits	20 %
Project Readiness	20 %
Innovation/Process Improvement	10 %

# Tentative Program Timeline

- Webinar – October 26, 2017
- Pre-applications due – November 17, 2017
- Applications due – March 2, 2018
- Commission Approval of projects – July 2018 (tentative)

# How To Apply

**Pre-application: (due November 17th):**

<https://forms.iowadot.gov/FormsMgt/External/291322.pdf>

**Full Application (due March 2<sup>nd</sup>):**

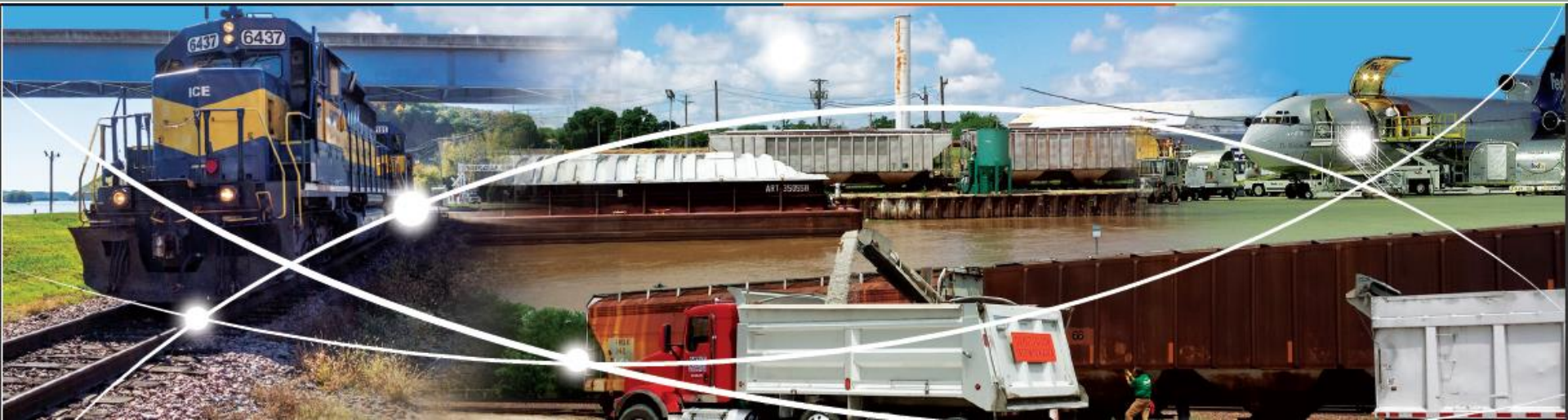
<https://forms.iowadot.gov/FormsMgt/External/291320.pdf>

**Program Guidelines:**

<https://iowadot.gov/iowarail/pdfs/LIFTSguidelines.pdf>

**Frequently Asked Questions:**

<https://iowadot.gov/iowarail/pdfs/liftsfaq.pdf>



## Questions:

[Laura.Hutzell@iowadot.us](mailto:Laura.Hutzell@iowadot.us)

<https://iowadot.gov/iowarail/financial-assistance/lifts>