

**Summary of Chat notes from 9/22/20 NOAA webinar, An Overview of NOAA's Fiscal Year 2021 Effects of Sea Level Rise (ESLR) Funding Opportunity for Potential Applicants by Trevor Meckley and David Kidwell, NOAA**

Notes. These webinar chat notes have been updated/cleaned up. Many questions in the chat were addressed verbally by Trevor and Dave, and can be heard thru adobe connect on the recording, here:

<https://noaabroadcast.adobeconnect.com/pm18ai1u7cds/> Some questions were also answered in the chat below.

Tracy Gill: Welcome, The NOAA Effects of Sea Level (ESLR) Rise FY21 FFO webinar starts today at 3:30 pm EDT. Please enter your questions and comments in this Chat Box; no need to raise your hand. The audio is over the computer, you can listen thru your computer speakers or headphones. We will send a link to the recording and a PDF copy of the slides to all who registered within a day of this webinar.

Tracy Gill: Questions about the ELSR program? Contact [Trevor.Meckley@noaa.gov](mailto:Trevor.Meckley@noaa.gov)

Tracy Gill: To be added to the ELSR email list, contact [Trevor.Meckley@noaa.gov](mailto:Trevor.Meckley@noaa.gov)

Tracy Gill: To be added to the weekly NOAA science seminar email list, contact [Tracy.Gill@noaa.gov](mailto:Tracy.Gill@noaa.gov)

Tracy Gill: Feel free to enter your questions and comments at any time, and we will get to them when we can.

Yuanyuan Zhang: Is this webinar focused on transportation resiliency or general ESLR?

Trevor Meckley: Both components will be covered in this webinar.

Yuanyuan Zhang: Thank you!

Lori Sutter: Will you remind us if an individual is limited to 1 Letter of Intent (LOI), please?

Trevor Meckley: Hi Lori - there are no limits on the number of submissions per individual.

Lori Sutter: Thank you!

Jeff Bauer: Would projects along the Lake Michigan shoreline be eligible for this particular grant application?

Tracy Gill: If you are having audio problems, please log off and then back on.

Katie Lund: Is population size served a factor in scoring in this program? For example, would a project serving a small rural Alaska population (500 or less) be competitive?

David Kidwell: Katie, Population size is not a factor in scoring proposals. Overall, we seek to fund a diversity of projects

Sara Burns: will you be sharing the slides?

Tracy Gill: Sara, We will send a link to the recording and a PDF copy of the slides to all who registered within a day of this webinar.

Sara Burns: ty

Jane Lin: Would Great Lake regions be eligible?

David Kidwell: Jane - Yes, Great Lakes are eligible

Trevor Meckley: Jane – For some more background: NOAA does classify the Great Lakes as a coastal region and as a policy our office does support many Great Lakes projects on other topics such as harmful algal blooms. Given that sea level is a focus of the program we do not usually get submissions from the Great Lakes Region. But as you indicate, high lake levels are in some ways analogous, and we would certainly review any proposal on the Great Lakes region. If the

proposal described developing methodologies that were broadly applicable and met the required priorities, a project in the Great Lakes region could be funded by the program.

Jeremy Bricker: Do we have to choose one focus area, or can the project span both?

Tracy Gill: Feel free to enter your questions and comments at any time, and we will get to them when we can.

Jennifer Warrillow: What resolution for hydrodynamic modeling are you seeking?

David Kidwell: Jennifer - resolution really depends on the questions/issues being addressed

William Parker: Can an applicant leverage current projects underway to meet priority and sub-priorities requirements?

David Kidwell: William P - Leveraging is encouraged and there are certainly scenarios where associated projects are used to meet sub priority requirements. A firm answer would depend on the specifics, which can be evaluated at the LOI stage

William Ankner: what levels of sea level rises you are assuming?

David Kidwell: William A - Our focus for SLR scenarios is those that are relevant to stakeholders and potential end users

HESHAM ALI: Regarding proposals, how many do you typically get? What is the probability of success (%) and do you have points for disadvantaged university such as hispanic serving, etc Thanks.

David Kidwell: Hesham - From our FY19 competition, we received 43 proposals and ultimately funded 8 projects

Hasan Ozer 2: Is international collaboration allowed? Can we have international partners?

David Kidwell: Hasan - Yes, international partners are allowed.

David Kidwell: And Partnerships and applications from minority serving institutions (MSIs) are encouraged

Mostafa Elseifi: Your email was mentioning pavement deterioration as a main objective but from what I hear today, it seems to be a minor focus for the RFP. please clarify.

William Ankner: Transportation investments can also assist in maintaining coastal help sustainability, are you interested in these types of projects as well?

David Kidwell: @william anker...I believe that would be relevant. LOI would be best to gauge

Erfan Goharian: Can the study site being an abroad location?

David Kidwell: Erfan - Study sites need to be focused on the US and its territories

Shane Underwood: In Transportation area, NOFO states "seeks to fund at least one proposal that will include a focus on both the following two sub-priorities least one proposal that will include a focus on both the following two sub-priorities" Does this mean that you expect to fund one proposal that does both or one proposal that focuses on sub-priority one and another proposal that focuses on sub-priority two?

David Kidwell: @shane underwood. We expect to fund at least one proposal that does both.

Shane Underwood: @David Kidwell - Thank you.

David Heller: Are counties or municipalities eligible to apply?

David Kidwell: @David Heller. Yes, they are eligible and have been funded in past projects.

David Heller: @David Kidwell: Thank you.

Surya Sarat Congress: Are you looking for proposals addressing the problems caused by seasonal (or occasional) inundation of transportation infrastructure caused due to the SLR? or permanent inundation?

David Kidwell: @Surya Sarat Congress. Yes, proposals focused on periodic inundation are eligible and encouraged.

Surya Sarat Congress: @David Kidwell: Thank you.

Cristina Torres-Machi: Within the transportation resilience focus, the RFP refers to both road and rail infrastructure, but later on there is a focus on pavement deterioration. Could you please provide guidance on the importance of including other transportation assets different to pavements?

Elena Fisher: are airport projects eligible?

Seri Park: Would the slides be available after this presentation?

Tracy Gill: Seri - We will send a link to the recording and a PDF copy of the slides and a summary of the Q&A to all who registered within a few days of this webinar.

Lacy Shelby: It seems like there is a pretty diverse group of folks on the call, researchers, transportation professionals, academics-Any chance to share list of potential collaborators from the call?

Tracy Gill: Lacy: we cannot share the participant list; sorry.

Lacy Shelby: NP

Jack Liebster: What do you mean by "regional effort"- is a project that is focussed on a specific site, but designed to incorporate regional data, and be applicable to regional use?

Jeremy Bricker: Do we need to choose one focus area, or can a proposal address both coastal resilience and transport resilience?

Elena Fisher: are airport projects eligible?

Bill Yu: Is coastal area along the Great Lakes included in the scope of study?

David Kidwell: @Bill Yu...Great Lakes are eligible

Bill Yu: @David Kidwell Thanks!

William Ankner: are both rail freight and passenger rail included?

Alan Olmsted: Are commuter ferries and specifically waterfront ferry infrastructure an eligible form of surface transportation? They fall under the category of "public transportation", which is part of the definition in the NOFO. Also, USDOT includes ferries (as opposed to marine freight or seagoing marine) as a form of surface transportation in both its Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) programs.

Shirley Qian: Please expand on what you mean by "regional effort" -- echoing Jack Liebster's question.

Yuanyuan Zhang: Is the budget \$200 -\$500k per project per year? So for a 2-year project the total budget could be 400k to 1m?

Mehran Mazari: Do we have access to a copy of slides?

Tracy Gill: Mehran - We will send a link to the recording and a PDF copy of the slides and a summary of the Q&A to all who registered within a few days of this webinar.

Mehran Mazari: Is there any requirement for partnership with local DOTs or other highway/transportation agencies?

Chris Laity: I have a lifeline route in the Pacific Northwest that currently floods during a high tide. I have support from the local Estuary Program and Watershed Council, but can't afford to hire on other technical experts as the awards are too small. Is there other funding for those that can't afford those services?

Tracy Gill: See ESLR Website for link to funding opportunity and webinar recording:

<https://coastalscience.noaa.gov/research/coastal-change/ecological-effects-sea-level-rise-program/>

Joel Fodrie: For coastal resilience, there have been several past projects on marsh dynamics (resilience,/vulnerability, buffering). I don't think I've seen any past projects on seagrass (impacts of SLR or role of seagrass in buffering shorelines against change). Are seagrasses as a focal system in play (presuming the questions/issues are compelling)?

Tracy Gill: Please email [Trevor.Meckley@noaa.gov](mailto:Trevor.Meckley@noaa.gov) or [David.Kidwell@noaa.gov](mailto:David.Kidwell@noaa.gov) with additional questions.

William Parker: Can projects proposal include purchase of scientific monitoring equipment to meet project goals?

Taylor Green: If a local gov. transportation division is heading up the application, do we our collaborators identified before applying?

David Rounce: Is there a set of sea-level rise scenarios that are desirable to use? Or is research that advances these scenarios for engineering applications relevant as well?

Sophia Fox: Is there anything that would be helpful to know if we are applying from another federal agency or group of PIs from multiple federal agencies?

Chris Laity: ok

William Ankner: are projects that also include the restoration and/or fish habitat

Taylor Green: If applying for the surface transportation funding, do we apply for the \$200K - \$500K annually or can we apply for the max amount \$2M in the initial application?

Josh Foster: webinar slides available in addition to recording?

Tracy: Josh - yes, we will send them in a day or two.

Harry Wang: Does the effect on hypoxia in the estuary a legitimate topics?

Sara Burns: can projects include pilot implementation and monitoring

Katie Lund 2: Do grant deliverables have to result in new models and/or tools or can the focus be on using and assessing newly generated monitoring and assessment protocols to monitor and assess living shorelines projects?

Surya Sarat Congress: Can we prepare proposals addressing the issues caused by hurricane induced flooding?

Trevor Meckley: Suyra - Yes. But cannot focus only on vulnerability, must focus also on solutions.

Wenrui Huang: For leverage support, can we use existing federal grant as leverage support?

Erfan Goharian: Is collaborative research between two universities to study two different locations using same approach is fundable?

Trevor Meckley: Erfan - yes, multiple locations are fine.

David Kidwell: @Efran Goharian...yes

Steven Miller: Does the program require a regular invoicing cycle?

Yevgeniy Aushev: Are templates available for LOI & Full proposals

Steven Greb: Would watershed modeling involving satellite remote sensing of sediment flux and the impacts on coastal ecosystem fall within your purview?

Andrea Bohmholdt: Are national values and methods from other federal agencies preferred over local-specific values?

Tracy Gill: ESLR FFO 2021 - NOAA-NOS-NCCOS-2021-2006594 FY21 Effects of Sea Level Rise (ESLR)  
<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=328992>

Taylor Green: For the surface transportation funding, does it matter who has jurisdiction of the roads? Local, state, etc.

Raif Bucar: Does the complete research team and supporting agencies need to be defined when submitting the letter of intent?

Raif Bucar: Thank you.

Colin Brooks: In the Great Lakes region, we have lake level rise and fall to study- are both appropriate parts of being studied?

Amalia Almada: You mentioned that you're looking to fund a diversity of geographic locations - would it hurt new applications if they're focused on regions that have already been funded by your program in previous years (i.e., Southern California)?

Erfan Goharian: For the transportation, emergency management and transportation operations during the event is allowed?

Ranjani Kulawardhana 2: Do you have a template/ specific instructions for LOI?

Ranjani Kulawardhana 2: Thank you!

Yevgeniy Aushev: If approved, what is the anticipated start and end date?

Yevgeniy Aushev: thank you

Jake Thickman: Does beach nourishment qualify as nature-based?

Andrea Bohmholdt: Are national values and methods from other federal agencies preferred over local-specific values?

David Yang: Any restrictions on PI and Co-PI citizenships?

David Yang: Thank you

William Ankner: commuter rail?

Andrew Deines: Does transportation infrastructure include infrastructure vital to transportation, such gas/oil pipeline or refining facilities?

Mostafa Elseifi: Your email was clearly mentioning pavement deterioration but from your presentation today I feel that it is not a main focus of the RFP

Andrea Bohmholdt: economic, social, and env monetized values

William Ankner: what is you assumption for sea level rises for resilience?

Janille Smith-Colin: A focus on ports and port infrastructure?

Tracy Gill: Questions? Feel free to follow up with [Trevor.Meckley@noaa.gov](mailto:Trevor.Meckley@noaa.gov) or [David.Kidwell@noaa.gov](mailto:David.Kidwell@noaa.gov)

Alberto Mercado: thanks!

HESHAM ALI: Any points for diversity?

Wenrui Huang: Does traffic flow and evacuation fit to transportation or coastal resilience

Julie LaBranche: Is funding Phase II of an existing project eligible (eg. detailed engineering studies etc)?

Camille Stagg: Is carbon sequestration a relevant ecological benefit or service?

David Kidwell: @Camille..yes, carbon sequestration is a relevant service

Camille Stagg: thanks

Harry Wang: Is sea level rise induced salt intrusion which affect the hypoxia in the Chesapeake Bay an appropriate topics?

Andrew Peck: Because transportation influences equity are there any considerations for incorporating equity analysis or products?

Tracy Gill: See ESLR website for link to funding opportunity and webinar recording:

<https://coastalscience.noaa.gov/research/coastal-change/ecological-effects-sea-level-rise-program/>

Sourav Biswas: Are approaches towards risk communication and decision support tools within coastal communities or coastal infrastructure encouraged? Prior funding seems linked to scientific research on impact and ecosystem dynamics only.

Paul Liu: Is an education-oriented SLR project relevant? Such as promote unrepresented group students/people of color to understand the impacts of SLR and involve related coastal resilience research

Katie Lund 2: Can you expand on need for proposals to focus on social equity/vulnerable populations/communities with issues of environmental justice? Do these need to be a priority focus in proposals to be competitive?

Reece Allen: Did you say earlier that letters of support are not necessary for the initial proposal?

Trevor Meckley: Reece Allen – Letters of Intent are required to submit a full proposal

Tim Mallette: Thank you

Surya Sarat Congress: Are projects addressing the issues related to improving the efficiency of emergency operation centers during hurricanes is relevant?

Surya Sarat Congress: Thanks

Jane Lin: Is full proposal by invitation only, meaning pending on the LOI review?

Cristina Torres-Machi: Are letters of support (e.g., DOTs) needed/allowed at the LOI level?

Jake Thickman: Could a project involve evaluation of different strategies proposed as part of a SLR adaptation plan?

Paul Liu: Is Puerto Rico included as an eligible location?

Stephen Medeiros: Would the goal of updating statewide engineering design guidance for surface transportation projects in terms of required SLR scenario consideration be a good fit for this call?

Stephen Medeiros: Thanks!

Drew Ratcliff 2: Could a project involve integrating land use planning and transportation planning scenario analysis?

Tarek Elgohary: How to include DOT partners, as Co-PIs or stake holders. Is there a preference?

Hong Yang: Will project involve flooding warning on transportation infrastructure through IT solutions relevant?

Beth Lawrence: for Coastal Resilience focal area, the first priority says "Quantify the vulnerability of coastal communities, infrastructure, and ecosystems..." Do you have to include communities, infrastructure AND ecosystems? By "communities" do you mean humans or ecological communities?

Alan Olmsted: What happens if a project examines multiple intervention measures, including NBBF, but finds that the NBBF approach is not most appropriate?

Tarek Elgohary: Thanks!

Hong Yang: Thanks.

William Ankner: Thank you

Hae-Bum Yun: thank you

Anand Puppala: Thank you

Dayan Vithanage: Thank you

Bill Yu: Thanks!

Elena Fisher: Is an H&H study to estimate future flood levels on airport property eligible? I'm not clear on what you mean by a public transportation and regional connection. We have public bus and train use on airport property and airport has regional impact.

Elena Fisher: thank you

Colin Brooks: Yes Thank you

Jack Liebster: Appreciate it- thanks!

Jeff Bauer: Should a project have selected a preferred mitigation alternative or can it still be considering multiple alternatives?

David Heller: Can someone submit an LOI but then decide not to submit a full proposal?

Trevor Meckley: David Heller - Yes

Adail Rivera-Nieves: Would assessing the relative benefit of seawall vs. NNBF for flood reduction be a good topic for proposal?

Tarek Elgohary: How many projects do you expect to fund for this year?

Yuanyuan Zhang: what is the typical acceptance rate?

Yuanyuan Zhang: thanks

Stephen Medeiros: Is there a resource with a list of NNBF and grey protection types?

Anna Bosin: Are past selected proposals available online to review for form and content?

Janet Attarian: Will you be posting the presentation?

Tracy Gill: Yes, we will post [and send to all who registered for the webinar] the PDF of slides, the summary of chat and the recordings

Harry Wang: what does NNBF means? [Natural and Nature-based Features]

Becky Lupes: @ Steven Medeiros FHWA resource with list of NNBF protection types:

[https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/sustainability/resilience/ongoing\\_and\\_current\\_research/green\\_infrastructure/implementation\\_guide/](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/sustainability/resilience/ongoing_and_current_research/green_infrastructure/implementation_guide/)

Stephen Medeiros: @Becky THANKS!

Julie LaBranche: Thanks Becky! Hope all is well!

Trevor Meckley: Thanks Becky

Jane Lin: Thank you

Jeong Ahn: thank you!

Jake Thickman: thanks!

Shane Underwood: Thank you

Hong Yang: Thank you very much.

Adail Rivera-Nieves: Thanks!

Wenrui Huang: Thanks

Tarek Elgohary: Thanks you all!

Cameron Stawicki: Great!

Allison Yeh: Thanks!