

TIGER II DISCRETIONARY GRANTS PROGRAM: SUBMITTED PROJECTS

In a notice in the Federal Register on April 26, 2010, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) announced the availability of funding and requested proposals for National Infrastructure Investments. USDOT is referring to the grants for National Infrastructure Investments under the FY 2010 Appropriations Act as TIGER II (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) Discretionary Grants. The FY 2010 Appropriations Act appropriated \$600 million to be awarded under TIGER II.

TIGER II funds are to be awarded for capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure and will be awarded on a competitive basis for projects that will have a significant impact on the Nation, a metropolitan area, or a region. Eligible projects include highway or bridge projects, public transit, passenger and freight rail, and port infrastructure. Applications may not be less than \$10 million, except for certain projects in rural areas, and not more than \$200 million each. Evaluation criteria will include long-term outcomes, job creation, economic stimulus, innovation, and partnership. Priority will be given to projects that have a significant impact on the following long-term outcomes: state of good repair, economic competitiveness, livability, sustainability, and safety.

TIGER II applications will be evaluated in a two-step process. The pre-application process will include basic information on projects and will be used by the USDOT to determine eligibility, the presence of the appropriate match, and whether the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process has been initiated. Pre-applications are due by July 16, 2010. Projects that advance into the evaluation process have a final deadline of August 23, 2010.

During its meeting on June 16, 2010, the HRTPO Board endorsed the following five projects for pre-application for TIGER II grants:

- Chesapeake – US Route 17/Dominion Boulevard TIFIA (Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation credit assistance). Amount requested: \$20 million
- Newport News – Amtrak Station project. Amount requested: \$20 million
- Norfolk – Multi-Modal Transportation Facility Phase I. Amount requested: unspecified
- Suffolk – Route 58 Intermodal Corridor Project. Amount requested: \$54 million
- Virginia Beach – Lesner Bridge Replacement. Amount requested: \$72 million

USDOT will begin announcing the awards of TIGER II grants after September 15, 2010.