

Memorandum

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Subject: **ACTION:** Solicitation for INVEST
Implementation Projects

Date: January 13, 2013

From: April L. Marchese
Director, Office of Natural Environment
/S/Original signed by

In Reply Refer To:
HEPN-1

To: Division Administrators
Federal Lands Highway Engineers

The purpose of this memorandum is to request your assistance in soliciting projects from State Departments of Transportation (DOTs), Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), Federal Land Management Agencies (FLMAs), and local governments on utilizing INVEST 1.0, FHWA's voluntary self-assessment tool, to assess and enhance the sustainability of their projects and programs.

INVEST (Infrastructure Voluntary Evaluation Sustainability Tool) helps transportation agencies improve investment decisions while considering limited resources by addressing the sustainability triple bottom line -- enhancing economic, social, and environmental outcomes. FHWA piloted INVEST across the country in 2011 and improved the tool to reflect lessons learned. FHWA formally launched INVEST 1.0 in October 2012.

FHWA's 2013 Strategic Implementation Plan includes a goal to encourage use and deployment of the sustainability tool, INVEST, by State DOTs, MPOs, and Federal Lands (see national initiative 2.8).

As such, FHWA is now seeking to partner with transportation agencies across the country to utilize INVEST 1.0 as part of their efforts to improve the sustainability of their programs and projects. FHWA would like to work in partnership with a set of transportation agencies on gathering lessons learned from implementing INVEST 1.0. A limited pool of funding is available to assist in these activities. In addition to the agencies that receive implementation funding, it is anticipated that many agencies will choose to implement INVEST without need for additional funding, as the tool is free and easy to use.

We would appreciate your assistance in the solicitation process. We are requesting that your Division staff contact their respective State DOT, MPO, Federal Lands, or local government contacts to encourage them to submit letters of interest. The following process will be followed for selecting projects:

Agencies interested in the funding opportunity are asked to submit a four to five page letter of interest to the respective FHWA division office. Division offices will review and send letters forward to headquarters.

Letters of interest will be received and funding allocated on a rolling basis and as funding is available. FHWA is targeting the month of March to fund several projects; letters of interest received by February 15 will be considered for the round of funding targeted for March. Letters of interest are however welcome after that date as well.

More details and guidelines regarding the solicitation process can be found in the attached document "Solicitation for INVEST Implementation Projects." For assistance with the solicitation process, you may contact the following FHWA HQ staff:

Tina Hodges, (202) 366-4287, Tina.Hodges@dot.gov; or
Rob Hyman, (202) 366-5843, Robert.Hyman@dot.gov.

We sincerely appreciate whatever assistance you can provide regarding the encouragement of proposals for this important initiative.

Attachments:

Solicitation for INVEST Implementation Projects
INVEST Brochure