

**Department of Transportation (DOT)
Federal Highway Administration
The Supporting Statement A**

**Type 3 Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation
(BIT3) Competitive Grant Program**

OMB Control No. 2125-XXXX

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is requesting a new information collection to support the Type 3 Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation (BIT3) Competitive Grant Program for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 funding cycle. This collection is essential for the solicitation, evaluation, and selection of grant recipients, as well as for the subsequent fiscal oversight and performance monitoring of awarded projects.

Part A. Justification.

1. Circumstances that make collection of information necessary:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requests approval of a new information collection associated with the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Type 3 Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation (BIT3) Competitive Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). The information collection is necessary to solicit, evaluate, and select applications for competitive grant funding.

FHWA administers the BIT3 Competitive Grant Program established under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 (Public Law No. 119-75), administered as if allocated under the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) codified at 23 U.S.C. § 204. The purpose of the BIT3 Competitive Grant Program is to improve the condition, safety, and efficiency of county-owned bridges crossing Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) water conveyance structures, protecting water delivery systems and ensuring the safe, efficient, and reliable movement of people and goods over these critical crossings.

This information collection supports the DOT Strategic Goal of Safety and Economic Competitiveness by rehabilitating or replacing county-owned Type 3 bridges over Bureau of Reclamation water conveyance structures to protect critical water delivery assets, improve bridge safety and structure ratings, and support regional commerce and agricultural transport in the 17 Western States.

2. How, by whom, and for what purpose is the information used:

The purpose of this information collection is to receive information relevant to proposed projects for the BIT3 Competitive Grant Program. FHWA initially requests information from applicants in the form of a competitive grant application. This grant application will assist the

FHWA in evaluating proposals for funding from eligible applicants, monitoring selected recipients, tracking project progress, assessing project outcomes, and permitting the programmatic evaluation of the projects.

Information is collected during the application phase on a voluntary basis and is submitted electronically by applicants through Grants.gov. Although submitting an application is voluntary, applicants must provide the required information and templates described in the NOFO to be eligible for award consideration. Eligible applicants include counties owning a bridge structure classified as Type 3 by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) that crosses a USBR water conveyance structure in the 17 Western United States, applying alone or in partnership with other units of local government or Tribal entities.

FHWA will use the information collected in the application phase to screen for basic eligibility, evaluate project merit, assess readiness, and determine final grant selections. In addition to mandatory [Standard Forms](#) (which include the SF-424, SF-424C, SF-424D, SF-LLL, and Grants.gov Lobbying Form), applicants must complete and attach the comprehensive BIT3 Competitive Grant Program Application Template. This template collects project background information, detailed budgets and statements of work, and project narratives.

For successful grant recipients, ongoing post-award collections, semi-annual progress reports and federal financial reports ([SF-425](#)) will be collected 100% electronically. These reports will be submitted by recipients via email directly to the designated FHWA representative. FHWA technical staff will review these electronic submissions to verify that the project is meeting its milestones, maintaining its approved budget, and complying with the programmatic terms of the award.

3. Extent of automated information collection:

FHWA will collect information electronically through Grants.gov. Applicants will submit all required application documents, forms, and supporting documentation through the electronic submission platform. FHWA estimates that 100% of applications will be submitted electronically.

The post-award reporting process will be conducted electronically. Recipients will submit required semiannual reports by email. This approach reduces administrative burden by allowing recipients to submit required information electronically without printing, signing, or mailing physical documents. The post-award reporting process will likewise be conducted electronically.

4. Efforts to identify duplication:

FHWA reviewed existing information collections to determine whether similar information is already available that could be used or modified for purposes of the BIT3 Competitive Grant Program. FHWA determined that no existing information collection contains the project-specific information needed to evaluate competitive grant applications under this program.

While applicants may provide general organizational information through other Federal grant programs, the information required for this program, including project descriptions, budgets, schedules, performance measures, and other application materials, is specific to each proposed project. Therefore, existing information cannot be used or modified to meet the purposes of this information collection.

5. Efforts to minimize the burden on small businesses:

This information collection does not impose a significant burden on small businesses. The primary respondents are county governments owning Type 3 bridge structures. No small businesses apply as lead applicants, though they may participate as project partners or contractors.

6. Impact of less frequent collection of information:

If this information collection is conducted less frequently, FHWA would be unable to effectively solicit, evaluate, and award funding under BIT3 Competitive Grant Program. The collection of information is necessary to ensure that grant funds are awarded to projects that meet statutory requirements and program objectives. Because applications are submitted in response to specific NOFO, reducing the frequency of collection would limit FHWA's ability to conduct a competitive review process and make timely funding decisions. As a result, FHWA would be unable to award available program funding or fulfill the statutory requirements. The technical reason for maintaining this collection is that FHWA requires current, project-specific information to evaluate proposed projects, monitor implementation progress, and assess outcomes associated with funded activities.

Additionally, if semi-annual progress and federal financial reports were collected less frequently, FHWA would be unable to provide timely fiscal oversight, detect early project delays, or mitigate cost overruns before they impact federal funds. This would severely limit the agency's ability to protect the federal investment and ensure the project remains on track for the duration of the contract/award performance period.

7. Special circumstances:

There are no special circumstances associated with this information collection. It will be conducted in a manner fully consistent with the guidelines in 5 CFR 1320.5.

8. Compliance with 5 CFR 1320.8:

The 60-day Federal Register notice intended to solicit comments from the public on this information collection was published on May 21, 2026, at 91 FR 30024. No public comments were received during the 60-day comment period.

The 30-day Federal Register notice intended to notify the public this information collection was submitted to OMB for review and approval was published on September 17, 2026, at [91 FR 58950].

9. Payments or gifts to respondents:

No payments or gifts will be provided to respondents for participating in this information collection. The only funds distributed in connection with this collection are the actual grant awards provided to successful applicants under the BIT3 Competitive Grant Program.

10. Assurance of confidentiality:

Information submitted by applicants and grant recipients may be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552. FHWA will protect information that is determined to be exempt from disclosure under applicable laws, including confidential commercial information consistent with 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4) and applicable Federal policies and procedures.

This information collection does not require the collection of personally identifiable information (PII) that would require a System of Records Notice (SORN) or Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA).

11. Justification for collection of sensitive information:

This information collection does not contain any questions of a sensitive nature.

12. Estimate of burden hours for information requested:

FHWA estimates that it will receive approximately 50 applications in response to the NOFO for the Type 3 Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Competitive Grant Program. Eligible respondents are State and local transportation agencies and other eligible entities identified in the NOFO.

The frequency of response is once (1) per application cycle. NOFOs under this program may be published annually by FHWA, subject to the availability of authorized and appropriated funds.

To meet the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) instruction to provide separate hour burden estimates for each form, the estimated average burden per respondent has been distributed across each mandatory component of the application package as follows:

- SF-424 (Application for Federal Assistance): Entering applicant information, project details, and funding requests takes an average of 0.5 hours per respondent.
- SF-424A/SF-424C (Budget Information): Developing and entering detailed project budget and cost information takes an average of 0.5 hours per respondent.
- SF-424B/SF-424D (Assurances): Reviewing and executing required Federal assurances takes an average of 0.5 hour per respondent.
- Lobbying Form & SF-LLL: Completing required lobbying disclosures and certifications takes an average of 0.5 hour per respondent.
- BIT3 Application Template: Preparing project summaries, technical information, facility details, and narratives addressing Merit Criteria and Project Readiness takes an average of 2 hours per respondent.

The BIT3 Program includes grant agreement and post-award reporting requirements. FHWA estimates that 4 recipients will be selected for funding. Each selected recipient will be required to complete and execute 1 grant agreement, for a total of 4 grant agreements, with an estimated burden of 2.0 hours per agreement (8 total hours). During the award period, each recipient is expected to submit 2 progress reports and federal financial reports annually, for a total of 2 reports per recipient per year, or 8 annual reports across the 4 awards. Post-award management is estimated at 4.0 hours per report (32 total hours annually).

The total estimated respondent labor cost is calculated by applying the mean wage rate¹ of \$62.04 per hour to the estimated total annual burden hours. The mean wage rate is used to estimate the value of respondent time associated with completing the BIT3 information collection requirements.

¹ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics, Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, May 2025, Table 1. Employment and wage data for business and financial operations occupations. Project Management Specialists (13-1082), cross-industry, mean hourly wage rate of \$62.04. [BLS Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics — Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, May 2025](#)

Respondent Burden Hour Calculation Table:

Information Collection Requirement (Form / Component)	# Applications or # Awards
SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance	50

13. Estimate of total annual costs to respondents:

Other than the salaries associated with the number of burden hours described in Question 12, there are no annual capital, start-up, or operation and maintenance costs to respondents resulting from this collection of information.

14. Estimate of cost to the Federal government:

The estimated annual cost to the Federal government to administer, review, and select projects for the Type 3 Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation (BIT3) Competitive Grant Program is \$32,343.90. This cost is calculated based on the personnel hours estimated for Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) staff to conduct administrative intake, technical evaluations, and senior selection reviews for approximately 50 applications. The methodology used to estimate these costs is described below, including the mathematical calculations for each administrative phase. Base Federal employee salary rates² are multiplied by an estimated 1.5 labor loading factor to account for employee benefits and other associated labor costs.

The methodology used to estimate these costs is described below, including the explicit mathematical calculations for each administrative phase:

²Source: [OPM Salary Table 2026](#). GS-13/GS-14/GS-15 at Step 5 x 1.5 (to assume total compensation)

1. Intake & Eligibility Review (Administrative Phase): FHWA staff conduct the initial screening to verify applicant eligibility, completeness, and adherence to submission guidelines.
 - a. Staffing: Evaluated at the GS-14, Step 5 level.
 - b. Hourly Base Rate: \$68.30 per hour.
 - c. Loaded Hourly Rate (1.5x): \$102.45 per hour, reflecting the estimated 1.5 labor loading factor for employee benefits and associated labor costs.
 - d. Hours: 2 staff members dedicating 10 hours each, totaling 20 hours.
 - e. Calculation: 20 total hours × \$102.45 loaded hourly rate = \$2,049.00.
2. Technical Review Team (TRT) Evaluation Phase: A dedicated team reviews each eligible application against the technical merit criteria and project readiness standards outlined in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).
 - a. Staffing: Evaluated at the GS-13, Step 5 level.
 - b. Hourly Base Rate: \$57.80 per hour.
 - c. Loaded Hourly Rate (1.5x): \$86.70 per hour, reflecting the estimated 1.5 labor loading factor for employee benefits and associated labor costs.
 - d. Hours: 5 staff member dedicating 15 hours, totaling 75 hours.
 - e. Calculation: 75 total hours × \$86.70 loaded hourly rate = \$6,502.50.
3. Senior Review Team (SRT) Phase: Senior officials and policy lead review technical evaluation results, coordinate selections in accordance with applicable DOT policies and administration priorities, and prepare recommendations for final selection by DOT leadership.
 - a. Staffing: Evaluated at the GS-15, Step 5 level.
 - b. Hourly Base Rate: \$80.34 per hour.
 - c. Loaded Hourly Rate (1.5x): \$120.51 per hour, reflecting the estimated 1.5 labor loading factor for employee benefits and associated labor costs.
 - d. Hours: 4 staff member dedicating 30 hours, totaling 120 hours.
 - e. Calculation: 120 total hours × \$120.51 loaded hourly rate = \$14,461.20.
4. Grant Agreement Stage: FHWA staff develop, review, and execute grant agreements with selected applicants.
 - a. Staffing: Evaluated at the GS-14, Step 5 level.
 - b. Hourly Base Rate: \$68.30 per hour.
 - c. Loaded Hourly Rate (1.5x): \$102.45 per hour, reflecting the estimated 1.5 labor loading factor for employee benefits and associated labor costs.
 - d. Hours: 2 staff member dedicating 32 hours, totaling 64 hours.
 - e. Calculation: 64 total hours × \$102.45 loaded hourly rate = \$6,556.80.
5. Project Management Stage: FHWA staff oversee the ongoing administration and monitoring of awarded projects.
 - f. Staffing: Evaluated at the GS-13, Step 5 level.
 - g. Hourly Base Rate: \$57.80 per hour.
 - h. Loaded Hourly Rate (1.5x): \$86.70 per hour, reflecting the estimated 1.5 labor loading factor for employee benefits and associated labor costs.
 - i. Hours: 2 staff member dedicating 16 hours, totaling 32 hours.
 - j. Calculation: 320 total hours × \$86.70 loaded hourly rate = \$2,774.40

Calculation Table:

Administrative Phase / Component	# Labor	# Hours Each	Total Hours

15. Explanation of program changes or adjustments:

This is a new information collection request associated with a new NOFO under a new competitive grant program.

16. Publication of results of data collection:

The results of the application evaluation process will be published in the form of an award announcement. After the DOT selects projects for awards and concludes the required congressional notification waiting period, the FHWA will publicly announce the awarded projects by posting a list of the selected projects on its official program website.

17. Approval for not displaying the expiration date of OMB approval:

FHWA is not seeking approval to exempt the display of the OMB approval expiration date. FHWA will show the OMB approval expiration date on its official program website.

18. Exceptions to certification statement:

There are no exceptions to the certification statement.