FEDERAL LANDS HIGHWAY
Federal Highway Administration
People, Partners, Projects
The Federal Highway Administration Federal Lands Highway Program was established to promote effective, efficient, and reliable administration for a coordinated improvement program of roads and bridges on public lands; to protect and enhance our Nation’s natural resources; and to provide needed transportation access for Native Americans. We serve as an advocate for Federal agencies and Tribal governments regarding federal and tribal transportation issues, and strengthen relationships among state and local transportation partners.

The Office of Federal Lands Highway (FLH) is relied upon to solve problems and manage projects that are wide-ranging in environment, geography and complexity, through engineering solutions that are context sensitive. We are often confronted by unique engineering problems, difficult terrain, challenging work restrictions, and uncompromising deadlines.

Whether it is building highly visible and political urban projects, constructing roads that are national landmarks, or providing critical access on low-volume transportation facilities, FLH is at the forefront of consistently delivering distinct, sound, and award-winning engineering projects.

Special thanks to the Federal Lands employees responsible for taking the majority of the wonderful photographs contained within these pages.
Our engineering and technical expertise includes:

- Construction Supervision and Inspection
- Consultant and Construction Contract Acquisition
- Contract Administration
- Design Visualization
- Environmental Compliance
- Funds Management
- Geotechnical Design
- Highway and Bridge Design
- Hydraulics and Hydrology
- Intelligent Transportation Systems
- Materials Sampling & Testing
- Plans, Specifications and Estimates
- Project Management
- Program Administration
- Road and Bridge Inventory and Inspection
- Safety
- Survey and Mapping
- Technical Assistance
- Technology Deployment
- Traffic
- Transportation Asset Management
- Transportation Planning
Our most valued asset is our people; they are the key component to our continued success. We encourage our employees to build diverse skill sets and technical expertise to remain in step with the increasing diversity of the Federal Lands Highway Program and our partner’s needs.

Resources are shared throughout the Federal Lands Divisions, as needed, to assure successful delivery of projects and programs.

Outreach to other transportation and resource agencies in the U.S. and abroad fosters the exchange of ideas and the growth of technical expertise.
A key strength lies in our ability to assemble experienced teams that deliver innovative and timely solutions. Along with the active assistance of our Federal, state and local partners, we look for opportunities to be creative in advancing programs and projects.

Partner missions and values are reflected in our project approach making use of many new and existing initiatives and technologies.

We deploy all transportation industry standards and initiatives and utilize innovative contracting methods aimed at shortening project delivery, enhancing safety, reducing congestion, and improving environmental outcomes.
Federal Lands offers opportunities to develop FHWA professionals, graduate engineers, and civil engineering students to gain practical experience, build expertise and technical credibility in a variety of discipline training and rotational assignments.

We partner with the National Highway Institute to provide trained instructors in various core discipline training.

Federal Lands administers a fully accredited college course on the development of highway design and construction projects through a combination of classroom and hands-on field instruction.
Through our direct involvement in all aspects of planning, project development and delivery, we are an instrumental demonstration arm of the FHWA helping to ensure and promote that innovation and technology will perform in the manner expected. At the request of our partners, we offer individualized technical assistance, demonstrations and training to advocate for innovation and technology improvements.

With our status as a Federal partner we provide program and project delivery authority for oversight, NEPA compliance and procurement.

Federal Lands applies innovative solutions that meet both the missions of FHWA and our partner agencies. Implementing these innovative solutions affords FHWA the opportunity to learn firsthand how well technologies perform once applied.

Federal Lands Geotechnical Engineers conduct Unstable Slope Asset Management Program Training with various Federal partners in attendance.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park
Tennessee

Federal Lands hosted a delegation of engineering officials representing transportation agencies from South Korea to benchmark Federal Lands Project Delivery. An FLH bridge engineer explains concrete segmental box design considerations.

Virginia
Our definition of partner is diverse, ranging from state and territorial governments, traditional Federal Agency partners with strong resource protection missions, to our Tribal partners, focused on building self-sufficiency and providing basic access to community services and improved quality of life for their people.

Each Federal Lands office provides training, technology deployment, engineering services, and products to an increasing array of partners and customers often with vastly different missions, priorities and approaches.
Norfolk Southern double-stacked train travels unobstructed through Heartland Corridor.
Virginia

Our greatest responsibility is for the stewardship and oversight of Federal funds whether a project is delivered by us directly or by our partners.

The skill and strength necessary for facilitating cooperation among multiple stakeholders has taken our work in many directions, serving the greater transportation community in the management of complex public private partnership projects.

Federal Lands has succeeded in building strong relationships with the railroad industry via Norfolk Southern and CSX Corporations, through the successful completion of the Heartland Corridor Clearance Project, Crescent Corridor Intermodal Freight Program and Regional Intermodal Facilities, and the National Gateway Corridor Clearance Improvement Program.

We administer the Tribal Program jointly with Bureau of Indian Affairs or directly with the Tribes while also providing technical assistance and training.

Federal Lands Access Program enables two rural counties to match funds to construct a helipad for emergency response access in a remote area of the Forest.

Nantahala National Forest
North Carolina

Boardroads and ATV Trails constructed by local Tribes using Tribal Program Funds offer best solutions for transportation across the tundra.
Tuntutuliak
Alaska

Cattle Point Road Realignment Project
Washington
Federal public roads protect and enhance natural and cultural resources, sustain economic development in rural areas, and support recreational travel, tourism, resource management and electric power generation.
Our projects present us with unique engineering challenges in fragile and protected environments where our commitment to pilot innovation can sometimes make the difference.

Bridge Construction & Roadway Improvements
Red Rock Scenic Drive
Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area
Nevada

Mechanically Stabilized Earth Walls, Multi-Use Improvements, Wetland Restoration, Safety Edge

Marin Headlands
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
California

Roadway & Safety Improvements
Logan Pass to Siyeh Bend
Glacier National Park
Montana
Many of our projects have received honors and recognition for excellence in design, construction, project management, aesthetics, historic preservation and environmental sensitivity.
Geosynthetic Reinforced Soils, Construction Manager/General Contractor Project Delivery Method, Historic Stone Wall Restoration to Safety Standard

Ice Rock and Alligator Back
Blue Ridge Parkway
North Carolina

Historic Structure Replicated With Modern Materials
Isa Lake Bridge
Yellowstone National Park
Wyoming

Historic Structure Replicated With Modern Materials
Isa Lake Bridge
Yellowstone National Park
Wyoming

Full Reconstruction & Realignment, Design & Safety Improvements, Wetland Mitigation, Erosion Control

Sevenmile-Gooseberry Road
Fishlake National Forest
Utah

Road Diet
Steinwehr Avenue
Borough of Gettysburg
Pennsylvania
The Federal Lands Road Inventory Program manages a nationwide program that provides roadway inventory and condition analysis for the National Park Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and other Federal Land Management Agencies (FLMAs). With the use of state-of-the-art data collection equipment, paved and unpaved road conditions, drainage and geometrics are captured.

The Federal Lands Bridge Inspection Program is responsible for the safety inspection and structural rating of approximately 2,700 structures owned by various FLMAs in accordance with National Bridge Inspection Standards.

The program includes risk-based condition assessments for safety and structural adequacy, evaluations for serviceability and functional obsolescence, and calculation of safe load capacities. Program goals are accomplished through a data-driven performance management approach as outlined under transportation legislation, and by utilizing Under Bridge Inspection Vehicle equipment, rigging and climbing inspection techniques, and underwater inspections. The program also includes emergency inspections, overload permit evaluations, deck studies, and non-destructive evaluation.

Collected data is used to define, support, and program improvement projects and aid in the development of pavement, bridge and asset management systems.
The Federal Lands Office of Bridges and Structures is responsible for providing oversight of the 19 Federal agencies that own bridges open to the public. Federal law requires each of these agencies to conduct bridge inspections on a 2 year cycle. The oversight is conducted through an FHWA risk-based, data driven approach, and assesses an agency’s National Bridge Inspection Program level of compliance with 23 metrics defined in 5 categories: Bridge Inspection Organization; Qualifications of Personnel; Inspection Frequency; Inspection Procedures; and Inventory.

As a result of these assessments, all 19 Federal agency bridge inspection programs have shown significant improvement. The assessments not only provide guidance to Federal bridge owners on achieving and maintaining compliance, but also help to ensure the safety and serviceability of federally-owned bridges.

The Bridge Inspection Program has been expanded to include railroad bridge and tunnel inspections as mandated by Federal law. The program is also engaged in the re-evaluation of load ratings for bridges on the Minuteman transportation network of the U.S. Air Force Global Strike Command across the nation.
All roads are vulnerable to the powerful forces of nature. Whether it is hurricane, tornado, or volcanic eruption, Federal Lands works with Federal, state and local partners to coordinate funding, and assist in the design and construction restoration efforts to ensure public safety and restore critical access. We administer the Emergency Relief for Federally Owned Roads (ERFO) Program to fund the repair or reconstruction of federally owned roads following a natural disaster, and also assist the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as part of multidisciplinary teams deployed to assist with damage assessment and to provide construction and contract administration.

Catastrophic flooding in Colorado’s Front Range in 2013 affected many state and county roads accessing national parks and forests. Federal Lands deployed assessment and survey teams to assist the National Guard and Colorado DOT, and also provided engineering and technical support for repairs.

Larimer County Road 43
Colorado

When Kilauea Volcano erupted in 2014, the lava flow began advancing towards the community of Pahoa. Geophysical techniques and testing were used in advance of the emergency construction, to identify lava tubes and hot spots that mitigated risk of delay or injury and supported construction necessary to maintain evacuation routes.

Hawaii Volcanoes National Park
Hawaii
Superstorm Sandy in 2012, ravaged five National Parks on the East Coast: including the Statue of Liberty National Monument.
Liberty Island was the site of particular devastation with damage to the main passenger pier and the work/emergency pier, the Federal Lands team imparted its engineering, environmental compliance, and project management expertise to meet the July 4th goal of reopening the Island to visitors.

Statue of Liberty National Monument
New York

Destroyed by Tropical Storm Irene in 2011, the Hastings Trail pedestrian and snowmobile suspension bridge over the Wild River is significant because of its relationship to the major corridor trail systems of the north east. The new bridge, maintains the beauty of the view downriver and supports winter tourism activities, linking the economies of New Hampshire, Maine and Quebec, Canada.

Hastings Trail Bridge
White Mountain National Forest
New Hampshire
Building accessible and scenic roads that ensure the many national treasures within our Federal Lands can be enjoyed by all.

Joshua Tree National Park
California

For more information, please visit our website.
flh.fhwa.dot.gov

Let us put our expertise to work for you