



**DATE:** March 16, 2016  
**TO:** Transportation Commission  
**FROM:** Debra Perkins-Smith, Director, Division of Transportation Development (DTD)  
**SUBJECT:** Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) Projects

**Purpose**

Review of projects proposed for submission under the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP).

**Action**

Transportation Commission (TC) input on proposed projects with action in April.

**Background**

The FLAP is a competitive, discretionary program for states, counties, tribes and local governments. The program provides funds for transportation facilities that provide access to, or are located on or adjacent to Federal lands, with emphasis placed on facilities that improve access to high use Federal recreation sites or economic generators. The transportation facility must be owned or maintained by the state, tribe or local government.

Each State is required to create a committee composed of a representative of the FHWA, a representative of the State DOT, and a representative of the appropriate political subdivisions of the State. This committee, known as the Colorado Programming Decisions Committee, makes programming decisions for FLAP funds. Furthermore, the committee is responsible for soliciting FLAP proposals, developing selection criteria, establishing an evaluation process, and selecting projects. Eligible projects include engineering, rehabilitation, restoration, construction, reconstruction, transportation planning, and research of Federal lands access transportation facilities.

The last FLAP call for projects was conducted in 2013. At that time, individual CDOT Regions submitted four applications directly to the Colorado Programming Decisions Committee. None was successful, although one project was the highest rated project not to receive funding. Table 1 below includes projects selected by the Colorado Programming Decisions Committee for funding in the previous cycle.

**Table 1: FLAP Projects Selected in Previous Cycle**

Project Name	Applicant	Federal Land Accessed
County Road 5/County Road 3 Intersection	Rio Blanco County	White River Field Office
Lake Pueblo State Park Road & Trail Improvements	State of Colorado	State of Colorado
Rubey Park Transit Center Renovation	City of Aspen	White River National Forest
Brainard Lake Road	Boulder County	Arapaho-Roosevelt
Cottonwood Pass Road	Gunnison County	Gunnison National Forest
Red Dirt Bridge Replacement	Eagle County	White River National Forest
Estes Park Moraine Avenue (US 36) and Riverside Drive	Town of Estes Park	Rocky Mountain National Park



## Details

Applications are now being accepted for FY 19 - FY 22, with approximately \$60 million available for projects in Colorado. For the current solicitation, CDOT changed its approach to identify the top three or four priority projects for CDOT. The CDOT Regions were asked to propose projects for consideration. DTD also provided the Regions with information on projects included in the Development Program that met FLAP access criteria. The Regions submitted eight projects for consideration. Of the eight projects submitted, five are identified as priorities in the Development Program.

A FLAP project evaluation team, composed of staff from DTD, the Regions, and the Office of Policy and Government Relations, met in February to review and score candidate projects based on the criteria used by the Colorado Programming Decisions Committee. This includes:

- Access, mobility, and connectivity
- Economic development
- Facility condition
- Safety
- Resource protection
- Funding, coordination, and cost

The evaluation team also gave special attention to two key factors: usage (yearly/seasonal AADT) and economic importance to the Federal Land Management Area. Table 2 summarizes the staff recommended priority list. Although not a factor in the selection process, all of the recommended projects are projects identified in the Development Program.

**Table 2: Recommended FLAP Project Applications**

Priority	Project	Federal Lands Accessed	Funding Request	Total Project Cost	Region
1	US 160 Passing Lanes North of Towaoc	Mesa Verde National Park; Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Lands; Yucca House National Monument; Canyons of the Ancients National Monument; Hovenweep National Monument	\$7,865,050	\$9,500,000	5
2	US 50 Blue Creek Canyon	Gunnison National Forest; Curecanti National Recreation Area; Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park; BLM lands	\$18,000,000	\$26,000,000	3
3	US 550 Corridor - CR 218 to CR 302	San Juan National Forest; Southern Ute Tribal Lands; BLM lands	\$17,400,000	\$21,000,000	5
4	SH 139 Little Horse South	Canyon Pintado National Historic District; Dinosaur National Monument; BLM lands	\$9,200,000	\$9,200,000	3

## Next Steps

Applications are due on May 21. Staff requests TC input on the projects recommended for submission so that staff can begin to prepare detailed applications and coordinate with federal land management agencies. Based on TC direction, staff will begin work on detailed applications and return for TC approval in April.

