

Fiscal Year 2026
Type 3 Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation
Competitive Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity
Notice of Funding Opportunity

Application Opening Date: June 2, 2026
Application Closing Date: July 16, 2026

Fiscal Year 2026 Notice of Funding Opportunity

Type 3 Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Competitive Grant Program

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

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A. BASIC INFORMATION

The applicant should read this notice in its entirety for the information necessary to submit eligible and competitive applications.	
Federal Agency Name	U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Funding Opportunity Title	Type 3 Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Competitive Grant Program, also known as the Bridge Improvements Type 3 (BIT3) Competitive Grant Program
Announcement Type	This is a new Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).
Funding Opportunity Number	FHWA-BIT3-26-001
Assistance Listing Number(s)	20.198
Funding Details	This NOFO will award up to \$25 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 funding via cost reimbursable grants. The actual amount available to be awarded under this notice will be subject to the availability of funds. There is no minimum or maximum award amount for BIT3 Program awards.
Key Dates	Application Due Date: July 16, 2026 at 11:59 PM ET. FHWA anticipates announcing award selections under this NOFO the week of August 31, 2026.

Executive Summary	The purpose of the BIT3 Program is to fund the replacement or rehabilitation of county-owned bridges that are classified as Type 3 bridges¹ by the U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) and cross a water conveyance structure owned by USBR. Eligible applicants under the BIT3 Competitive Grant Program are counties which own a Type 3 bridge crossing a water conveyance structure owned by USBR. Projects eligible for funding are projects for the replacement or rehabilitation of bridges that: (A) are owned by a county; (B) are classified as a Type 3 bridge by USBR; (C) are eligible under the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) (23 United States Code (U.S.C.) § 204); and (D) cross a water conveyance structure owned by USBR. The BIT3 Competitive Grant Program does not require a minimum cost share. The Federal share for BIT3 Competitive Grant Program funds shall be 100 percent of funds requested for eligible project scope.
Agency Contact Information	U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration Office of Administration 1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E. Mail Stop: E65-103 Washington, D.C. 20590 Attn: Veronica Jacobson Email: BIT3@dot.gov

¹ Type 3 bridge means any non-USBR-owned bridge over 20 feet in length, or bridge-like structure between 6 and 20 feet in length, that crosses a USBR dam, associated facility, power facility, or land interest (Reclamation Manual Directives and Standards FAC 07-01, as updated on June 9, 2023). An associated facility means all remaining Reclamation facilities other than high- and significant-hazard potential dams. Types of associated facilities include: carriage, distribution, and drainage systems [canals]; pumping and pump-generating plants; tunnels; penstocks, siphons, and pipelines; diversion and storage dams (low-hazard potential) and regulating reservoirs; fish passage and protective facilities, including hatcheries; river channelization features; rural/municipal water systems; desalting and other water treatment plants; facilities constructed under past loan programs; and recreation facilities (Reclamation Manual Directives and Standards FAC 01-04, as updated on April 13, 2020).

B. ELIGIBILITY

1. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Counties² owning a bridge structure classified as Type 3 by USBR and that crosses a water conveyance structure owned by USBR are eligible to apply under this NOFO. USBR structures, facilities, and lands are located in the 17 Western United States of Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

2. ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS ON ELIGIBILITY

Funding is limited to replacement or rehabilitation of Type 3 county-owned bridges³ eligible under FLAP as described in section 204 of Title 23, crossing a water conveyance structure owned by USBR. For this program:

- A Type 3 bridge means any non-USBR-owned bridge over 20 feet in length, or bridge-like structure between 6 and 20 feet in length, crossing a USBR dam, associated facility⁴, power facility, or land interest ([Reclamation Manual Directives and Standards FAC 07-01, as updated on June 9, 2023](#)). See the footnote in [Section A](#) for more details.
- For the purpose of this NOFO, water conveyance structures include dams, spillways, and canals. However, as not all activities eligible for FLAP funding will be necessary to complete a rehabilitation or replacement project under this program, accordingly, not all activities listed in 23 U.S.C. 204(a)(1) are eligible for funding under this program.

3. COST SHARING

Per [Section A](#), the Federal share of the requested BIT3 eligible project costs shall be 100 percent. Applicants using other Federal funds in conjunction with BIT3 funds must comply with cost sharing requirements for each other Federal fund source.

DOT aims to fully fund as many projects as available BIT3 funds allow. After fully funding applications, DOT will fund applications at scalable amounts until available funds are fully utilized. Accordingly, applicants are encouraged to include in their applications scalable project options to enable DOT to fund as many projects as possible.

² The term “county” includes corresponding units of government under any other name in States that do not have county organizations and, in those States in which the county government does not have jurisdiction over highways, any local government unit vested with jurisdiction over local highways.

³ County-owned bridges are those eligible bridges owned by “counties” as defined by 23 U.S.C. 101(a)(5).

⁴ Associated facilities are defined in [Reclamation Manual Directives and Standards FAC 01-04, as updated on April 13, 2020](#).

4. OTHER

Applications determined to be late, incomplete, or duplicates of applications submitted for the same round of applications, will not be reviewed under this funding opportunity.

Applicants may bundle eligible bridges and bridge-like structures into one application, provided those bridges and bridge-like structures cross the same water conveyance structure in the same general location.

If a non-State Department of Transportation (State DOT) applicant will use Federal-aid formula funds apportioned to a State DOT as part of the total project budget, the application must also include a supporting letter from the State DOT agreeing to administer the project with the non-State DOT applicant serving as the sub-recipient.

5. APPLICATION LIMIT

There is no limitation on the number of applications an applicant may submit. If submitting more than one application, indicate the funding priority of each application on the application cover page. DOT is not required to consider the applicant's funding priority when making selections.

C. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

1. PROGRAM PURPOSE

The purpose of the BIT3 Competitive Grant Program is to improve the condition, safety, and efficiency of county-owned bridges crossing USBR water conveyance structures.

2. PROGRAM GOALS AND ADMINISTRATION PRIORITIES

The goals of the BIT3 Competitive Grant Program are to improve water delivery; improve bridge conditions; and improve safety, efficiency, and reliability of the movement of people and goods over Type 3 bridges crossing a water conveyance structure owned by USBR.

DOT seeks to fund projects advancing the priorities of the Trump Administration as described in DOT's mission statement and across Executive orders (E.O.). DOT intends to apply principles from [DOT Order 2100.7, \(Ensuring Reliance Upon Sound Economic Analysis in DOT's Policies, Programs and Activities\)](#), when evaluating applications and making award selections. Such principles include maximizing to the extent practicable, relevant, appropriate, and consistent with law, benefits for families and communities. These benefits may include, but are not limited to, economic opportunities, increased access to jobs, commercial activities, or any project components alleviating poverty, enhancing safety, and primarily benefiting families and communities by improving the quality of their lives, raising their standard of living, or enabling them to participate more fully in our economy. DOT will prioritize projects addressing the Trump Administration priorities including Core Infrastructure, Reinvesting in the American Family, Supporting Economic Competitiveness, and Promoting Innovation. [Section F](#) of this

NOFO describes the process for selecting projects and how the goals and priorities for this program and the Trump Administration are incorporated into project selection.

[Section H](#) describes progress and performance reporting requirements for selected projects, including the relationship between reporting and the program's selection criteria.

3. PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION AND FUNDING

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 (Public Law No. 119-75) provided \$25 million in FY 2026 funding to be awarded under the BIT3 Competitive Grant Program.

The BIT3 Competitive Grant Program funds are available until expended. This program does not have an obligation deadline nor an expenditure deadline.

This NOFO is subject to the availability of funding. The Government's obligation under any resulting award is contingent upon the availability of funding. There is no legal liability on the part of the Government for any payment that may arise until funds are available and obligated to an award. DOT is not obligated to make any award as a result of this notice.

4. AWARD SIZE

There is no minimum or maximum award amount for BIT3 Competitive Grant Program awards.

5. TYPE OF AWARD

The anticipated award(s) will be cost-reimbursable grant agreements. See [Section G](#) for additional information on cost reimbursement.

6. PERFORMANCE GOALS

For details on performance reporting requirements and goals see [Section H](#).

7. PREVIOUS AWARDS

This is a new program and, as such, there are no past awards.

8. BUY AMERICA REQUIREMENTS

Funds made available under this NOFO are subject to domestic preference requirements. See [Section H](#) of this NOFO for additional details. Applicants can also refer to the FHWA Construction Program [Guide](#) for more information about addressing FHWA's Buy America requirements and Build America Buy America requirements.

D. APPLICATION CONTENTS AND FORMAT

1. APPLICATION FORMAT

All applications must be submitted electronically through www.Grants.gov.

Application files should be single-spaced, 12-point standard font (*e.g.*, Times New Roman), with 1-inch margins. Files should be in PDF unless otherwise specified (*e.g.*, Excel based forms and location files such as Shapefile or KML/KMZ).

DOT recommends applicants use a file naming format of: “[Applicant organization#]-2026-BIT3” where “Applicant organization” reflects the applicant’s legal name, abbreviated as appropriate, and where “#” represents the order of applicant priority for the grant, if more than one application is submitted. If necessary, the workspace title can be edited per the instructions on Grants.gov.

The application package must consist of the following:

<u>All Project Types</u>
<u>Standard Form (SF) 424</u> (Application for Federal Assistance)
<u>SF-424C</u> (Budget Information for Construction Projects)
<u>Grants.gov Lobbying Form</u> (Certification Regarding Lobbying)
<u>SF-424D</u> (Assurances for Construction Programs)
<u>SF-LLL</u> (Disclosure of Lobbying Activities form)
The BIT3 Competitive Grant Program Application Template (see Section D.2) must be added as an attachment to item 15 of the SF-424.

2. APPLICATION CONTENT

Standard Forms

All mandatory SFs of the 424 family are available for download at <https://www.Grants.gov/forms/forms-repository/sf-424-mandatory-family>.

For more information on SF, please see: [Standard Forms \(SF-424\) Information](#).

The BIT3 Competitive Grant Program Application Template

Applicants must complete the BIT3 Competitive Grant Program Application Template and include it as an attachment to Item 15 of their SF-424. The Application Template should provide

all information necessary for DOT to determine the project satisfies the eligibility requirements described in Section B and to evaluate the criteria specified in [Section F](#).

DOT will only review the completed Application Template and the allowable supplemental documents (e.g., budget, schedule, design plans, etc.) specified within the Application Template instructions.

The application must provide a budget for the project, either within the Application Template itself, or as an attachment. The budget must identify the amount and percentage of both the Federal funding requested and any additional non-Federal funds, if any, to be used to pay for the project.

The Application Template can be found on [Grants.gov](#).

3. SHARING OF APPLICATION INFORMATION

DOT may share application information within DOT or with other Federal Agencies if DOT determines that such sharing is relevant to the respective program's objectives.

E. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINE

1. ADDRESS TO REQUEST APPLICATION PACKAGE

Applicants may obtain application forms, including the Application Template, on [Grants.gov](#) under the Funding Opportunity Number under [Section A](#).

Once at [Grants.gov](#), select the Search Grants tab. Then enter one of the following:

- Opportunity Number: FHWA-BIT3-26-001;
- Opportunity Name: Fiscal Year 2026 BIT3 Competitive Grant Program; and
- Assistance Listing Number: 20.198.

Select the opportunity option, which will open to a page with several tabs. The first tab is a synopsis of the Opportunity. Select the Application Package tab to download the forms needed to submit a FY 2026 BIT3 Competitive Grant Program application. The applicant must complete and submit all forms included in the application package for this notice, as contained at [Grants.gov](#).

Should applicants have any difficulties in accessing any SFs and require paper copies, please contact the Agency contact provided in [Section A](#) of this NOFO.

2. UNIQUE ENTITY IDENTIFIER AND SYSTEM FOR AWARD MANAGEMENT

Each applicant must:

- Be registered in System for Award Management (SAM) at [SAM.gov](#) before submitting its application;

- Provide a valid Unique Entity Identifier in its application; and
- Continue to maintain an active registration in [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application under consideration by a Federal Agency.

Please note the SAM registration process takes several weeks to complete.

3. SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

All applications must be submitted electronically through [Grants.gov](https://grants.gov). The Department does not accept applications via mail, fax, email, or any other means. Additional resources on applying through [Grants.gov](https://grants.gov) can be found at <https://www.grants.gov/applicants>.

4. SUBMISSION DEADLINE

FY 2026 BIT3 Competitive Grant Program applications must be submitted through [Grants.gov](https://grants.gov) by 11:59 PM EST on July 16, 2026. [Grants.gov](https://grants.gov) attaches a time stamp to each application at the time submission is complete.

5. CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS

Only applicants who comply with all submission deadlines described in this notice and electronically submit valid, on-time applications through [Grants.gov](https://grants.gov) will be eligible for evaluation and possible selection for award.

To the extent practicable, applicants should provide supporting data and documentation in a form directly verifiable by DOT. DOT may, but is not required to, reach back to applicants for the purpose of clarifying application information. DOT will not request additional information to perfect incomplete applications.

6. SUBMISSION ISSUES

For information on submission issues and more information on late applications, please see: [Submission Issues](#).

7. INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

This program is not subject to E.O. 12372, *Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs*.

F. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

1. MERIT CRITERIA

DOT will evaluate applications submitted in response to this notice using the following merit criteria: Bridge Condition; Water Delivery; and Safe, Efficient, and Reliable Movement of People and Goods. The ratings for each merit criterion will also be assigned a label of Highly

Responsive, Responsive, or Non-responsive. These will be used at the conclusion of the merit criteria evaluation to assign the application an overall merit criteria rating.

Criterion #1: Bridge Condition

DOT will assess the extent to which the project addresses core infrastructure by improving the condition of the bridge and ensuring the structure meets current standards.

Merit Criteria	Highly Responsive	Responsive	Non-Responsive
Criterion 1: The application includes quantifiable data that: A. Documents the severity of the bridge's deterioration, demonstrates the necessity of replacement or rehabilitation, and demonstrates how the project will address specific bridge conditions that currently compromise the safety or reliability of the structure. B. Documents the need for rehabilitation or replacement due to a current or future water conveyance capacity improvement project which impacts the water conveyance under the bridge. C. Describes how the project will follow modern engineering standards to ensure a long-term state of good repair and reduced maintenance costs over its lifecycle. D. Documents the use of innovative materials or construction techniques to minimize cost, minimize impacts to the traveling public or improve the lifespan of the structure.	The application demonstrates how the project will meet: A, C, and D; or B, C, and D.	The application demonstrates how the project will meet either: A and C; or B and C.	The application does not meet either A or B or does not meet C.

Criterion #2: Water Delivery

DOT will assess how the Type 3 bridge project improves water delivery and protects or enhances USBR water conveyance under the Type 3 bridge.

Merit Criteria	Highly Responsive	Responsive	Non-Responsive
Criterion 2: The application provides a data-supported narrative describing how: A. Bridge rehabilitation or replacement will protect water conveyance through the	The application demonstrates how the project will meet A, B, and C.	The application demonstrates how the project will meet at least A or B.	The application meets none of the objectives.

structure to ensure reliable water delivery through USBR system. B. The bridge replacement will accommodate a current or future water conveyance capacity improvement project, which may require a longer bridge length or a greater span. C. The project supports the mission of USBR⁵ while protecting the environment and the public's investment in the structures: • The project documents the extent to which the water delivery improvement will reinvest in American families through the conveyance of needed water to American families and irrigation water to farmers; or • The project documents supporting economic competitiveness, such as projects that consider the need for water delivery to support regional commerce.			
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Criterion #3: Safe, Efficient, and Reliable Movement of People and Goods

DOT will assess how the project improves safety, efficiency, and reliability of the movement of people and goods over Type 3 bridges.

Merit Criteria	Highly Responsive	Responsive	Non-Responsive
Criterion 3: The application describes how the project will improve the travel experience for American families including: A. Improves safety for the traveling public. B. Improves traffic flow and reduces congestion. C. The project enhances the reliability for daily users through safe, efficient, and reliable access to emergency routes, major destinations, and major access points for American families.	The application demonstrates how the project will meet all four objectives of this criterion.	The application demonstrates how the project will meet at least two of the four objectives of this criterion.	The application meets one or none of the merit criterion.

⁵ The mission of USBR is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

D. The project supports regional commerce and economic competitiveness.			
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MERIT CRITERIA RATINGS

Based on the assessment described in [Section F.1](#) above, DOT will assign a merit criteria rating as shown in the table below.

Merit Criteria Rating	Description
High	At least two of the three merit criteria are rated Highly Responsive, and all other merit criteria are rated Responsive.
Medium	All merit criteria are rated at least Responsive; and merit criteria rating is not high.
Low	Any of the merit criteria are rated Non-Responsive.

2. PROJECT READINESS ASSESSMENT

To assess the likelihood of a successful project, DOT will consider project readiness for eligible applications receiving a Medium or High merit criteria rating.

For the Project Readiness Assessment, DOT will consider three evaluation ratings: Technical Assessment, Financial Completeness Assessment, and Permitting Risk Assessment. DOT will use information from the Project Readiness Assessment portion of the application, as well as information contained throughout the application, to complete the Project Readiness Assessment. The ratings for each Project Readiness Assessment criteria will also be assigned a numerical label. These will be used at the conclusion of the project readiness assessment to assign the application an overall readiness rating.

Readiness: Technical Assessment

The technical assessment will evaluate the applicant's capacity to successfully deliver the project in compliance with applicable Federal requirements and will also assess the technical feasibility of the project as described in the application. Technical assessment ratings will be one of the following: Certain (3), Somewhat Certain (2) or Unknown or Uncertain (1), as defined in the table below.

Technical Assessment Elements	Certain (3)	Somewhat Certain (2)	Unknown or Uncertain (1)
A. The applicant has the technical and staffing resources to deliver the project. B. The project will comply with all applicable Federal requirements. C. The applicant demonstrates a commitment for timely project delivery as demonstrated by the schedule information in the application. D. The applicant demonstrates the technical feasibility of the project.	The application demonstrates that the applicant and project will meet all four Technical Assessment Elements.	The application demonstrates the applicant and project will meet Technical Assessment Elements B, C, and D, and may not have currently the technical or staffing resources to deliver the project but will obtain resources needed to deliver the project if awarded.	The application does not demonstrate the applicant or project will meet Technical Assessment Elements B, C, and D, nor that the applicant has or will obtain the necessary resources to deliver the project.

Readiness: Financial Completeness Assessment

The financial completeness assessment evaluates the availability of matching funds and whether the applicant presented a complete funding package. Financial completeness ratings will be one of the following: Complete (3), Partially Complete (2), or Incomplete (1), as defined in the table below.

Financial Completeness Assessment ratings will be based on:

Financial Completeness Assessment Elements	Complete (3)	Partially Complete (2)	Incomplete (1)
A. The application includes complete funding estimates based on recent stages of design. B. The application includes a plan to address potential cost overruns. C. The proposal includes information on how future operation, maintenance and preservation costs will be funded.	The application demonstrates that the applicant and project will meet Financial Completeness Assessment Elements A, B, and C.	The application demonstrates that the applicant and project will meet Financial Completeness Assessment Element A. However, while a plan for cost overruns is provided, it is incomplete or based on approaches or funding sources not	The application does not demonstrate that the applicant or project will meet Financial Completeness Assessment Element A; or the application does not demonstrate the applicant or project will meet Elements B or C.

		reasonably assumed available to the applicant, or the funding described for future operation, maintenance or preservation costs are not reasonably assumed available to the applicant.	
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Readiness: Permitting Risk Assessment

The Permitting Risk Assessment evaluates the status of the environmental approvals required for the proposed project and the likelihood other necessary approvals, permits, or public engagement, will affect project obligation. The applicant must also disclose if there is open litigation concerning the project; or, if there is known, and difficult to resolve, public controversy, or agency opposition to the project on environmental grounds. This assessment will result in a rating of High Risk (1), Moderate Risk (2), or Low Risk (3), as defined in the table below.

Permitting ratings will be based on:

Permitting Risk Assessment Elements	Low Risk (3)	Moderate Risk (2)	High Risk (1)
A. The National Environment Policy Act (NEPA) review is complete or the application demonstrates NEPA will be complete in time to meet the project schedule. B. All necessary permits have been obtained or the application demonstrates permits and approvals will be obtained in time to meet the project schedule. C. Public engagement has occurred or will occur, and any known public controversy has been or will be addressed or mitigated.	The application demonstrates that the project will meet Permitting Risk Assessment Elements A, B, and C but does not have any known unmitigated risks to project delivery as shown in Element D.	The application demonstrates that the project will meet Permitting Risk Assessment Elements A, B, and C, but there is risk of schedule delay because either: • an environmental assessment or environmental impacts statement is needed, and the NEPA document has not been released for public review; • permit work has not started, and the schedule does not include time	The application indicates risk as described in Permitting Risk Assessment Element D; or the application does not meet Elements A, B, or C.

D. The application discloses any known and unmitigated issues posing high risk to project delivery. Examples include litigation, known public controversy, or agency opposition to the project on environmental grounds.		for schedule delays; or • public engagement has not started, and the schedule does not include time to address public input; and • the project or program does not have any known unmitigated risks to project delivery as shown in Element D.	
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The Project Readiness Ratings described above will be translated to a high, medium, or low rating using the table below:

Project Readiness Rating	Description
High	Two readiness assessment items rated as a 3, with one readiness assessment item rated as a 2.
Medium	One readiness assessment item rated as a 3, with two readiness assessment items rated as a 2.
Low	All readiness assessment items rated as either a 2 or a 1.

3. OVERALL RATING OF THE APPLICATION

Following the merit criteria review and project readiness assessment, FHWA will assign each eligible application an overall rating of Highly Recommended, Recommended, or Not Recommended, as follows:

- A rating of **Highly Recommended** will be assigned to an application that received no less than a high rating for both merit criteria and project readiness.
- A rating of **Recommended** will be assigned to an application that received no less than a medium rating for both merit criteria and project readiness and did not receive a high rating for both merit criteria and project readiness.
- A rating of **Not Recommended** will be assigned to an application that received a low rating for either merit criteria or project readiness.

4. DOT PRIORITY CONSIDERATIONS

After completing the merit criteria review and Project Readiness Assessment, among projects of similar application rating of Highly Recommended or Recommended, DOT may prioritize projects based on one or more of DOT priority considerations as described below:

- Application received a high readiness rating.
- Application received a high merit criteria rating.
- Proposed project will decrease roadway traffic congestion and freight bottlenecks without proposing limits on roadway capacity for motor vehicles or creating artificial chokepoints for motor vehicles.
- DOT may provide awards to projects using technology and other innovative approaches to improve the detection, mitigation, and documentation of safety risks and bridge conditions.

5. REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

DOT will review applications received by the deadline for completeness and eligibility based on the information found in [Section B](#) of this notice. This review phase is referred to as the intake and eligibility review. Applications that pass the intake and eligibility review will be evaluated by the Technical Review Team (TRT), and once evaluated and rated, will then be evaluated by the Senior Review Team (SRT) to determine which applications are presented to DOT leadership for final selection, as described below.

Technical Review

The evaluation of eligible applications will be conducted by a TRT, comprised of DOT staff and USBR representatives. TRT will evaluate each eligible application against the merit criteria and for readiness, to determine which applications are rated as Highly Recommended, Recommended, or Not Recommended.

TRT will send to FHWA SRT information on all eligible applications received. The list will include information on the application, the rating for each merit criteria, and the project readiness assessment rating.

Senior Review

FHWA SRT may consist of officials from the Office of the Secretary of Transportation, the FHWA Administrator, and others in senior leadership positions requested to serve by the FHWA Administrator.

FHWA SRT will determine which projects advance to Senior Departmental leadership for final selection. The Department has the discretion to determine which applications best address BIT3 merit criteria, Project Readiness Assessment, and selection considerations, and should be selected. Because the BIT3 Competitive Grant Program mandates the Federal share be 100 percent of eligible costs requested, the Department will fully fund as many selections as possible

at the full requested amounts. After fully funding such selections, the Department will fund projects at reduced scalable amounts until all funding is awarded.

The Department intends to apply principles from [DOT Order 2100.7 \(Ensuring Reliance Upon Sound Economic Analysis in DOT's Policies, Programs and Activities\)](#) and [DOT Order 2100.9 \(Ensuring Nondiscrimination and Equal Opportunity in Department of Transportation Policies, Programs, and Activities\)](#) when evaluating applications and making award selections. To the maximum extent permitted by law, DOT will prioritize projects that are in alignment with the principles outlined in DOT Orders 2100.7 and 2100.9.

Reduced Awards

DOT may enter into discussions with an applicant to discuss, if mutually agreeable, a lesser scaled amount of a potential award. This may occur because there is funding left over after fully funding the requested amounts of selected projects.

6. APPLICANT RISK ASSESSMENT

Prior to award, each selected applicant will be subject to a risk assessment required by 2 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 200.206. DOT must review and consider any information about the applicant in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM.gov. An applicant may review information in SAM.gov and comment on any information about itself that a Federal awarding Agency previously entered. DOT will consider comments by the applicant, in addition to other information in SAM.gov, in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under Federal awards when completing the risk assessment. DOT reserves the right to deny an award based on the results of the risk assessment or include special conditions that correspond to the degree of risk assessed and may be applied to the Federal award in accordance with 2 CFR 200.206.

DOT will consider the following factors in its risk assessment in accordance with 2 CFR 200.206:

- Financial stability—the applicant's record of effectively managing financial risks, assets, and resources;
- Management systems and standards—quality of management systems and ability to meet the management standards prescribed in this part;
- History of performance, if applicable—the applicant's record of managing previous and current Federal awards, including compliance with reporting requirements and conformance to the terms and conditions of Federal awards, if applicable; audit reports and findings—reports and findings from audits performed under subpart F or the reports and findings of any other available audits, if applicable; and
- Ability to effectively implement requirements—the applicant's ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on recipients of Federal awards.

G. AWARD NOTICES

1. HOW PROJECT SELECTIONS ARE ANNOUNCED

Following the evaluation outlined in [Section F](#), DOT will announce awarded projects. Notice of selection is not authorization to begin performance or to incur costs for the proposed project. Following the announcement, DOT will contact the point of contact listed in the SF-424 to initiate negotiation of the project agreement for authorization.

The BIT3 Competitive Grant Program grants will be awarded upon the execution of a grant agreement between DOT and the recipient, or between DOT and the State DOT in which the recipient is located. Only counties are eligible to apply for funding under this program. However, pursuant to 23 U.S.C. § 204 (a)(2), successful applicant counties may arrange to administer their grant awards through the State DOT in which the county is located.

Unsuccessful applicants may request a debriefing up to 90 days after the selected funding recipients are publicly announced. The request must be submitted by the applicant identified on the SF-424. The debrief will be limited to how the application responded to the Grant Program evaluation criteria described in [Section F](#) of the NOFO. All debrief requests should be submitted to BIT3@dot.gov.

2. REIMBURSEMENTS AND COSTS INCURRED PRIOR TO AWARD AND OBLIGATION OF GRANTS

Unless authorized by DOT in writing after announcement of FY 2026 BIT3 Competitive Grant Program selections, any costs incurred prior to DOT's obligation of funds for a project are ineligible for reimbursement and are ineligible cost share requirements. DOT will primarily administer grants on a reimbursement basis. Under the reimbursement approach, DOT funds will reimburse recipients only for costs incurred after execution of a grant agreement for costs DOT determines to be allowable, reasonable, and allocable, as defined under 2 CFR Part 200, and after the recipient submits valid requests for reimbursement.

If a recipient cannot complete a project on a reimbursable basis, DOT will, on a case-by-case basis, consider recipient requests to use alternative payment methods as described under 2 CFR 200.305(b).

H. POST-AWARD REQUIREMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

1. ADMINISTRATIVE AND NATIONAL POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Administrative Requirements

All awards will be administered pursuant to the uniform administrative requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal awards found in 2 CFR Part 200, as adopted by DOT at 2 CFR Part 1201. Applicable Federal laws, rules, and regulations set forth in Title 49 of the CFR, shall apply to awards provided under this program.

In connection with any program or activity conducted with or benefiting from funds awarded under this notice, recipients of funds must comply with all applicable requirements of Federal law, including, without limitation, the Constitution of the United States; the conditions of performance, non-discrimination requirements, and other assurances made applicable to the award of funds in accordance with regulations of DOT and FHWA; and applicable Federal financial assistance and contracting principles promulgated by Office of Management and Budget (OMB). In complying with these requirements, recipients must ensure that no concession agreements are denied, or other contracting decisions made on the basis of speech or other activities protected by the First Amendment. If DOT determines a recipient has failed to comply with applicable Federal requirements, DOT may terminate the award of funds and disallow previously incurred costs, requiring the recipient to reimburse any expended award funds.

Applicability of Federal Lands Access Program (23 U.S.C. § 204)

Grant funds awarded under the BIT3 Program shall be administered as if allocated under 23 U.S.C. § 204(a) only to the extent the requirements of 23 U.S.C. § 204(a) do not conflict with the BIT3 Competitive Grant Program requirements in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026.

23 U.S.C. § 204(a)(1) provides activities eligible for funding under FLAP. The listed activities are eligible for funding under the BIT3 Competitive Grant Program to the extent they are necessary to achieve the program's purpose of rehabilitating or replacing Type 3 bridges crossing a water conveyance structure owned by USBR. All other provisions of 23 U.S.C. § 204(a) shall apply to the BIT3 Competitive Grants Program, including competitive bidding requirements for construction projects in § 204(a)(5) and use of native plant materials in § 204(a)(6).

Program Requirements

Critical Infrastructure Security, Cybersecurity, and Resilience

It is the policy of the U.S. Government to strengthen the security and resilience of its critical infrastructure against all threats and hazards, including physical and cyber risks, consistent with National Security Memorandum 22 to secure and enhance the resilience of U.S. critical infrastructure. Each applicant selected for Federal funding must demonstrate, prior to the signing of the grant agreement, effort to consider and address physical and cyber security risks relevant to the transportation mode and type and scale of the project. Projects that have not appropriately considered and addressed physical and cyber security and resilience in their planning, design, and project oversight, as determined by DOT and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, will be required to do so before receiving funds.

Domestic Preference Requirements

As expressed in E.O. 14005, *Ensuring the Future Is Made in All of America by All of America's Workers* (86 FR 7475), the executive branch should maximize, consistent with law, the use of goods, products, and materials produced, and services offered in, the United States. Funds made

available under this notice are subject to FHWA's steel, iron, and manufactured product domestic requirements at 23 U.S.C. § 313 and 23 CFR 635.410, and the construction materials domestic preference requirement at Pub. L. No. 117-58, div. G §§ 70901–70927, as implemented by OMB at 2 CFR Part 184. DOT expects all applicants to comply with those requirements.

Federal Anti-Discrimination

- Except where prohibited by court order, pursuant to E.O. 14173, Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity, as a condition of grant award, each recipient must agree that its compliance in all respects with all applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws is material to the Government's payment decisions for purposes of section 3729(b)(4) of Title 31, U.S.C.
- Except where prohibited by court order, pursuant to E.O. 14173, Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity, as a condition of grant award, each recipient must certify that it does not operate any programs promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives that violate any applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws.

To the extent a court order bars the implementation or enforcement of one or more of these provisions with respect to a particular applicant or recipient, DOT will not implement or enforce the relevant provision(s) against that applicant or recipient for as long as the order remains in place.

Compliance with Federal Law and Policies

Except where prohibited by court order the applicant assures and certifies, with respect to any application and awarded project under this NOFO, it will comply with all applicable Federal laws, regulations, E.O., policies, guidelines, and requirements as they relate to the application, acceptance, and use of Federal funds.

2. REPORTING

Each applicant selected for the BIT3 Competitive Grant Program funding must submit semi-annual progress reports and semi-annual Federal Financial Reports (SF-425) to monitor project progress and ensure accountability and financial transparency in the program.

Each BIT3 Competitive Grant Program awardee must collect and report to DOT information on performance measures. FHWA will work with each applicant selected for BIT3 Competitive Grant Program grant funding to select at least two performance measures that enable FHWA to measure and evaluate the outcomes of the individual grant, relative to the statutory BIT3 Competitive Grant Program goals and objectives, and the FY 2026 BIT3 grant selection criteria. FHWA will provide the updated BIT3 Competitive Grants Performance Measurement Guidance to recipients after awards are announced

Per the [Performance and Program Evaluation statement on the FHWA Website](#), DOT reserves the right to request additional information, if deemed needed, to better understand the status of the project. The successful applicant will provide additional financial reporting beyond the

quarterly reporting if such statements are necessary to address DOT's Stewardship and Oversight responsibility of the awarded grants funds. The successful applicant also agrees to allow periodic project inspections, and DOT will provide notice for such inspections.

This is the Application Template for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Type 3 Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation (BIT3) Competitive Grant Program.

Submission of this Application Template is required as part of a complete application package. The Application Template, in conjunction with the allowable attachments and standard forms, must provide all information necessary for the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to determine if the project meets the eligibility requirements described in Section B of the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and to evaluate the criteria specified in Section F of the NOFO. DOT will consider applications submitted without the completed template as incomplete and will not review the submission. DOT encourages applicants to review the NOFO in its entirety to ensure that their project is eligible and their application includes all required information and documentation.

Expand the response blocks as necessary but limit the total Application Template to a total of 20 pages not including attachments. [***Applicants:*** Delete instructions shown below in italic prior to submittal.]

I. Summary

Project Name:	
Eligible Entity Applying to Receive Federal Funding:	
Entity Type:	☐ County ☐ Not a county or county equivalent
Total Project Cost: <i>(from all sources)</i>	\$
BIT3 Bridge funding request amount:	\$
State(s) in which the project is located:	
Lead Applicant Point of Contact information <i>(name, address, phone number, email):</i>	<i>[Instructions: Name and contact information for the State, unit of local government, or Tribal applicant (or Lead applicant where multiple entities are partnering for the project).]</i>
Project Abstract: <i>Summarize project work to be completed under the project and succinctly describe how the BIT3 Competitive Grant Program funds would be used to complete the project.</i>	
Attachments: <i>Please list any attachments to this form, including letters of support. This includes any applicable State Department of</i>	

Transportation support letters as described in Section B.4 of the NOFO.

II. Project Information

1	Project Name:	
2	Location of facility and project area:	<i>[Instructions: Provide State and county, name of the city, town, or jurisdiction.]</i>
3	Facility Type:	☐ Non- Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)-owned bridge(s) over 20 feet in length ☐ Non-USBR-owned bridge-like structure(s) between 6 and 20 feet in length ☐ Both non-USBR-owned bridges over 20-feet and bridge-like structure(s) between 6 and 20 feet in length ☐ None of the above
4	USBR nexus:	<i>[Instructions: All bridges or bridge-like structures must cross a USBR dam, associated facility, power facility, or land interest to be eligible. Describe what type of USBR facility each bridge or bridge-like structure is crossing here.]</i>
5	Water conveyance structure:	Does each bridge or bridge-like structure in the application cross a water conveyance structure owned by USBR? ☐ Yes ☐ No
6	USBR Bridge Number(s):	<i>[Instructions: Contact your local USBR office to determine the USBR Bridge Number, if unknown, and include it here].</i>
7	FHWA National Bridge Inventory Number(s):	
8	USBR Water Conveyance (canal, dam, or creek) Name:	<i>[Instructions: Contact your local USBR office to determine the USBR Water Conveyance Name, if unknown, and include it here].</i>

9	Project Background:	<i>[Instructions: Provide a concise overview of the project scope including the broad conservation context. Also note any key project planning and design activities that have occurred, and a description of any previously incurred costs.]</i>
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III. Budget and Funding

1	Program Request Amount:	Exact BIT3 Competitive Grant Program request amount in year-of-expenditure dollars: \$_____.
2	Other Federal Funding:	Estimated total of other planned Federal funding, excluding BIT3 Competitive Grant Program requested funding, for project activities eligible for BIT3 in year-of-expenditure dollars: \$_____. Other Federal programs and estimated amounts: <i>(Add lines as needed.)</i> Program: _____ Amount: _____.
3	Other non-Federal Funding:	Estimated total of other planned non-Federal funding for project activities that are eligible for BIT3 in year-of-expenditure dollars: \$_____. Other non-Federal programs and estimated amounts: <i>(Add lines as needed.)</i> Program: _____ Amount: _____.
4	Future Project Cost:	Provide the sum of BIT3 Competitive Grant Program request, other planned Federal funds, and planned non-Federal funds for BIT3 eligible project activities as an estimate in year-of-expenditure dollars: \$_____.
5	Previously incurred project costs:	<i>[Instruction: If costs have already been incurred for project development, such as planning, National Environment Policy Act or design costs provide the amount here.]</i> Amount: \$_____.
6	Total Project Cost:	Estimate in year-of-expenditure dollars (sum of ‘previously incurred project costs’ and ‘future project cost’ for BIT3 eligible and non-eligible activities): \$_____.
7	Statement of Work:	<i>[Instruction: Include a detailed Statement of Work (SOW) for the project in sufficient detail to demonstrate the project budget is reasonable. In</i>

		<i>addition, include a project schedule demonstrating project delivery milestones through project close-out. As an option, the detailed SOW and schedule can be attached.]</i> ☐ A detailed scope and schedule is attached separately. The file is named:
8	Grant Funds, Sources and Uses of Project Funds (Detailed Budget):	<i>[Instruction: Include a detailed budget or attach separately. This budget must list the amount and percent of both the BIT3 funding requested and any additional Federal or non-Federal funds, if any, that will be used to pay for the project, and whether the costs are eligible or ineligible for BIT3 funding. Applicants are encouraged to include in the budget scalable project options in the event DOT is unable to fully fund their request. Additional lines can be added. This list can be modified as needed.]</i> Activity: Cost: Activity: Cost: Activity: Cost: Activity: Cost: ☐ A detailed budget is attached separately. The file is named:

IV. Merit Criteria

In the space below, describe how the project will meet the merit criteria, and the associated objectives as found in Section F of the FY 2026 BIT3 Competitive Grant Program NOFO. Where appropriate, reference attachments or other sections of the application.

Criterion #1: Bridge Condition
Criterion #2: Water Delivery

Criterion #3: Safe, Efficient, and Reliable Movement of People and Goods

V. Project Readiness

In the space below, describe how the project will meet the readiness considerations and the associated elements as found in Section F of the FY 2026 BIT3 Competitive Grant Program NOFO. Where appropriate, reference attachments or other sections of the application.

Readiness: Technical Assessment
Readiness: Financial Completeness Assessment
Readiness: Permitting Risk Assessment

VI. DOT Priority Considerations

In the space below, describe how the project will meet the DOT priority considerations in Section F of the FY 2026 BIT3 Competitive Grant Program NOFO. Where appropriate, reference attachments or other sections of the application.

DOT Priority Considerations: Briefly describe below how the project responds to the following DOT priority consideration from Section F of the FY 2026 BIT3 Competitive Grant Program NOFO:

- *Proposed project will decrease roadway traffic congestion and freight bottlenecks without proposing limits on roadway capacity for motor vehicles or creating artificial chokepoints for motor vehicles.*
- *DOT may provide awards to projects using technology and other innovative approaches to improve the detection, mitigation, and documentation of safety risks and bridge conditions.*

FHWA will determine responsiveness to the other DOT priority considerations based on the application readiness assessment and past awards.