

Texas Federal Lands Access Program: Overview

The Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) was created by the “Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act” (MAP-21), and continued through the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, to improve state and local transportation facilities that provide access to and through federal lands for visitors, recreationists and resource users. FLAP funds are eligible for planning, engineering, restoration, construction, and reconstruction of transportation facilities but are not intended for maintenance (chipseal, potholes, etc.) projects.

Program Requirements:

Projects that may be considered for FLAP funding include:

1. The transportation facilities owned or maintained by the State, or local entity that provide access to, are adjacent to, or are located within Federal lands with an emphasis on **high-use recreation sites** or **federal economic generators**. Projects may include *engineering, rehabilitation, restoration, construction, reconstruction, transportation planning, and research* of the eligible transportation facility.
2. The project applicant **must meet the minimum local match requirement**, which may include federal agency funds excluding *Title 23* or *Title 49* funds, with exception of the Federal Lands Transportation Program (FLTP) and Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) that are both eligible matching federal programs. In Texas, the minimum local match requirement is 19.78%.

See <http://flh.fhwa.dot.gov/programs/flap/> for more information regarding eligibility.

Program Decision Making:

The Texas Federal Lands Access Program is administered by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) by the Central Federal Lands Highway Division (CFLHD). FAST reinstates MAP-21 mandates whereby decisions are to be made through the Texas FLAP Program Decision Committee (PDC) in cooperation with Federal Land Management Agencies (FLMA).

Texas FLAP PDC Members:

- Mr. Chris Longley, Federal Lands Access Program Coordinator, FHWA – CFLHD (or designated representative);
- Mr. Peter Smith, Director of Transportation Planning and Programming, Texas Department of Transportation (or designated representative); and
- Judge Sydney Murphy, Polk County Judge (or designated representative)

Federal Land Management Agency Coordination:

- Per 204(c)(2) Consultation Requirement – the PDC cooperates with each applicable Federal agency in each State before any joint discussion or final programming decision. For Texas the following FLMA representatives evaluate project applications.

Federal Land Management Agency	FLMA Representative	Email
National Park Service	Sena Wiley or Erica Cole	Sena_wiley@nps.gov ; Erica_cole@nps.gov
US Forest Service	Paul Morgan	pamorgan@fs.fed.us
Bureau of Land Management	William Williams	wwilliam@blm.gov
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Bruce Hickson	Bruce_Hickson@fws.gov
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	David White	David.K.White@usace.army.mil
Bureau of Reclamation	Cody McCrackin	cmccrackin@usbr.gov

Texas Federal Lands Access Program: Project Application Solicitation

Project Application Information:

The Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) presents a unique opportunity for state and local entities to obtain federal funding for a variety of transportation projects that improve access federal lands in the state of Texas.

Texas FLAP Summary

Annual Allocation	~\$3,200,000
Local Minimum Match Required	19.78%
Advertised Amount	\$6 – \$12Million
Advertised Fiscal Years to Program	FY 2021 – FY 2024
Call for Project Applications	January 29, 2019 – April 29, 2019
TX FLAP Website	https://flh.fhwa.dot.gov/programs/flap/tx/

Project Application Process:

The PDC will review, evaluate, and prioritize all eligible Project Applications submitted and select those to be short-listed using the Project Application evaluation criteria developed by the PDC. The PDC will select a balanced program that maximizes funding and addresses critical needs, in consultation with applicable Federal Land Management Agencies.

By submission of a Project Application the Applicant is acknowledging to the following requirements:

- a) Proposed projects must be located on a public highway, road, bridge, or trail that is located on, is adjacent to, or provide access to Federal lands for which the facility title or maintenance responsibility is vested with a State, county, city, township, tribal, municipal, or local government.
- b) The applicant must be the facility owner, have maintenance responsibility or must supply a letter from the facility owner/maintenance indicating the application is being submitted on their behalf.
- c) It is the responsibility of the applicant to supply the necessary information to complete the application to the best of their ability. This may include cost estimates, maps, photos, etc.
- d) Project applications must be supported by the appropriate Federal Land Management Agency (FLMA), documented by a completed support form or a letter of support.
- e) The Texas FLAP requires a minimum match requirement is **19.78%** of the total project cost. Other Federal (non-title 23 or 49) funds may be used as match. Please note this may require an approval (resolution) of a commitment of funds from the governing agency prior to the Project Application deadline.
- f) Following review of eligible applications submitted, the PDC will select a Short-list of Projects using the Project Selection criteria. If short-listed, the Applicant will enter into a *Reimbursable Agreement for the not-to-exceed amount of \$10,000 within 45 days of notification of selection* for CFLHD to complete project scoping efforts to develop an accurate scope, schedule, and budget.
- g) If the PDC and the Applicant agree with the project scope, schedule, and budget the PDC will approve the project for final programming. At this time the *Reimbursable Agreement* will be modified to meet the final match requirement for the full project scope, and a Memorandum of Agreement defining that scope as well as roles and responsibilities to be executed **within 60 days from approval of funding**.

Texas Federal Lands Access Program: 2019 Call for Project Applications Detailed Schedule

		PRE-CALL	CALL	REVIEW	SELECT	SCOPE	FINAL PROGRAM
		<i>December</i>	<i>January thru April</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>July-October</i>	<i>Fall '19</i>
PDC		Notify agency counterparts and potential applicants of impending call for projects.	Advertise Call for Project Applications to constituents.	PDC scores and ranks applications.	PDC selects short-list of applicants.	Review PDPs for short-listed projects at final project selection meeting.	Funded program announced.
CFLHD		Schedule the call with state PDC, prepare the call packet, and update website with call schedule.	Issue Call for projects and distribute notification email to PDC and FLMA representatives.	Prepares summary of all projects and evaluation sheets for PDC and FLMA representatives.	Notify short-list of projects and enters preliminary project agreement with Applicant.	Scope short-listed projects and develop Project Delivery Plans for an accurate scope, schedule, and budget.	Notify applicants of program year and update agreements to proceed with work.
FLMA	Region	Notify local units/stations in respective states of impending call for projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notify units/stations in respective states of open Call for Projects. Notify FLMA units/stations and their respective local entities and State DOTs to submit projects. 	FLMA reps evaluate projects to provide final ranking to PDC.	FLMA Region notified of short-list of projects.		
	Local Sponsor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review FLAP eligibility requirements. Engage state and local facility owners to identify and discuss potential projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support applicant by providing necessary application information Provide initial acknowledgement of project on application materials (FLMA Support Form) If Federal funds are being used for match; coordinate with Region for endorsement Notify FLMA Region representative of submitted applications. 	Support inquiries from FLMA reps as needed.	FLMA included in notification of selection.	Engaged in scoping as appropriate.	Assign appropriate FLMA project representative to coordinate with CFLHD on execution of project agreement.
APPLICANT		Engage FLMA sponsor to discuss potential FLAP projects.	Prepare and submit applications with signature of supporting FLMA unit/station.	Respond to requests from PDC for additional clarification to assist in review.	Short-list of applicants sign preliminary agreement to proceed with scoping.	Engaged in scoping as appropriate.	Assign project representative to coordinate with CFLHD on agreements.