

(2) to the maximum extent practicable, shall not be used for the construction of physical surface transportation infrastructure unless the construction is incidental and critically necessary to the implementation of an intelligent transportation system project.

(Added Pub. L. 114-94, div. A, title VI, § 6010(a), Dec. 4, 2015, 129 Stat. 1567.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Oct. 1, 2015, see section 1003 of Pub. L. 114-94, set out as an Effective Date of 2015 Amendment note under section 5313 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

CHAPTER 6—INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE

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CODIFICATION

This chapter, consisting of sections 601 to 610 of this title, was previously set out as subchapter II, consisting of sections 181 to 190, of chapter 1 of this title.

§ 601. Generally applicable provisions

(a) DEFINITIONS.—The following definitions apply to sections 601 through 609:

(1) CONTINGENT COMMITMENT.—The term “contingent commitment” means a commitment to obligate an amount from future available budget authority that is—

- (A) contingent on those funds being made available in law at a future date; and
- (B) not an obligation of the Federal Government.

(2) ELIGIBLE PROJECT COSTS.—The term “eligible project costs” means amounts substantially all of which are paid by, or for the account of, an obligor in connection with a project, including the cost of—

- (A) development phase activities, including planning, feasibility analysis, revenue forecasting, environmental review, permitting, preliminary engineering and design work, and other preconstruction activities;
- (B) construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, replacement, and acquisition of real property (including land relating to the project and improvements to land), environmental mitigation, construction contingencies, and acquisition of equipment;
- (C) capitalized interest necessary to meet market requirements, reasonably required reserve funds, capital issuance expenses, and other carrying costs during construction; and
- (D) capitalizing a rural projects fund.

(3) FEDERAL CREDIT INSTRUMENT.—The term “Federal credit instrument” means a secured loan, loan guarantee, or line of credit authorized to be made available under the TIFIA program with respect to a project.

(4) INVESTMENT-GRADE RATING.—The term “investment-grade rating” means a rating of BBB minus, Baa3, bbb minus, BBB (low), or higher assigned by a rating agency to project obligations.

(5) LENDER.—The term “lender” means any non-Federal qualified institutional buyer (as defined in section 230.144A(a) of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation), known as Rule 144A(a) of the Securities and Exchange Commission and issued under the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77a et seq.)), including—

- (A) a qualified retirement plan (as defined in section 4974(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) that is a qualified institutional buyer; and
- (B) a governmental plan (as defined in section 414(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) that is a qualified institutional buyer.

(6) LETTER OF INTEREST.—The term “letter of interest” means a letter submitted by a potential applicant prior to an application for credit assistance in a format prescribed by the Secretary on the website of the TIFIA program that—

- (A) describes the project and the location, purpose, and cost of the project;
- (B) outlines the proposed financial plan, including the requested credit assistance and the proposed obligor;
- (C) provides a status of environmental review; and
- (D) provides information regarding satisfaction of other eligibility requirements of the TIFIA program.

(7) LINE OF CREDIT.—The term “line of credit” means an agreement entered into by the Secretary with an obligor under section 604 to provide a direct loan at a future date upon the occurrence of certain events.

(8) LIMITED BUYDOWN.—The term “limited buydown” means, subject to the conditions described in section 603(b)(4)(C), a buydown of the interest rate by the obligor if the interest rate has increased between—

- (A)(i) the date on which a project application acceptable to the Secretary is submitted; or
- (ii) the date on which the Secretary entered into a master credit agreement; and
- (B) the date on which the Secretary executes the Federal credit instrument.

(9) LOAN GUARANTEE.—The term “loan guarantee” means any guarantee or other pledge by the Secretary to pay all or part of the principal of and interest on a loan or other debt obligation issued by an obligor and funded by a lender.

(10) MASTER CREDIT AGREEMENT.—The term “master credit agreement” means a conditional agreement to extend credit assistance for a program of related projects secured by a common security pledge covered under section 602(b)(2)(A) or for a single project covered under section 602(b)(2)(B) that does not provide for a current obligation of Federal funds, and that would—

- (A) make contingent commitments of 1 or more secured loans or other Federal credit instruments at future dates, subject to—