



# Fully Fund the TIGER Program

## Background »

The Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery, or TIGER Discretionary Grant program, provides a unique opportunity for the Department of Transportation (DOT) to invest in road, rail, transit and port projects that promise to achieve national objectives, such as improving safety, reducing congestion and air quality and improving the performance of the road system. The competitive program allows the U.S. DOT to reward strong applications that build and repair our transportation network.

TIGER is unique in that it allows project sponsors at the state and local levels to obtain funding for multi-modal, multi-jurisdictional projects that are more difficult to support through traditional DOT programs. It also allows municipalities, counties and other entities to apply directly for federal funding to improve safety and build connections that improve transportation access and options for their communities. This is in contrast to traditional federal programs which provide funding to very specific groups of applicants (mostly state DOTs and transit agencies).

## Current Debate »

The funding for the TIGER program is not covered under the Highway Trust Fund, so Congress must vote to fund it each year in the appropriations bills. In the current 2018 budget debate, the Senate funds TIGER at \$550 million but the House zeroes out funding. The budget deal signed into law in February 2018 increases infrastructure funding by \$10 billion for fiscal year 2018 and 2019. That funding should be used to robustly fund TIGER and other multimodal transportation programs.

## Why it Matters »

**Completing networks and fixing gaps.** The TIGER program funds multi-jurisdictional and multimodal programs such as bridges between states (Tennessee–Arkansas, e.g.), transit and rail stations (like Oklahoma City, OK) that fix transportation networks and gaps in multi-modal networks by including bicycling, walking and transit connections.

**Building multimodal projects.** The TIGER program has funded complete streets projects that increase transportation connections and improve economic development in communities like Dubuque, IA (complete streets grant) and Brownsville, TX (planning grant).

**Improving Safety.** The TIGER program has funded programs that improve safety for all modes on rural roads in Mississippi, Washington and New Mexico and has funded urban efforts from safety planning for bicycling and walking (Cleveland, OH), to grants for Vision Zero (New York).

**Empowering Local Control.** Local governments, including cities, counties and metropolitan planning organizations can apply directly for federal funding for projects that matter in their communities.

## The Ask »

Please support robust federal funding for the TIGER discretionary grant program in the FY 2018 and FY 2019 budget.