2017 Linking Iowa’s Freight Transportation System Program (LIFTS)
Introductions

Diane McCauley - Policy Analyst, Office of Rail Transportation

Laura Hutzell - Rail Development Manager, Office of Rail Transportation

Linking Iowa’s Freight Transportation System Program

• 2015/2016 Pilot Program
• FAC Input
• FAST ACT
• LIFTS Program Overview
• Eligibility
• Project Evaluation
• Program Timeline
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
FAC Input

- Gather a group of stakeholders to review applications
- Include “innovation” as a category for project evaluation/scoring
  - This was determined using the dot sticker exercise back in March
- Provide a dedicated funding stream
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.
FAST ACT – LIFTS funding

• 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.
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
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
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.
## LIFTS Project Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freight Mobility Benefits</td>
<td>25 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Benefits</td>
<td>25 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Benefits</td>
<td>20 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Readiness</td>
<td>20 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovation/Process Improvement</td>
<td>10 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tentative Program Timeline

• Webinar – Early Fall 2017
• Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) – Early Fall 2017
• Pre-applications due – Late Fall 2017
• Applications due – Early Winter 2018
• Approval of projects - Early spring 2018
Questions:
Diane.McCauley@iowadot.us
Laura.Hutzell@iowadot.us