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| |  | | --- | | **Monday, April 22, 2013 130422-1**  **In this Issue:**  **TIGER Grant Notice of Funding Availability Released** | | **USDOT Inspector General Issues Audit Highlighting Importance of Positive Train Control** | | |
| **TIGER Grant Notice of Funding Availability Released**  Today, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) released a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) with respect to the Transportation Infrastructure Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program. According to the NOFA, $473.8 million in TIGER grant funding will be made available and these grants will be awarded on a “competitive basis for projects that will have a significant impact on the Nation, a metropolitan area or region.” The funds for the TIGER grant program were appropriated by Congress through the adoption of the Continuing Appropriations Act that was adopted into law on March 26, 2013. Grant applications for the TIGER program must be submitted by June 3, 2013 and projects seeking grant funding must be able to obligate their funds in advance of September 30, 2014. The primary criteria for selecting grants has been kept largely the same as the previous rounds of TIGER funding, with the exception that short-term economic benefits and jobs creation are now included in the primary criteria of economic competitiveness. Our staff is currently reviewing the NOFA issued today to study what projects would best compete for the latest round in TIGER grant funding. Please click [here](http://www.dot.gov/sites/dot.dev/files/docs/Final%20TIGER%20NOFA%20for%20TIGER%20Website_22April%202013.pdf) to read more about the NOFA for the TIGER grant program.  <http://www.dot.gov/sites/dot.dev/files/docs/Final%20TIGER%20NOFA%20for%20TIGER%20Website_22April%202013.pdf>.  **USDOT Inspector General Issues Audit Highlighting Importance of Positive Train Control**  Last week, the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Inspector General issued an audit report regarding the Federal Railroad Administration’s (FRA) compliance of the safety provisions included in the Rail Safety Improvement Act adopted by Congress. In the report, the Inspector General emphasizes the importance of Positive Train Control technology, which has been highlighted in our Board-approved Legislative Program for many years. Specifically, the audit includes the following language: “Positive train control systems will be the technology backbone that ensures continuous safety improvement through elimination of certain human factor related incidents and will compliment FRA's efforts related to crash energy management.” The U.S. Department of Transportation’s full audit on rail safety issues, which cites the tragic Chatsworth rail accident, can be found [here](http://www.oig.dot.gov/sites/dot/files/FRA%20Rail%20Safety%20Improvement%20Act%20Report%5E4-17-13.pdf).  <http://www.oig.dot.gov/sites/dot/files/FRA%20Rail%20Safety%20Improvement%20Act%20Report%5E4-17-13.pdf> |
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