The Local TRAX rail overpass program will provide grants to cities, towns and counties bodies for grade separation, crossing closure and other safety enhancement projects at rail-highway intersections on local roads. Funding for this program is provided through changes in HEA 1002 effective July, 2017. This is not a revolving grant fund. The Indiana Finance Authority (IFA) will issue and distribute bonds once, then this program will close.

Local TRAX presents a partnership with INDOT, local communities, businesses, industry and railroads to improve the quality of life for residents through large scale rail related transportation projects. INDOT is excited to offer another state-funded source to improve safety and mobility at rail-highway intersections.

**Who is eligible to apply?**

Indiana cities, towns and counties who want a grade separation project on a local road.

**What is the maximum grant award a project can receive?**

Currently there is not a maximum grant award.

**What is the local match?**

The local match is 20% of the total project’s construction and right-of-way costs. INDOT will fund and manage the design fees. This match can be reached through any local partnerships including funding from the host railroad.

**Can Federal funds be used as part of the match?**

No, federal funds are not eligible for use as part of the match.

**If my project is selected to receive a grant, will INDOT manage it?**

Yes, INDOT will manage the project. INDOT will handle everything from requesting proposals, selecting consultants and negotiating fees, to project management through design delivery and letting, to construction inspection and closeout as well as any other tasks along the way. INDOT understands local community involvement is critical to a successful project and will work with the LPA to establish a local involvement plan at the outset of each project.
When will the grant solicitation open?

The grant program will open May 1, 2018 and close at 5 p.m. on August 31, 2018. Applications will be reviewed, scored and awarded by late summer, 2018. Projects should be let by January 1, 2022.

What criteria will be used to evaluate the projects?

Evaluation criteria will include project viability, financial match, hazard index at the crossing, average daily auto traffic, freight train traffic, number of crossing closures and community population.

What should be included in the application?

Detailed scope of work which includes a narrative on the projects’ safety, mobility and economic development opportunities, a detailed project budget to include engineering design, and construction costs, and a letter of support from the host railroad.

What type of project is eligible?

Grade separation or crossing closure with a new roadway at railroad crossing at a stage of critical need.

Does INDOT need to approve the project design?

The grant applicant and railroad will approve the consultants’ project design. INDOT will review the final design for viability and cost.

Will the project follow federal or state environmental regulations?

Because this is a state-funded program, the intent is for the projects to follow Indiana environmental regulations. However, if a federal decision is necessary, the project may become subject to the requirements set forth in the National Environmental Policy Act.