MDOT

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION

Wes Moore
Governor

Aruna Miller
Lieutenant Governor

Paul J. Wiedefeld
Secretary

Freight Rail Grant Program Portal Application
Resource & Guidance Document

This document provides guidance, identifies resources, and directs you to recommended tools to support the submission of your application for the MDOT Freight Rail Grant Program. The Resource Guide follows the overall structure of the application but does not provide details for every single question. If you have any questions about something not covered in this document, discuss potential projects, application support, or any other needs, please contact FreightRail@mdot.maryland.gov for support.

Question from application: *Project Point of Contact*

- The primary point of contact should be someone familiar with the project, who can provide additional explanation, or engage in discussions on the scope if necessary. In some instances, this may be the individual submitting the application, but it does not need to be. It is up to the applicant's discretion to identify who is the best project specific point of contact.

Question from application: *Does the project manager have prior experience with state/federal grant funded projects?*

- This question is intended to help reviewers understand if the applicant has experience with state/federal grant funded projects to help determine if additional assistance may be required if the proposed project is selected. Not having previous experience will not disqualify an applicant.

Question from application: *Is it anticipated the project would need environmental permitting or documentation at the local, State or Federal – National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) level?*

- This question is intended to help reviewers understand if the project will have environmental impacts and/or require resource agency coordination or permitting.

Question from application: *Project Phase*

- Design
  - For completion of design plans and feasibility assessments of proposed or potential rail corridor improvements.
  - To assess issues such as economic benefits, environmental impacts, right-of-way issues, local support, and cost estimates.

- Construction
  - For construction or installation of rail corridor improvements. May include sidings/sidetracks, eligible grade crossings, bridges/structures, drainage improvements, and other major projects.
  - Design may be funded as a component of a construction award.
  - Not for routine maintenance projects.

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Question from application: *Requested Funds*

- How much your organization will be contributing to the total cost of the project. Project sponsors are required to provide matching funds for the project which is generally 20% of the overall project cost. Providing additional matching funds may result in additional consideration for your project.

Question from application: *Does your project support a priority need or goal identified by MDOT, Modal Administration (MTA, SHA, MDTA, MAA, MPA), MPO, or locality? Please cite specific plans and needs/goals.*

- Please describe how the project helps to achieve freight rail related goals established in state, or other agencies plans, policies or objectives. To ensure alignment with statewide and local plans and policies, describe how your project supports those efforts. Project selection will be informed by how well the projects support progress on prioritized actions and strategies of statewide and local plans. Please cite specific plans and goals.

Question from application: *Please upload an estimate for the cost of your project. Be sure your upload includes cash-flows for all years you are requesting funding.*

- In the OneStop application please insert your overall project cost in the box provided and upload an estimate for the cost of your project. Uploads could be PDF, Excel Files, Word, etc.

Resources:

MDOT Rail and Intermodal Freight Home Page:

https://www.mdot.maryland.gov/freight-rail

Maryland State Rail Plan

https://www.mdot.maryland.gov/OPCP/MD_State_Rail_Plan.pdf

Maryland State Freight Plan

https://www.mdot.maryland.gov/OPCP/MDOT_State_Freight_Complete_2022_12_06.pdf

Maryland State Rail Map

https://www.mdot.maryland.gov/OPCP/railmap.pdf

Maryland Transportation Plan

https://www.mdot.maryland.gov/OPCP/MTP_Playbook_web.pdf