

Low Carbon Transportation Materials Grants Program

This is only a summary; applicants should not rely on it to meet application requirements. Study the full grant opportunity announcement before applying for any federal grant.

Program Description – Provides funding for the use of construction materials that have substantially lower levels of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The purpose of the program is to reimburse or provide incentives to eligible recipients for the use, in projects, of construction materials and products that have substantially lower levels of embodied greenhouse gas emissions associated with all relevant stages of production, use, and disposal as compared to estimated industry averages of similar materials or products as determined by the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The program also will help transportation agencies: Develop specifications for collecting documentation of a materials embodied greenhouse gas emissions; Develop or update technical specifications to allow for use of materials, products, and strategies that result in lower embodied carbon materials; and Establish a process to identify, verify, and use materials with lower levels of embodied greenhouse gas emissions

Opportunity Numbers – None Listed	Agency – FHWA	
Obligation Deadline: September 30, 2026 Expenditure Deadline: September 30, 2031	Closing – 5:00pm EST on June 10, 2024 (RFA says 11:59pm however)	BCA Required? No but Budget required
Available Funding: \$1.2B to States through the Request for Applications (RFA) process and \$800M later to non-state DOTs through a separate NOFO (\$2B total)	Related – https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/lowcarbon/rfa.pdf Applicant Announcement Notification – Intended for June 2024	
Minimum Award: At least \$22M per state DOT submitting a responsive application No limit on maximum award size Each state DOT shall submit only one application	Eligible Project Cost Restrictions: Advanced Construction in accordance with 23 USC 115, is allowed for DOT administered projects under this RFA An Implementation Process Report (IPR) will be submitted and approved by FHWA before activities (such as construction) under this program are authorized	
Eligible Projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funds are available to use on construction projects funded under 23 USC including projects on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Federal-aid highways ○ Tribal transportation facilities ○ Federal lands transportation facilities; and ○ Federal lands access transportation facilities 	Required Cost Share: While LCTM funds are eligible for up to 100 percent Federal share, LCTM funds may only be applied to eligible activities associated with the use of low carbon transportation material; <u>The program is not intended to fund entire construction projects;</u> (page 6)	
	Funding: Eligible recipients that use low carbon construction materials and products on Title 23 projects may be either reimbursed or receive an incentive (page 2) The only materials/products eligible are concrete (and cement), glass, asphalt mix, and steel materials/products (page 4)	

Application Review Factors

Substantially Lower Embodied Carbon Identification	Quality Assurance and Materials Acceptance	Use of Materials and Products on Construction Projects	Schedule and Budget
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Eligible Applicants –

(1) State DOTs only;

Note – a separate program NOFO for eligible non-state DOT applicants will be issued later

Eligible Activities (RFA pages 8-13 – Examples are given under each subheading below in the RFA):

1. **Process for Substantially Lower Embodied Carbon** – Development of Implementation Process Report(s); Academia or Consultant Support to Identify Eligible Materials, Training Needs, Additional Data, and Special Provision Development; Stakeholder Outreach and Coordination; Development of Process to Collect and Store Environmental Product Declaration (EPDs); Identification of Local/Regional “substantially lower” Embodied Carbon Thresholds; Low Carbon Transportation Materials (LCTM) Training
2. **LCTM Quality Assurance (QA) and LCTM Specifications** – Development of Implementation Process Report(s); Development of QA Plans and/or Performance Monitoring Plan for the material; Stakeholder Outreach and Coordination; Update of existing material specifications or development of new special provision to facilitate use on projects; Preliminary mixture design and testing to evaluate materials; Testing equipment to properly accept and verify LCTM; LCTM Test Strips; Development of a verification process for LCTM and EPDs; Training
3. **Construction Project Identification** – Development of IPR (In Progress Review?); Identify Construction Projects; Develop a plan for incorporation of LCTM on construction projects; Development of project-specific construction contract language; Industry outreach and coordination; Training
4. **Use of LCTM on Projects** – Identification of eligible Federal-aid projects’ Estimation of costs of LCTM; Comparison of LCTM costs and traditional material cost; LCTM Bid Items (added solely to facilitate use of LCTM)
5. **Substantially Lower Embodied Carbon** – EPD Bid Item; Collection of Energy Star Performance Score; Quality Incentives for Environmental Performance; Other costs for the use of substantially lower carbon materials
6. **Quality Assurance and Acceptance** – LCTM test strip; Additional testing equipment and/or testing required to accept low carbon materials; Verification that material placed meets thresholds for substantially lower carbon; Verification of engineering properties of the LCTM; Quality incentives for engineering performance
7. **Use of Materials and Products on Construction Projects** – Development of Project-specific Performance Monitoring Plan; Construction and placement costs of using eligible materials on eligible projects; reporting of results from Long Term Performance Monitoring Plan

Administration Priorities -- Safety, Climate Change and Sustainability, Equity, and Environmental Justice, and Workforce Development, Job Quality, and Wealth Creation.

Program goals include: Increasing the use of lower carbon materials and products that are used in projects funded under 23 U.S.C.; Facilitating the use of low carbon transportation materials while ensuring appropriateness for use in projects eligible under 23 U.S.C.; Promoting technology transfer and enhancing workforce development to increase the adoption of environmental quantification techniques used in decision-making by transportation agencies; and Encouraging State DOTs to begin LCTM activities and building successful low carbon transportation material identification frameworks that eventually may be replicated by non-State recipients eligible to apply for LCTM funding.

Application Requirements

Required components include: **SF-424, SF-424C, SF-424 D, Volume 1 Technical Application** (no longer than 15 pages), **Volume 2 Budget Application**, and **Additional Supporting Documentation** (no longer than 10 pages).

Volume 1 Technical Application Sections – Technical Description, Team Information, Overall Readiness (Schedule/Project Risk and Mitigation Strategies), Eligible Application Factors

Volume 2 – Budget Application Sections – Budget Application, Budget Table

Additional Supporting Documentation, Other Application Considerations (Scalable Project Options, Construction Projects, Sharing of Application Information)

No formatting requirements listed but assumed Standard formatting: i.e. single-spaced, standard 12-point font such as Times New Roman, 1-inch margins.