

# LINKING IOWA'S FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM PROGRAM

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MPO/RPA Quarterly Meeting  
September 15, 2015



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## Overview

- Linking Iowa's Freight Transportation System Program
  - Program Purpose
  - Funding level for FY 16
  - Program Criteria
  - Schedule



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

- Purpose of the program:
  - Enhance economic development by improving multimodal freight transportation system
  - Provide flexible funding for changing demands of freight transportation system
  - Enhance ability to provide competitive transportation options for shipment of products and moving goods
  - Incentivize alternate modes for economic development partnership purposes



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## LIFTS Funding

- For FY 2016
  - Utilize current balance of State Infrastructure Bank funds (~\$2.6 million) for LIFTS Program
  - Award funds as grants
  - Demonstrate demand and value of LIFTS Program to support future appropriations



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## Potential Types of Projects

- Develop or improve transload facilities – transfer products between modes
- Improve capacity at barge terminal facilities
- Intermodal facility partnerships with private industry
- Remove height and/or weight restrictions on existing infrastructure
- Increase weight capacity of rail lines to handle heavier cars
- Expand/reconfigure rail yards to increase capacity or reduce dwell time
- Rehabilitate freight infrastructure to improve condition or capacity
- Improve safety to increase freight capacity



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## LIFTS Program Criteria

- Applicant Eligibility:
  - Transportation provider or user
  - City or county
  - Planning organization
  - Other entity interested in freight transportation
- Public applicants or public-private partnerships
  - Eligible for 80% grant funding
- Private applicants
  - Eligible for 50% grant funding



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## LIFTS Program Criteria

- Eligible project costs:
  - Modernization, upgrading or expansion of existing and new freight transportation facilities that support direct freight interchange between highway and rail carriers
  - Modernization, upgrading or expansion of existing and new modal links, including air freight facilities, water port facilities, intermodal facilities, and transload locations.
  - Infrastructure that is integral to a freight transportation system, including bridges, docks, and equipment.
  - Right of way acquisition costs
  - Planning and feasibility studies of a freight facility
  - Equipment that is integral to a freight transportation improvement.



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## LIFTS Program Criteria

- Ineligible project costs:
  - Passenger rail
  - Public transit and commuter rail
  - Recreational trails
  - Rolling stock
  - Transportation tourist sites
  - Highway projects typically eligible for traditional highway funding



## LIFTS Project Application

### Applications will include:

- Purpose, need and benefits of the project
- Freight shipping projections
- Benefits to the highway system (such as diverted freight, emissions reductions, reduced congestion)
- Project partners
- LIFTS funding request
- Matching funds, source, status of commitment
- Economic benefits, including job creation
- Project schedule
- Right of way status
- Environmental permitting status



## LIFTS Project Evaluation

### Projects will be evaluated by a review of:

- **Freight Transportation Benefits** including freight connectivity, how the project addresses freight challenges and improves freight mobility and reliability, and provides benefits to customers and shippers,
- **Economic Benefits** including job creation and retention, state-wide or regional influence, including benefits and cost savings to customers and shippers, other investment by sponsor (leveraging private investment)
- **Public Benefits** including highway user benefits, safety, congestion relief, environmental and other public benefits
- **Project Readiness** including design status, environmental clearances, permitting, expected timeline of project



## LIFTS Schedule

- August 21st: Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)
- August 27<sup>th</sup>: Informative Webinar
- October 26<sup>th</sup> – Applications due
- December 7, 2015 – Present funding recommendation to Commission
- January 12, 2016 – Seek Commission action

All projects must be complete within 36 months of executed agreement



Questions?

