

Multistate Corridor Operations and Management Program (MCOM)

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Is this a new program?

A. This is not a new program; however in the past the monies were designated for the I-95 corridor and since inception of the program have gone to the I-95 Corridor Coalition (www.I95coalition.org). However, in FY11, Congress opened up this program to any multistate corridor organization. This year's solicitation is based on the FY12 monies made available under this program.

Q. Will the program continue beyond this solicitation?

A. There is no guarantee that future solicitations will be made for this program.

Q. Does the proposal have to involve more than one state?

A. The corridor for which the coalition or organization is targeting must be multistate in nature. Although only one State Department of Transportation (DOT) must be involved as the applicant, it is advisable that entities in the other States along the targeted corridor be part of the group and identified as actual or potential members in the submission.

Q. Are non-State DOTs eligible to participate?

A. Although the applicant must be a State DOT, other entities can be party to the coalition or organization and receive funds through the State DOT using Federal-aid Highway contract procedures. The application should demonstrate that State DOTs involved in the coalition/partnership are willing to receive MCOM allocations and manage contracts, projects, etc. in keeping with established Federal-aid highway procedures.

Q. Does an award need to be used within a single year?

A. No, the funds are available to carry out the coalition's program and projects objectives and are not limited to a specific time period. However, it is recommended an estimated schedule of expenditure be included in the submission.

Q. Is the funding stated (\$7 million) the funding available per grant or the funding available for the entire program?

A. The \$7m is the total of all awards. There could be multiple awards.

Q. Can funding be sent directly to a non-lead State DOT belonging to the coalition?

A. Yes, another State DOT in the coalition can directly receive funding thus avoiding a State to State transfer.

Q. What types of projects are eligible?

A. The program is designed to promote regional cooperation, planning, and shared project implementation. The program is focused on research, operational testing, evaluation, and technology transfer activities. However, it is recognized that minimal pre-deployment equipment purchase or construction may be necessary to accomplish the coalition's research / study objectives for improved corridor operation and management.

Q. Can the match be non-monetary?

A. Non-monetary match can be products (e.g. software) or services (e.g. staff time) but typically it is not for things already accomplished. It should be recognized that it is difficult to determine the value of these matches and as such the application should outline what and how the non-monetary match will be made and valued.

Q. For a monetary match, can the percentage be lower than 20%? Can the match be from other Federal funds?

A. The match can be lower than 20% through existing processes such as toll credits, tapering, etc. The State DOT applicant will be knowledgeable about these options. All matching funds must be from non-federal sources.

Q. How should proprietary or business sensitive information be noted in any response to the request for application (RFA)?

A. Write either "confidential" or "business sensitive" in a visible location on the relevant section of the application. This will provide FHWA with a clear request that the information on that page or section of the application should not be released without prior notice and coordination with your business. Please note that FHWA is required to comply with the Freedom of Information Act when responding to public requests for information. See 49 C.F.R. Part 7.