

Grant Opportunities for Roads/Transportation



Photo Courtesy:
Cory Schneider

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

<http://www.ak.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip.html>

Main contact: Al White, tel. 761-7757—he can refer communities to the regional office contact.

NRCS provides assistance for trail/road projects that are environmentally conscious and aimed at conserving subsistence and natural resources (geomat subsistence trails can be eligible). Their financial assistance is on a re-imbursement/cost sharing basis, as long as eligibility requirements are met, and they may not cover the full amount of the project. They can work with tribes and provide technical assistance in putting together eligible projects. The website has contact information for all regional offices, where applications can be sent at any time throughout the year.

Denali Commission

http://www.denali.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&id=4:transportation&layout=blog&Itemid=17

Contact: Addison Smith, tel. 271 1414

The roads/transportation funding usually opens up in July/Aug and closes in Nov, but call for exact dates. Up to \$1 million for construction can be applied for (geo-mat purchase is definitely eligible). FHA rules need to be followed. Match is 10% (IRR funds would qualify). Addison at Denali can help the community with the application process. Don't need to apply to STIP beforehand. Denali Commission grants require that trails/roads constructed with their funds are public access, which means that they are open to the public and not only to shareholders.

Alaska DOT STIP

http://www.dot.state.ak.us/stwdplng/cip_stip/index.shtml

Contact: Don Fancher, 269 0516

Funding opportunity only comes out every 3 years (next one is in 2014). Communities can apply at any time but would have to re-submit application in 2014, when the deadline comes up. An application would place a community on the list that the State maintains and can give more leverage when seeking other funding sources. If the roads are locally owned, there is a match required for STIP, which is around 9%, but IRR funds could be used. Match has to be money and not in-kind. If the roads are state owned, no match required.

BIA High Priority Projects (HPP) Funding

<http://flh.fhwa.dot.gov/programs/irr/hpp.htm>

Contact: Jeff Harmon in Anchorage, 271 4164

The main HPP program contact is Minerva Chavez, 271 4158.

There is \$11 million available each year (can apply for up to \$1 million per project). No match required. The letters are being sent out to communities in August 2011 and applications are due in December 2011. Geo-mats purchase is definitely eligible. The following 3 things are required:

1. All the roads that need improvement have to be on the IRR inventory. They also have to be official routes in the inventory. Check with the point of contact at BIA to see which routes are currently on the inventory and which are official vs. non-official.
2. The project (i.e purchasing mats to improve roads) must be in the community's long-range transportation plan as the #1 priority project
3. It must be stated that the amount needed to carry out the project exceeds the annual allocation amount.

CFR: <http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr;sid=70ced5df932b267c8772de5d8b078d15;rgn=div7;view=text;node=25%3A1.0.1.8.76.3.169;idno=25;cc=ecfr>

US DOT TIGER Program

<http://www.dot.gov/tiger/>

Pre-applications are due Oct 3, 2011 and full applications are due Oct 31, 2011 through grants.gov.

All of the TIGER III funding is for construction only and they no longer provide funding for planning. They fund capital projects only for surface transportation. They have separate funding for rural applications (\$140 million in total) and each rural project must be for \$1 million minimum (they will not fund projects for less than \$1 million). No match is required but having a match can make your application more competitive. IRR funds qualify for a match but other federal funds cannot be used. These grants are fairly competitive and all guidelines in the RFP (found on website) have to be followed thoroughly. Technical assistance is provided by phone and economists are available to assist with the required Cost Benefit Analysis. To schedule an appointment or to ask a question, email tigergrants@dot.gov. Useful webinars on preparing successful applications and other information can be found here <http://www.dot.gov/tiger/application-resources.html>.

Other Resources

National Park Service-Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program

http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/rtca/whatwedo/wwd_what_we_do.html

The NPS does not provide grants but they can provide technical assistance, logistics and product review, and training.

Zender Group's Funding Summary <http://zendergroup.org/docs/ISWMPFundingOpps.pdf>