

Do you have a designated

Forest Highway route under your
jurisdiction **in need of improvement?**

The California Forest Highway Tri-Agency is now accepting project applications.

The enclosed packet of materials includes the following items for your review and use in submitting a project to the California Forest Highway Tri-Agency for consideration of inclusion in the 7-Year Forest Highway Program for funding:

- Description of the Forest Highway Program Project Selection Process
- Forest Highway Project Application
- Forest Highway Program Project Application instruction sheet

If you are interested or intend to submit a project application, please contact the Forest Highway Program Manager at the Central Federal Lands Highway Division of FHWA with any questions or to obtain assistance with completing your application.

Don't delay!
Project applications are due
March 15, 2011.



Forest Highway Project Selection Process

Background:

The Forest Highway (FH) Program was established with the passage of the Federal Highway Act of 1921. Over the history of the program, each state containing National Forests has designated Forest Highways, under the direction of the Federal Land Highway Division, that provide public access to National Forests and benefit the forest, states, and local communities. In California, there are approximately 3,000 miles of roadway designated as Forest Highways.

Purpose:

The purpose of this process is to generate candidate projects when there is a need or opportunity in the program for California. Each of the proposed candidate projects will be consistent with and support the vision, mission, and goals of the Long Range Transportation Plan for the Forest Highway Program.

Process:

Step 1: Central Federal Lands Highway Division (CFLHD) issues a call for projects in cooperation with the other Tri-Agency Representatives of USDA Forest Service (USFS) and State of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

Each National Forest (NF), Caltrans, and county with a Forest Highway will receive the solicitation. The solicitation will be made available electronically and will have instructions on how to complete the application. The solicitation will also include the details on the goals of the Forest Highway Program that are used to score each project.

Step 2: NF's, Caltrans, and counties prepare project applications

Once the NF's, Caltrans, and counties receive their packets, it is their responsibility to complete the project applications to the best of their ability, and supplying the information necessary to complete the project application. An agency may use anecdotal information when data is not available for application questions.

Projects initiated by the county (or other local organization) must have the project application submitted through Caltrans District Local Assistance Engineer (DLAE), with concurrence from the local NF(s).

Step 3: USFS and Caltrans sign project application and forward to CFLHD

The USFS and Caltrans reviews the applications for completeness and forwards them to CFLHD for distribution to the Tri-Agency Team.

Step 4: CFLHD compiles all project applications and sends to Tri-Agency for ranking

CFLHD compiles all project applications and distributes them to the Tri-Agency Team.

Step 5: Tri-Agency representatives score and rank applications

Each representative of the Tri-Agency reviews and ranks all project applications based on the established weighted criteria. Projects are evaluated on the content of application only and assigned one score per project by each Tri-Agency Team.

Step 6: Tri-Agency Annual Meeting (project ranking and programming)

A planning work session is scheduled for the Tri-Agency to discuss the merits of each project application based on the established weighted criteria. Depending on the outcome of discussion, a project may proceed in one of four ways:

- a) Project Dropped - Project receives no further consideration
- b) Project Deferred – Project is added to the unconstrained list of projects in the long range transportation plan
- c) Project Sponsor needs to provide more information - Additional information is collected before a program decision is made
- d) Project Approved - Project is programmed

Forest Highway Project Selection Process

Step 7: Projects assigned funding and program year on CFLHD Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

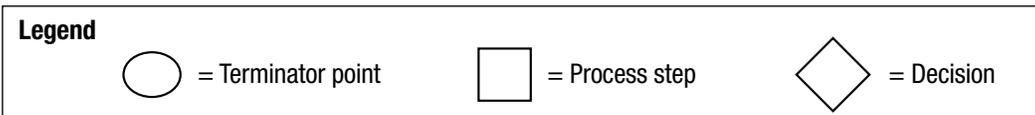
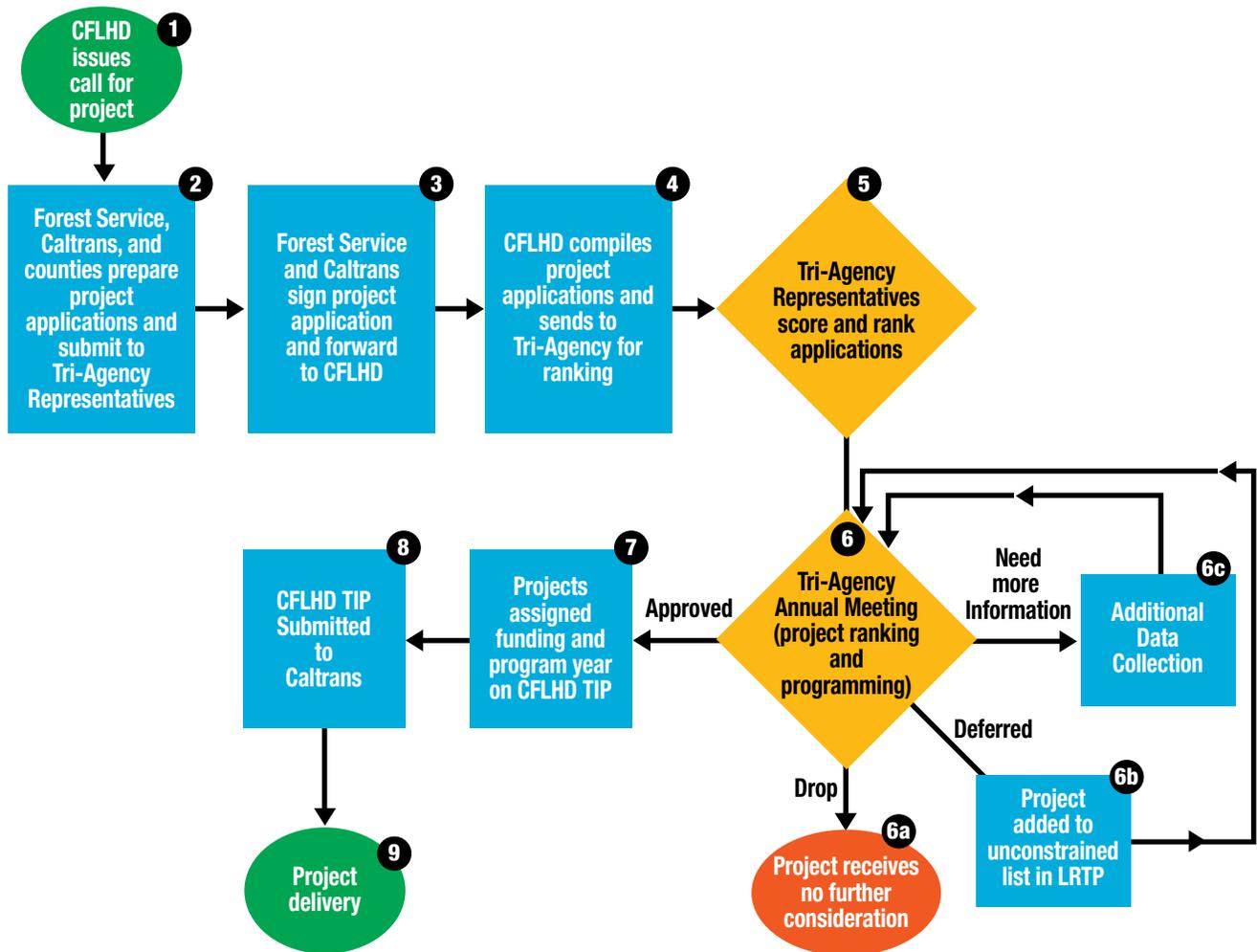
Each approved project is assigned a program year and budget, based on funding availability and other programming considerations. The Forest Highway Program in California has only \$20.7 million per year; programming will be flexible by having a mix of projects of different sizes and scopes of work. County projects must be programmed in the FTIP prior to fund obligation.

Step 8: CFLHD TIP submitted to Caltrans

After funding and program years are assigned, the list of projects is sent to the Caltrans for inclusion in their Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) or the State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) for preservation and rehabilitation projects on the State Highway System as appropriate.

Step 9: Project delivery

The final step for each approved project is project delivery. CFLHD prepares engineering drawings, conducts appropriate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) studies, constructs the project, and turns it over to the agency with jurisdiction. Recipient agency and affected NF are kept informed of progress throughout Project Delivery phase. Affected NF designates a Forest Liaison.



California Forest Highway Project Application Instruction Sheet

General Information

The Tri-Agency (USFS, Caltrans, CFLHD) will review project applications and rank them based on weighted selection criteria developed as part of the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The selection criteria are directly related to the goals and objectives developed for the LRTP. The top-ranked projects will be discussed at the annual Tri-Agency program meetings to develop an approved project list funded through the Forest Highway (FH) Program.

Please note that the top-ranked project is not guaranteed funding and the approved list of projects will be agreed upon by the Tri-Agency. Project approval resides with the Tri-Agency. The Tri-Agency will select a balanced program made up of some large projects with smaller projects used to fill in the gaps. Typical projects are those involving construction or reconstruction and are not maintenance (chipseal, potholes, and so on) projects.

For projects on county-owned routes, applications must be submitted through Caltrans or the USFS. Applications for routes under USFS or state jurisdiction may be submitted individually. Please be sure to secure all of the appropriate signatures for the application to be considered complete. By signing the application, you and the co-signer certify the completeness of the application; this does not indicate the approval of the project.

Additional information on the Forest Highway program is located at <http://www.cflhd.gov/LRTP/>

You may provide your responses on additional sheets, as necessary. However, applications must be no longer than 10 pages to be considered.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY March 15, 2011

The following information is intended to help you in filling out the application. Please submit application in PDF format.

Question 1.

FHWA will complete all design, NEPA clearance, and construction of the selected projects, except, as otherwise agreed by Tri-Agency.

Functional classification: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/flex/ch03.htm>

Please note that due to federal funding requirements, Right-of-Way (ROW) acquisition must comply with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 and is the responsibility of the Cooperator.

Question 3.

In the project description, include items such as roadway width (shoulders and lanes), surface type, structures, approximate design speed, and any work affecting drainage structures.

Average Daily Traffic (ADT)—The average number of vehicles on a road during the day. To calculate the ADT, take the total traffic volume during a given time period (in 24-hour intervals) and divide it by the number of days in that time period.

California Forest Highway Project Application Instruction Sheet

Question 6

Identify deficient or lacking road features that contribute to safety hazards. Include engineering analysis if available. Also include crash data, animal or vehicle collisions, reported incidents, or anecdotal information that can be used to identify a safety issue.

Question 7

Standard pavement condition ratings are available from CFL at:
<http://www.cflhd.gov/FHRoadInv/documents/cafh2008.pdf>

Question 8

Bridge condition information can be found from the National Bridge Inventory at: <http://nationalbridges.com/>

Question 10

Seasonal Average Daily Traffic (SADT)–The average number of vehicles on a road during the day in the peak season

Recreation Visitor Day (RVD)–A recreational visitor day is 12-person hours of participation in a recreational activity, whether it is 12 hours by 1 person, or 1 hour each by 12 different people, or some combination of time and people.

% Forest Generated Traffic–The percent of traffic traveling to or from the National Forest.

% Non-Forest Generated Traffic–The percent of traffic traveling through a National Forest with a destination other than Forest-related (that is, Commuter, private residence, school, in so on).

The level of use on the route impacted by this project will be evaluated based on amount of Average Daily Traffic (ADT) or Seasonal Average Daily Traffic (SADT) and the duration of the traffic. Low ADT/SADT is anything less than 1000 and high ADT/SADT is anything more than 1000. The duration of traffic will be measured by if it is greater or less than 6 months. The greater the duration of traffic and the greater the ADT/SADT, the higher this project will be rated.

Question 11

Consider whether this project fills in gaps or missing links in the transportation network, or whether travel restrictions, bottlenecks, or load limits that prevent all-weather travel are alleviated by this project improvement.

Question 12

Alternate mode improvements could include transit, bicycles, pedestrians, equestrians, park-and-rides, and so on.

Question 13

To identify whether your Forest Highway route is on a designated National Scenic Byway, click on the following link www.byways.org

Question 14:

This estimate will be used to compare approximate construction cost relative to other projects. Projects will not be ranked based on cost.

3R –Resurfacing, Rehabilitation, and Restoration

Projects include some application or road rehabilitation (scarification, pulverization, and so on, of existing Asphalt Concrete Pavement (ACP)), addition of supplemental aggregate surface course, and the placement of ACP. Minor guardrail, signing, and other appurtenances included on a case-by-case basis.

4R –Resurfacing, Rehabilitation, Restoration, and Reconstruction

Light 4R -Projects typically include minor widening off the roadway bench. Primarily regarding the road template and resurfacing. Projects do not include walls but can include minor guardrail, signing, and other appurtenances.

Medium 4R-Projects include widening where some walls will be included. Projects will also include earthwork to address some vertical or horizontal alignment deficiencies. Guardrail, signing, and other appurtenances are included.

Heavy 4R- Projects include major widening along a route including heavy use of cut or fill walls. Typical work includes major earthwork operations to address some vertical or horizontal alignment deficiencies. Work also includes aggregate surface course and ACP. Guardrail, signing, and other appurtenances included.

Question 18

Some examples include reduction in existing road-related sedimentation, fish passage improvements, managing visitor access to appropriate camping areas, directing vehicles away from sensitive natural resources, and so on.

Question 19

To identify potential Threatened & Endangered Species in your project area, click on the following link

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/>