

FRSGP Conference Call Summary
June 2, 2011
1:00PM EDT

Opening Comments:

Hello everyone, good afternoon. This is the weekly Freight Rail Security Grant Program (FRSGP) conference call.

We have one item that we wanted to clarify. On page 37 of the grant guidance, as well as in the workshop presentation, it incorrectly states that when applying for bridge hardening projects, you should provide your AAR security classification number of the asset. You will not need to provide this number; it is not required when applying.

At this time we would like to open the line to any questions.

Questions and Answers:

Q: Is this grant only for the application of bridge hardening?

A: This grant program has a number of priorities including Rail Bridge hardening projects for owners of rail bridges. There are other funding priorities such as GPS tracking, Security Awareness Training, Exercises, and developing Vulnerability Assessments and Security Plans.

Q: What is the gross ton requirement for owners of rail bridges?

A: The bridges must have a volume exceeding 4.9 million gross ton miles (MGTM).

Q: What types of projects can we apply for with this grant funding?

A: There are detailed project types listed in the grant guidance. You can also find our workshop presentation, frequently asked questions summary, and material link on our website (www.tsa.gov/grants). These may provide the technical assistance needed for eligible grantees.

Q: Is there any chance the government will extend the submission deadline?

A: We can certainly look into that; however we do not expect that will occur. The grant cycle deadline for awarding has not changed and remains September 30, 2011. While appropriations were delayed there still remains a process by which grants are processed and awarded, including submission of applications, national panel review sessions with subject matter experts, announcements of awards, and processing award packages. Multiple grant programs, including UASI, have compressed timelines this year due to the delayed appropriation.

Q: Is FEMA anticipating doing any type of maintenance on ND grants during the application process? In the past that has occurred and as we are on a quick turnaround this year that information would be useful.

A: We can certainly take that questions back to FEMA and ask that they communicate any system outages through AskCSID in a timely fashion. We fully understand the compressed timelines this year and understand the challenges associated with that.

Q: Is it best to put multiple bridge projects on one IJ or is it best to submit them individually? Would putting them all on one IJ negatively impact the approval?

A: You can submit multiple bridge projects in one “bridge hardening” IJ or individually for all project types. With all projects, it is important to show in the IJ and budget the scalability or component-based nature of a project. This allows the NRP to partially fund projects, if one element is not eligible or there is limited funding, the remaining portions could be recommended for funding. For example, if an IJ is submitted for two or three types of training than the costs associated for each should be scalable in order for the national review panel to have more options during the review process. It is important to show the delineation of funding for the different projects or phases.

Q: If applying for a bridge and there are several levels of hardening with different types of technology would that be considered a scalable project?

A: Yes that likely would be.

Q: How can I be added to the TSA Grants email distribution list?

A: You can send an email to TSA Grants (TSAGrants@tsa.dhs.gov) with your contact information and we will add you to the list.

Closing Comments:

Thank you for calling in, our next call will be next week on Thursday, June 9th at 1:00pm. These weekly conference calls will continue until June 16, 2011. The call in number is 877-988-9660 and the pin is 6827433. Any changes to the conference call schedule will be sent out through ASKCSID@dhs.gov and TSAGrants@tsa.dhs.gov.

If you do have any questions before next week’s call, you may submit them via an email to ASKCSID (ASKCSID@dhs.gov) and carbon copy TSA Grants (TSAGrants@tsa.dhs.gov).

Thank you.

This concludes the call.