

TIGER Grant Fact Sheet

What is a TIGER Grant?

TIGER is an acronym for Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery. These federal grants, which are highly competitive, allow the U.S. Department of Transportation to invest in road, rail, transit, and port projects that promise to meet national objectives.

How much will LCG receive? How will the money be used?

The U.S. Department of Transportation awarded Lafayette Consolidated Government (LCG) \$304,250 in September, 2014. LCG contributed a local partial match of \$195,750 to bring the total to \$500,000 for neighborhood planning in five districts in the I-49 Corridor (see attached map).

Why do we need the TIGER Grant?

The design process for the I-49 Connector — the elevated, 5.5 mile, six-lane interstate highway that will intersect the core of Lafayette — is already underway. The TIGER Grant will allow Lafayette to be proactive in mitigating the potential impact of the interstate highway on the surrounding areas, which include Lafayette's oldest neighborhoods.

This grant will enable residents to identify and express their wishes and concerns and to work with professional designers to plan for necessary improvements in their neighborhoods while federal and state officials design the interstate highway.

Over the last few years, the U.S. Department of Transportation has funded several grants aimed at correcting problems caused by elevated freeway structures built through urban areas. This grant presents the opportunity to get it right the first time.

Who will carry out the planning? How long will it take?

Lafayette Consolidated Government officials have selected a team of urban designers and communications professionals to identify the wishes of residents and business owners and to design and prepare a redevelopment plan. The TIGER Grant team is led by Lafayette-based Architects Southwest along with local communications group, Right Angle. The internationally renowned planning firm Duany Plater-Zyberk & Company of Miami, Florida, will assist in the design phase. Other team members include subcontractors from around the nation who will address related issues, including multi-modal transportation, safety, landscaping, and a funding plan for economic development.

A multi-disciplinary team at Lafayette Consolidated Government (including Chief Development Officer Carlee Alm-LaBar, Planning Manager Cathie Gilbert, and Planner Neil T. LeBouef), will coordinate the TIGER grant efforts in the 18-month project.

How will the TIGER Grant group interact with the community?

A critical aspect of this project is community engagement. Its success depends upon the active and sustained participation of those who know the area best: the people who live and work there. That means that the TIGER group will begin its work by listening.

Those conversations have already begun. During his visit to Lafayette today, Assistant Secretary of Transportation Policy met with small groups within the Corridor to hear directly from residents about their concerns and ideas.

These conversations will continue, district by district, in places where people already get together, such as church halls, community centers, and restaurants. The team will also connect via social media and other channels, but its emphasis will be on making one-on-one connections to collect information at a grassroots level.

What are the goals of the TIGER Grant?

Lafayette's TIGER Grant will produce:

1. Detailed preliminary plans for infrastructure improvements that promote connectivity, provide for alternate modes of transit, and drive economic development.
2. New land-use designations geared toward buffering areas surrounding the interstate, driving economic development, and transitioning the area to a functional urban character.
3. Development of a funding plan to facilitate and effectuate implementation of the new corridor plan, including identification of projects that can move forward immediately.

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