



# Illinois Department of Transportation

2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois / 62764

February 20, 2018

## **CIRCULAR LETTER 2018-03**

### **FY 2018-2022 ILLINOIS COMPETITIVE FREIGHT FUNDING PROGRAM**

COUNTY ENGINEERS / SUPERINTENDENTS OF HIGHWAYS  
MUNICIPAL ENGINEERS / PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTORS / MAYORS  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS – DIRECTORS  
TOWNSHIP HIGHWAY COMMISSIONERS  
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

The Department is announcing a new Competitive Freight Funding Program that will be available to state and local public agencies for state fiscal year (FY) 2018 through FY 2022. Program guidance and the application can be found at: <http://www.idot.illinois.gov/ILfreight>. The Illinois Competitive Freight Funding Program seeks to improve freight mobility throughout Illinois by implementing the goals of the 2017 [Illinois State Freight Plan](#) by improving safety, efficiency, and growing the economy. The program will focus on reducing bottlenecks, improving freight related safety, improving intermodal accessibility to / from freight corridors, and technology deployment.

Local, state or federal governmental agencies such as cities, counties, transportation authorities, metropolitan planning organizations or regional planning commissions are eligible to apply for this program.

The program is application based. Evaluation criteria have been developed to rank projects based on the type of project. Applications for this program will be accepted through 11:59 p.m. Friday, April 6, 2018. Only electronic applications will be accepted. Announcement of the selected projects for funding will take place in June 2018. The anticipated federal funding level is approximately \$225 million. Annual funding levels will range from approximately \$43 million to \$53 million.

Non-federal matching funds will be required. Match requirements will be confirmed at the time of the award. Applicants should assume a maximum of 80 percent federal funds. Local public agency applicants must identify the source of non-federal matching funds and provide reasonable assurances these funds are available and sufficient to complete the requested funding phase(s). Public-public and public-private partnerships are strongly encouraged. The creation of partnerships helps to convey strong stakeholder support and can help to leverage these limited federal funds. Any level of material partnership will be considered positively when rating applications.

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The competitive program will be open to all activities identified as eligible in the FAST Act including all phases of project development and implementation (preliminary engineering, land acquisition, final design, construction, etc.).

Freight funding program funds may only be applied to projects on the [Primary Highway Freight System](#) (as previously established by the United States Department of Transportation), on designated Critical Urban Freight Corridors, or on designated Critical Rural Freight Corridors. A preliminary listing of these critical corridors can be found [here](#)<sup>1</sup>. If your project location is not on the Primary Highway Freight System and is not identified on the preliminary listing of Critical Urban and Rural Freight Corridors you will be provided the opportunity to justify designation as a critical freight corridor.

The FAST Act also allows up to 10 percent of each fiscal year of freight funding program funds to be awarded to intermodal projects designed to improve the flow of freight into and out of a freight intermodal or freight rail facility. These projects may include those within the boundaries of public or private freight rail or water facilities. Project proposals including a private entity must have a public sponsor.

IDOT will host three informational meetings to explain the grant program and provide one-on-one assistance to prospective applicants. Screening criteria, final guidance, and applications will be provided. The meetings will take place:

**Friday, February 23, 1:00PM – 3:00PM – Collinsville**

IDOT District 8 Headquarters, Regional Conference Room, 1102 Eastport Plaza Drive

**Wednesday, February 28, 1:00PM – 3:00PM – Schaumburg**

IDOT District 1 Headquarters, Lower Level Auditorium, 201 W. Center Court

**Monday, March 5, 1:00PM – 3:00PM – Springfield**

IDOT's Hanley Building, Auditorium, 2300 S. Dirksen Parkway

To RSVP for the meetings, please visit:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSezWeuHs\\_2Vm-U3oP3di7gOuADBYTsy5hda31RaQFQqhkoXGQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSezWeuHs_2Vm-U3oP3di7gOuADBYTsy5hda31RaQFQqhkoXGQ/viewform)

Questions concerning the Competitive Freight Funding Program may be directed to Mr. Michael Vanderhoof, Metropolitan Planning Section Chief, by telephone at (217) 785-8080 or by email at [Michael.Vanderhoof@illinois.gov](mailto:Michael.Vanderhoof@illinois.gov). If you have questions regarding the local public agency project delivery process, they may be directed to Mr. Tim Peters, Local Policy and Technology Engineer, by telephone at (217) 785-5048 or by email at [Tim.Peters@illinois.gov](mailto:Tim.Peters@illinois.gov).

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<sup>1</sup> Select ARCGIS for sign-in. User name is: MPOViewer

Password is: MPO@1dot

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Sincerely,



Maureen E. Kastl, P.E.  
Engineer of Local Roads and Streets

MV/

Attachments

cc: Jon-Paul Kohler, FHWA  
Erin Aleman, Director, Office of Planning and Programming  
Holly Ostdick, Bureau of Planning  
David Marth, Illinois Association of County Engineers  
Joe McCoy, Illinois Municipal League  
Bryan Smith, Township Officials of Illinois  
Charlie Montgomery, Township Highway Commissioners of Illinois