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Financial Strategies

SHOW ME AT LEAST A LITTLE NEW MONEY: HOW SMALL AND MID-SIZE COMMUNITIES CAN
IMPLEMENT PROJECTS USING THE FEDERAL LANDS ACCESS PROGRAM

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With budgetary constraints impacting the ability of Federal, State, and local government agencies to address transportation infrastructure needs, government agencies at all levels need to be aware of any opportunities to access new or modified funding programs. One such "somewhat new" funding program is the Federal Lands Access Program. Created by Section 1102 of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), and continued under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) is not truly a "new" surface transportation funding program, but rather a merger and melding of other previously defined surface transportation funding programs into a competitive financing program with funding levels explicitly defined at the statewide level.

The primary goal of the FLAP Program is to improve those transportation facilities that provide access to, are adjacent to, or are located within Federal lands. The FLAP Program supplements State and local agency resources for improvements to public roads, transit systems, and other transportation facilities, with an emphasis on access improvements to high use federal recreation sites and economic generators. The program is designed to provide flexibility for a wide range of transportation projects in the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. A Programming Decisions Committee (PDC) within each State has the final responsibility for making project programming decisions.

The FLAP Program compliments the Federal Lands Transportation Program (FLTP), whose focus is on the improvement of transportation facilities and services that are owned, operated, and maintained by one of the Federal Land Management Agencies (FLMAs). The FLMAs include: the National Park Service, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the US Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, and the US Army Corps of Engineers. The FLAP Program also compliments other Federal programs for transportation improvements, such as the Defense Access Roads Program and the Forest Development Roads and Trails Program. The FLAP program recognizes the importance of safe and seamless access to and within Federal lands.

Funds made available to each State under the FLAP Program are eligible to pay the cost of the following activities:

- A. Transportation planning, research, engineering, preventive maintenance, rehabilitation, restoration, construction, and reconstruction of Federal Lands Access Transportation Facilities that are located on, or adjacent to, or which provide access to, Federal land;
- B. Operation and maintenance of transit facilities; and
- C. Any transportation project eligible for assistance under Title 23 that is within or adjacent to, or that provides access to, Federal land.

This presentation will describe how the FLAP Program has been implemented across the country since its creation in MAP-21. The presentation will include a description of the process by which the national program authorizations are allocated to each state, the components of the state level Programming Decisions Committee, and the experience to date with the project application, review, programming, and implementation activities.