

## Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL):

An Introduction from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) – Florida Division

January / February 2023





Florida Division Office

- Large funding amounts for formula funds
- Large funding amounts for discretionary grants, including more opportunities for local entities to access new funding
  - pass-through (typically via State DOT)
  - direct recipient

#### FHWA Division Role in Grants Administration

Florida Division Office

# FHWA currently plays a role in more than 40 discretionary grant programs

- USDOT (OST) grants categorized as Tier 1, 2, or 3 based on OST involvement
  - Tier 1 may be administered by other modes
  - FHWA grant recipients will largely work with FHWA Division Office
- Divisions provide:
  - Technical support to HQ Grant Program managers for evaluating grant application submittals.
  - Program information and technical assistance to applicants.
  - Stewardship and oversight of all grants once announced
  - \*Note that Division Offices cannot review or provide input on actual grant application narratives.



#### Florida Division Office-

#### Federal funding comes with expectations for meeting federal procedures:

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO): Grant Application Requirements	Professional Services and Construction Procurement Requirements
Planning requirements/consistency	Design and Construction Standards
Environmental Requirements (NEPA)	Reporting and invoicing requirements (pre-, during, and post- construction)
Right-of-way Acquisition Requirements	Records Retention

### Federal Funding Process

Florida Division Office-

State/Local Processes to Prioritize and Select **Projects** 

**BIL Authorization Provides Budget** Authority

Annual Appropriation Allows \$\$ to be spent up to Obligation Limit



**FHWA Develops** Program Codes in **FMIS** 



**Direct Recipients Complete Grant** Agreement\*

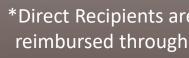
> \*Direct Recipients are reimbursed through **DELPHI**

Once Authorized, Projects Begin Work

Projects in the STIP can be submitted for Federal Authorization



**FHWA Funding Notices or Grant** Awards Distribute **Funding** 



**Project Incurs Expenditures** 



Agency Pays Invoices



**FHWA Reimburses** Agency



FMIS: Fiscal Management Information System

STIP: Statewide Transportation Improvement Program

### Grant Application Common Pitfalls

Florida Division Office

- Not addressing the objectives, program goals, or timeframes identified in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
- Not adequately addressing NEPA.
  - NEPA is ALWAYS applicable, even if the Class of Action is a Type 1 Categorical Exclusion. Do not suggest NEPA does not apply in the application.
- Not providing data to support the Need to be addressed by the project.
- Using generalized data not relevant to the proposed project area.
- Not demonstrating an understanding of Federal requirements in the development and delivery of the project.



#### Beware of slip hazards....



#### Florida Division Office-

- Underestimating time needed for critical tasks
  - Registering in Grants.gov; Preparing Grant Agreement, ROW acquisition, NEPA evaluation, Design phases, etc.
- Coordinating with Partners (shared vision, planning consistency)
- Understanding which Federal requirements apply
- Ensuring project team support and appropriate roles for all tasks



## FHWA FL Division BIL Core Team: Cathy Kendall, Greg Hall, Joseph Sullivan

- Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program Division Lead: Carlos Gonzalez
- Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transp. (SMART) Division Lead:
   Frank Corrado
- NEPA Questions: Luis Lopez, Joseph Sullivan
- ROW Questions: Brian Telfair

#### Florida Division Agency Websites

Florida Division Office-

- Florida Division Website: <a href="https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/fldiv/">https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/fldiv/</a>
- USDOT BIL Grant Programs:
  - https://www.transportation.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/bipartisan-infrastructure-law-grant-programs
- FHWA BIL Home Page: <a href="https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/">https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/</a>
- FHWA FLDIV Official Mailbox: Florida.FHWA@dot.gov

