



DOT Announces \$1.5 Billion in “Build” Grants Available

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The US DOT recently announced the availability of \$1.5 billion in discretionary grants from the newly named “Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development” (BUILD) Transportation program which replaces the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery, TIGER grant program. The announcement said that the maximum award available via this first round of BUILD grants is \$25 million, and no more than \$150 million can be awarded to a single state, as specified in the fiscal year 2018 appropriations act. A new emphasis from the Administration is that at least 30% of BUILD grant funds must be awarded to projects located in rural areas which will include support for rural broadband deployment if it is part of an eligible transportation project. Build grant awards will also be based on the amount of non-federal revenue for transportation that the state brings to the table.

North Carolina expects to receive \$147 million from the Build grants program to widen parts of Interstate 95 and U.S. 70 in Eastern North Carolina and install 300 miles of fiber optic cable along both highways. The NCDOT will use the money to:

- Widen 25 miles of I-95 in two sections from four lanes to eight
- Rebuild six interchanges in the Dunn area on I-95
- Upgrade two segments of U.S. 70 to interstate standards.

Source- AGC / The News & Observer