



Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Request



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Overview

The Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council (Permitting Council) requests \$9 million for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025. This request, along with the FY 2024 request of \$10 million, will support the operations of the Permitting Council for effectively implementing and administering Title 41 of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act¹ (FAST-41), 42 U.S.C. §§ 4370m *et seq.* Enactment of these requests will allow the Executive Director to focus the appropriations it received the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)² to assist other Federal agencies, Tribal, and state and local governments in facilitating timely and efficient environmental reviews and authorizations and for other critical permitting needs. For example, in FY 2023 the Executive Director approved the transfer of \$162 million in IRA funds to multiple Federal agencies to facilitate more timely and efficient environmental reviews of clean energy, broadband, and other critical infrastructure sectors, and to address other critical permitting needs. An additional \$5 million was approved to support Tribal governments in consulting on FAST-41 projects. If Congress elects not to provide the requested FY 2024 and FY 2025 appropriations, the Executive Director will need to redirect a portion of the IRA funding for internal operations, and less funding will be available to support other Federal and non-Federal agencies in facilitating timely and efficient environmental reviews of major infrastructure projects across the country.

Established in 2015 by Title 41 of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act (FAST-41), 42 U.S.C. §§ 4370m *et seq.*, the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council (Permitting Council) is charged with improving the transparency and predictability of the Federal environmental review and authorization process for certain critical infrastructure projects. The Permitting Council is comprised of the Permitting Council Executive Director, who serves as the Council Chair; thirteen Federal agency Council members (including deputy secretary-level designees of the Secretaries of Agriculture, Army, Commerce, Interior, Energy, Transportation, Defense, Homeland Security, and Housing and Urban Development, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Chairs of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation); and the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Congress made the Permitting Council permanent through enactment of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).³

The Permitting Council coordinates Federal environmental reviews and authorizations for projects that seek and qualify for FAST-41 “coverage.” Sponsors of FAST-41 covered

1 FAST Act, Pub. L. No. 114-94 (Dec. 4, 2015).

2 IRA, Pub. L. No. 117-169 (Aug. 16, 2022).

3 Pub. L. 117-58 (Nov. 15, 2021).

projects are entitled to comprehensive permitting timetables and transparent, collaborative management of those timetables on the public-facing Federal Permitting Dashboard. Project sponsors additionally must be consulted in establishing and managing FAST-41 covered project permitting timetables and have access to issue elevation and dispute resolution processes which ensure that project permitting issues are expeditiously resolved by high-level Federal decision makers. FAST-41 does not alter any applicable statutory or regulatory requirement, environmental law, regulation, or review process, or public involvement procedure. FAST-41 also does not predetermine the outcome of any Federal decision-making process.

FAST-41 covered projects may be in the following sectors: renewable or conventional energy production, electricity transmission, surface transportation, aviation, ports and waterways, water resource, broadband, pipelines, manufacturing, semiconductors, artificial intelligence and machine learning, high-performance computing and advanced computer hardware and software, quantum information science and technology, data storage and data management, cybersecurity, carbon capture, energy storage, or any other sector determined by a majority vote of the Permitting Council, which currently includes mining.

The Permitting Council additionally establishes best practices for Federal environmental review and permitting of FAST-41 covered infrastructure projects and acts as a Federal center for permitting excellence to foster continual improvement in Federal environmental review and authorization processes.

The activities of the Permitting Council are funded by the Environmental Review Improvement Fund (ERIF), which is administered by the Permitting Council Executive Director.⁴ Congress has appropriated funds into the ERIF through three different sources: 1) annual appropriations; 2) IIJA; and 3) IRA. The Permitting Council Executive Director uses funding from the ERIF as described below.

Annual Appropriations: Funding received through annual appropriations is primarily used to support the implementation and administration of FAST-41, which includes the expenses of the Permitting Council, and providing for the salaries and expenses of the staff and contractors who support the Permitting Council Executive Director.

IIJA Funding: The Executive Director uses the funding provided by the IIJA to support ongoing operation of, maintenance of, and improvements to the Federal Permitting Dashboard to support implementation of FAST-41 for covered projects.⁵

IRA Funding: The Executive Director uses appropriations from the IRA to facilitate the role of the Permitting Council as a Federal center for permitting excellence and to make the

⁴ 42 U.S.C. § 4370m-8(d).

⁵ The Permitting Dashboard is accessible at <https://www.permits.performance.gov/projects>.

environmental review and authorization process for FAST-41 projects more timely and efficient. These activities include: (1) identifying and investing in solutions that improve the environmental review and permitting process across Federal agencies; and (2) developing and administering the ERIF Assistance Program to provide Federal agencies, Tribal, and state and local governments funding to make review and authorization of FAST-41 projects more timely and efficient.

Since regular full-year discretionary appropriations bills have not yet been enacted for FY 2024, the budget request annualizes the amounts provided in the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2024⁶ (Continuing Resolution, or “CR”) for the purposes of presenting estimates in the FY 2024 column of this budget.

⁶ Division A of Pub. L. No. 118-15 (Sep. 30, 2023).



FY 2025 Budget Request Summary

Comparison of Appropriations

The Permitting Council requests \$9.002 million in FY 2025, to remain available until expended, to fund the operations of the Permitting Council, including salaries and expenses for 40 full-time equivalents (FTE) to administer and implement the provisions of FAST-41, and to oversee ERIF funds provided to other Federal agencies and state, Tribal, and local governments to facilitate timely and efficient environmental reviews and authorizations for FAST-41 projects.

The Permitting Council’s FY 2025 annual appropriations request does not reflect the entire operational needs of the agency. FY 2025 annual appropriations, coupled with IRA funds, will provide the necessary resources to effectively support FAST-41 projects, management of the ERIF Assistance Program and IRA initiatives, and the additional programs and activities that aid the Federal permitting community in advancing U.S. infrastructure.

Annual appropriations, coupled with appropriations provided in the IIJA and the IRA, allow the Permitting Council to fulfill its mission to improve the transparency and predictability of the Federal environmental review and authorization process for certain critical infrastructure projects. This work is part of the Administration’s broader commitment to increase investment in U.S. infrastructure, spur economic growth, unlock the full potential of the American workforce, and right historical wrongs in disadvantaged communities.

FY 2023 – FY 2025 Comparison of Appropriations

(Amounts in thousands of dollars)

Budget Account	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Annualized CR	FY 2025 Request	FY 2024 to FY 2025 Change
Salaries & Expenses				
Appropriations, discretionary	\$ –	\$ –	\$9,002	+\$9,002
Appropriations, discretionary (IIJA)	650	650	650	–
Appropriations, mandatory (IRA)	350,000	–	–	–
Total	\$350,650	\$650	\$9,652	+\$9,002
Positions	17	33	42	+9
FTE	16	29	40	+11

Program Description

In recognition of the permitting challenges faced by large-scale infrastructure projects in the United States, Congress established the Permitting Council in 2015 to improve the transparency, predictability, and interagency coordination to the environmental review and authorization process for FAST-41 “covered” infrastructure projects. Specifically, a project sponsor that seeks and obtains FAST-41 coverage for a qualified infrastructure project is entitled to participate in the creation and management of a single comprehensive Federal permitting timetable, posted on the Federal Permitting Dashboard, that contains intermediate and final completion dates for all Federal environmental reviews and authorizations needed to site, construct, and operate the project. The Executive Director manages each project’s permitting timetable on the Federal Permitting Dashboard, assesses agency compliance with FAST-41, mediates disputes with respect to permitting timetable contents; ensures quick elevation of issues to the appropriate Federal decision makers; and renders administrative decisions with respect to project coverage and certain extensions of FAST-41 permitting timetables.

The Permitting Council also serves as a Federal center for permitting excellence. In this role, the Permitting Council identifies and promotes permitting best practices, develops tools and templates, and seeks opportunities to provide cross-cutting training and improvements in the environmental permitting and authorization process. Additionally, the Permitting Council may use ERIF resources as needed to support interagency detailee and rotation opportunities, enhanced support for agency project managers, and fora for sharing information and lessons learned. Finally, the Permitting Council fosters intergovernmental cooperation as well as cooperation with industries to develop more efficient, transparent, and effective processes for reviewing and permitting infrastructure.

With the passage of the IIJA and IRA, the permitting community is reacting to significant new investments into our nation’s infrastructure, requiring the allocation of substantial resources toward Federal permitting. The Executive Director anticipates an increased demand in FY 2025 for the services of the Permitting Council necessitating increased capacity and capability to meaningfully assist and improve the Federal permitting experience, as well effectively manage the additional activities provided through IRA funds.





Annual Appropriations

Appropriations Language

Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council
Environmental Review Improvement Fund

For the Environmental Review Improvement Fund established pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 4370m-8(d), \$9,002,400, to remain available until expended, including for the payment of salaries, and the employment of experts and consultants under section 3109 of title 5, United States Code.

Analysis of Language Provisions

This appropriation provides no-year funding into the ERIF to support the operations of the Permitting Council, including salaries and operational expenses of the Executive Director and his/her staff. Appropriations would also enable the administration and implementation of the provisions of FAST-41, support the role of the Permitting Council as a Federal center for permitting excellence, and provide for the oversight of ERIF funding transfers to other Federal agencies and state, Tribal, and local governments to facilitate timely and efficient environmental reviews and authorizations for FAST-41 projects.

FY 2023 Program Accomplishments

Throughout FY 2023, the Permitting Council continued to advance the goal of improving the process for completing Federal environmental reviews and authorizations for infrastructure projects that build stronger communities and a thriving economy. The Permitting Council meets its mandate for facilitating timely and efficient environmental reviews and authorizations through implementing the provisions of FAST-41, including management of the Federal Permitting Dashboard and serving as a Federal center for permitting excellence.

Advancing FAST-41 Projects

Through the consistent and focused efforts of the Executive Director, staff, and the Permitting Council members, the Permitting Council increased its portfolio of covered projects by over 25 percent, adding seven new projects from across the country to the Federal Permitting Dashboard. This accomplishment signals an increasing awareness of the value of FAST-41 "covered project" status, including the benefits of transparency, predictability, accountability, and coordination in the Federal environmental review and authorization process that come from developing and actively managing public-facing

project permitting timetables. The seven projects added during FY 2023 also represent an expansion in the sectors using FAST-41, notably including projects in the broadband, critical minerals, and carbon capture sectors. Additionally, the first ever Tribal-sponsored projects were added to the Federal Permitting Dashboard as FAST-41 covered projects. This growth of FAST-41 projects underscores the value of the benefits afforded to covered projects and highlights the successful outreach and project management efforts of the Permitting Council to increase the awareness of FAST-41 and advance its implementation.

In fulfilling its mandate, the Permitting Council focuses on timely environmental review decisions regardless of the nature of the decision. As a result, in FY 2023 the Permitting Council shepherded the completion of five FAST-41 covered projects with outcomes ranging from permitting cancellation to groundbreaking for construction. Completed project reviews include, Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion, Alaska LNG, Mountain Valley Pipeline, SunZia Transmission, and Kulning Wind, which highlight the dedication and commitment of the Permitting Council to implement FAST-41 consistently and effectively.

- ▶ The successful completion of the environmental reviews and authorizations for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion in December 2022, and the subsequent groundbreaking in August 2023, are a major accomplishment for the Permitting Council. This project is designed to reintroduce freshwater and sediment from the Mississippi River to the Barataria Basin to reconnect the Mississippi River to its wetlands, and to protect some of the most vulnerable residents in the state, in addition to sustaining the ecosystem and wildlife on the coast. This project is intended to remediate the decade-long damage still being experienced in this area, which is one of the most affected by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Sponsored by the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), it is the first FAST-41 covered project sponsored by a state entity. First conceived as part of a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers feasibility study in 1984, the Permitting Council was able to reduce the project's permitting timetable by 22 months once it was posted to the FAST-41 Permitting Dashboard in 2017. In FY 2023, relying on the significant expertise of the Executive Director's staff to engage directly with project sponsors, permitting agencies, and relevant stakeholders, the agencies involved in project review were able to quickly and efficiently manage changes to the permitting timetable necessary to address the 43,000 public comments received on the project's draft environmental impact statement. CPRA has publicly and repeatedly attested that being a part of FAST-41 resulted in a decision years earlier than originally expected.
- ▶ The Alaska LNG Project demonstrates the valuable role of the Permitting Council for complex, Federal reviews and authorizations. Ultimately, this FY 2023 Permitting Council success intends to use clean, energy-efficient, and safe production methods to deliver a stable supply of natural gas for Alaska. The project is a network

of several integrated and interdependent facilities: a liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal in Southcentral Alaska designed to produce up to 20 million metric tons per annum of LNG; an approximately 807-mile, 42-inch diameter gas pipeline; a gas treatment plant (GTP) within the Prudhoe Bay Unit (PBU) on the North Slope; an approximately 1-mile, 60-inch diameter gas transmission line connecting the GTP to the PBU gas production facility; and an approximately 63 mile, 32-inch diameter gas transmission line connecting the GTP to the Point Thomson gas production facility. Permitting such a massive undertaking requires smart and timely coordination among more than 50 Federal, state, and local agencies to deliver a myriad of permits and authorizations under numerous statutes. Thus, it was imperative that the timeline for Federal environmental review and authorization process be managed in a collaborative, transparent, and accountable way, underscoring the value of the Federal Permitting Dashboard. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) served as the initial lead agency for environmental review when the Alaska LNG project became a FAST-41 covered project in 2017. FERC completed its National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) review in March 2020 and issued an order authorization for the construction and operation of the project in May 2020. Subsequently, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued a Record of Decision (ROD) and the associated permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. Then, on April 15, 2021, the Department of Energy (DOE) granted a request for rehearing of a final order issued to Alaska LNG Project LLC for a separate, but related facet of the project, necessitating the requirement for a supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS). DOE replaced FERC as the NEPA lead for the SEIS. Relying on diligent, proactive engagement throughout the permitting process, the Executive Director and staff drove the management of the permitting timetable to help DOE and all of the cooperating agencies to complete the SEIS process and issue the final authorization for the project in under two years, by April 2023.

- Expected to provide up to 2,000,000 dekatherms per day of firm natural gas transportation service from northern West Virginia to southwestern Virginia, the Mountain Valley Pipeline project includes the construction of approximately 304 miles of natural gas pipeline in West Virginia and Virginia, three new compressor stations in West Virginia, metering stations, taps, and appurtenant facilities. Following contentious public opposition and associated court decisions, the project sponsor, Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC, availed itself of FAST-41, submitting a FAST-41 Initiation Notice in August 2022 to guide the process for its outstanding Federal environmental reviews and authorizations. The Mountain Valley Pipeline became a FAST-41 covered project in September 2022 and in June 2023, Section 324 of the Fiscal Responsibility Act directed Federal agencies to issue any necessary permits or approvals.

- In support of the President’s clean energy priorities, the SunZia Southwest Transmission project intends to lower energy costs for consumers and small businesses while creating good-paying clean energy jobs. This seminal electricity transmission infrastructure project will deploy a ±525-kV high voltage direct current transmission line that will run through 550 miles of Federal, state and private land in Central Arizona and New Mexico. The fully constructed transmission line will transport up to 3,000 megawatts of primarily renewable energy from New Mexico to markets across the West. In tandem with a planned 3,500 MW renewable wind energy project known as the SunZia Wind project, the SunZia Southwest Transmission project will comprise the largest renewable energy infrastructure project in U.S. history. Once operational, these projects are estimated to supply over 2,000 temporary construction jobs and 150 permanent jobs once operational and could bring clean power resources to 3 million Americans. After languishing in the permitting process for years, the SunZia Southwest Transmission project sought and obtained FAST-41 coverage in July 2021. The Executive Director’s staff quickly worked with the lead and cooperating agencies to develop a coordinated project plan and permitting timetable. Fostering and relying on strong engagement and regular collaboration with the project sponsor, the Executive Director’s staff helped demonstrate the true value of FAST-41 by helping the agencies complete the environmental review and authorization process by August 2023 – only one month beyond the original plan for permitting completion in 2 years.
- The Kulning Wind Energy Project proposed by Crescent Peak Renewables is an example of a FAST-41 covered project for which the process concluded with a timely and efficient decision to not move forward with permitting the project. This onshore renewable energy project became a FAST-41 covered project in September 2021. However in 2023, in response to the creation of a national monument that changed the Federal land status for the project, the project sponsor chose not to proceed with the project. Taking advantage of the opportunities to efficiently coordinate across agencies, in August 2023, Crescent Peak Renewables submitted a request to the BLM Las Vegas Field Office to withdraw its applications for the project, saving Federal agencies effort and expense. Following BLM’s formal acceptance of the request to withdraw, the project was canceled on the Federal Permitting Dashboard.

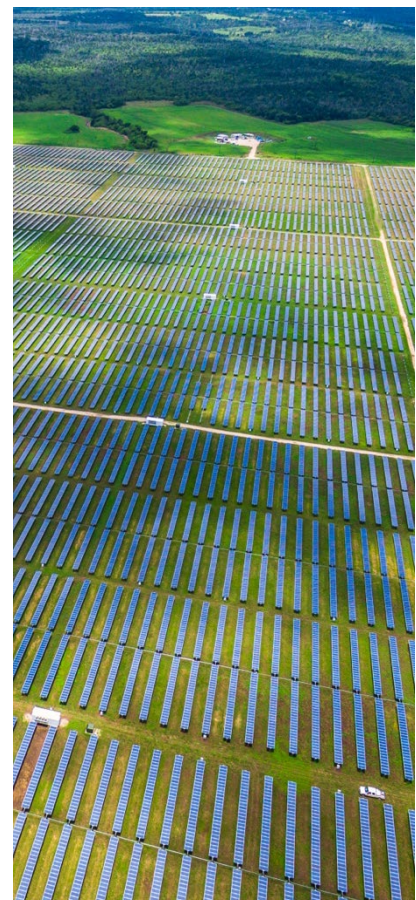
The Executive Director maintains significant staff expertise in Federal environmental review and authorization processes and best practices. By engaging directly with project sponsors, permitting agencies, and relevant stakeholders, the Executive Director and staff leverage this expertise to facilitate timely permitting decisions. The Executive Director and staff strive to assist agencies in the implementation of FAST-41 by identifying best

practices and IT tools that will improve the permitting process for all stakeholders by increasing transparency, predictability, and accountability in management of project timetables.

Engaging Tribes To Expand Tribal Project Portfolio and Support Engagement in FAST-41 Projects

The Administration has made Tribal consultation and strengthening Nation-to-Nation relationships a priority, especially when an agency is taking a permitting action that would affect Tribes. Throughout FY 2023, the Executive Director continued to expand the agency's Tribal engagement capabilities by establishing a Director of Tribal affairs position within the Permitting Council. The Executive Director's efforts focused on three objectives related to Tribal affairs: 1) familiarizing Tribes that may be interested in pursuing infrastructure projects with the benefits of FAST-41; 2) developing relationships with agencies like the National Telecommunications and Information Administration that are funding critical infrastructure projects, such as broadband, in Tribal communities; and 3) facilitating participation in the environmental review and authorization process by Tribes whose land or cultural resources may be affected by FAST-41 projects. As a result of the Executive Director's efforts, the first Tribal-sponsored projects were added to the Dashboard as FAST-41 covered projects in FY 2023. The Executive Director also developed the ERIF Tribal Assistance Program (TAP), which will use IRA funds to facilitate Tribal engagement in the environmental review and authorization processes for FAST-41 projects to make those processes more timely and efficient.

During FY 2023, the Executive Director prioritized Tribal consultation as the agency developed the ERIF TAP. Tribes are at a disadvantage when engaging in the environmental review process for large infrastructure projects due to capacity constraints. However, meaningful Tribal engagement for FAST-41 infrastructure projects can be critical to achieving timely and efficient project reviews and authorizations. The Executive Director recognized that an effective ERIF TAP could not be developed without early and robust Tribal consultation. Therefore, the Executive Director engaged Tribes early in the program development process. The first set of consultations was hosted in February 2023 with the objective to hear directly from Tribes on their preferred mechanism to receive ERIF TAP funding, and the resources needed to help make the environmental review and authorization process for FAST-41 infrastructure projects more timely and efficient. The second set of



consultations were held in July 2023 to obtain feedback on the draft ERIF TAP program and inform the final program.

Supporting Implementation of the Permitting Action Plan

The Administration's Permitting Action Plan to strengthen and accelerate Federal permitting and environmental reviews is a critical step toward ensuring that infrastructure projects are delivered on time, on task, and on budget without unnecessary delays. This is especially important as historic investments are made to expand high-speed internet, expand clean transportation options, and produce more clean energy with offshore wind, onshore renewable energy, and critical minerals. The Permitting Council continues to play a key role in ensuring that Federal environmental reviews and permitting processes are effective, efficient, and transparent, and are guided by the best practices to promote positive environmental and community outcomes.

The Permitting Council Executive Director focused on maximizing cross-agency engagement, including participation by agency Chief Environmental Review and Permitting Officers (CERPOs) and their support staff, state agencies, local communities, Tribal governments, and project sponsors in improving the coordinated Federal agency approach to infrastructure permitting. Improved communication, along with establishing clear timeline goals and tracking key project information, provides an opportunity for all interested parties to discuss project proposals, potential environmental impacts, and ways to avoid or minimize any identified impacts. The Executive Director works closely with Permitting Council member agency staff to identify efficiencies that can be used to provide consistency across related Federal environmental review and authorization processes and within covered sectors to reduce process uncertainties, miscommunications, and avoidable delays.

FY 2024 Program Highlights

FAST-41 Project Portfolio

The primary focus of the Executive Director during FY 2024 will be on the effective implementation of FAST-41's provisions for the portfolio of FAST-41 projects. The portfolio of FAST-41 covered projects under active Federal review at the time the FY 2025 budget request was developed included 28 active projects, organized by sector below.

Offshore Wind (15)

- Atlantic Shores North
- Atlantic Shores South
- Bay State Wind Project
- Beacon Wind
- Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind Commercial Project
- Empire Wind Energy Project
- Kitty Hawk North Wind Project
- Kitty Hawk South Offshore Wind Project
- Maryland Offshore Wind Project
- New England Wind (aka Vineyard Wind South)
- Ocean Wind 1 Project
- Skipjack Wind Farm
- Southcoast Wind Energy (f/k/a Mayflower Wind)
- Sunrise Wind Farm
- Vineyard Northeast

Solar (1)

- Bonanza Solar Project

Other Renewable Energy (3)

- Seminole Pumped Storage Project
- Stagecoach Wind
- White Pine Pumped Storage

Broadband (2)

- Alaska FiberOptic Project Segment 1
- Santa Fe Indian School Broadband

Carbon Capture and Sequestration (1)

- Central Louisiana Regional Carbon Storage Hub
 - Vernon Parish One CCS Site

Conventional Energy Production (1)

- Liberty Development and Production Plan

Electricity Transmission (1)

- Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line

Mining (1)

- South32 Hermosa Critical Minerals Project

Ports and Waterways (2)

- Port of Corpus Christi Authority Channel Deepening Project
- Sparrows Point Container Terminal

Water Resources (1)

- Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Project

Advancing Timely and Efficient Permitting Decisions

The Executive Director is focusing FY 2024 efforts on bolstering the Permitting Council's role as Federal center for permitting excellence that provides service-oriented, customer-focused project management and process expertise to Federal agencies as well as the project sponsors that seek FAST-41 coverage. In this unique role, the Permitting Council is positioned to identify programmatic challenges and to develop solutions that can support timely decisions by agencies and provide more predictable outcomes and timelines for sponsors.

Current efforts build on the agency's initiatives to promote greater awareness and utilization of FAST-41 to advance the value of FAST-41, namely by enhancing Federal agency services that foster transparency and deliver timely and efficient permitting

decisions. The Permitting Council also is embarking on innovative ways to bring the digital world together, whether in environmental studies and decision-making, through sharing data across Geographic Information Systems (GIS), or by tracking and reporting deliverables as part of the permitting process. Additional work to enable more active participation by state governments in the Federal environmental review and authorization process for FAST-41 projects will expand the transparency of the permitting process and extend accountability and best practices to necessary permitting actions that the Permitting Council has not historically tracked. These efforts support an expanding portfolio of FAST-41 covered projects, resulting in broader adoption of best practices while also producing valuable lessons learned, enabling continuous permitting improvement across infrastructure sectors.

Bolstering Communications and Outreach Efforts

The Permitting Council continues to refine its communications efforts to improve understanding of FAST-41 and its benefits within the project sponsor community. As coverage under FAST-41 is an opt-in process, communicating the value of FAST-41 to potential project sponsors will raise awareness of FAST-41 and the Permitting Council's role as a resource for permitting excellence. Building this awareness and understanding will generate greater interest in FAST-41, expanding the portfolio and increasing the number of projects and project sponsors that will benefit from the FAST-41 program. Additionally, as awareness and understanding of the program grows, the Executive Director will continue to identify opportunities to add projects to the portfolio and connect with diverse stakeholders within the infrastructure permitting community. The Executive Director continues to maximize communication and outreach efforts to inform and optimize the initiatives and efforts of the Permitting Council.

During FY 2024, the Permitting Council began implementing more extensive strategic communications activities, providing an integrated approach to inform and engage with the Federal community, Tribes, state and local governments, project sponsors, and the permitting industry about the work of the Permitting Council and FAST-41.

Communication efforts include developing consistent messaging across target audiences and a clear articulation of the value that FAST-41 and the Permitting Council bring to Federal permitting. Additionally, the Executive Director refined the agency's strategic communications plan to outline key stakeholder groups, strategic messages, tactical communications activities, communication channels, and measures of effectiveness. Through these efforts the Permitting Council seeks to: 1) increase awareness of and participation in FAST-41; 2) educate Federal, state, local, and Tribal entities with infrastructure permitting responsibilities about the Permitting Council and its mission and programs; 3) share permitting success stories and best practices, reflecting the role of the Permitting Council as a Federal center for permitting excellence; and 4) engage with key stakeholders in the permitting community to support effective knowledge transfer in pursuit of continuous process improvement.

Key to advancing these communications goals is providing an online presence for target audiences to learn about and engage directly with the Permitting Council. During FY 2024, the Permitting Council intends to deploy its own website, providing a dedicated resource to FAST-41 and permitting excellence. The website provides information about FAST-41, as well as resources and information that promote permitting best practices and tools for timely and efficient environmental reviews and permitting decisions.

Workforce Development

The Executive Director continues to grow the Permitting Council's modest staff resources to expand capabilities and services to the permitting community under FAST-41. Under the direction of the Executive Director, agency staff act as a resource to FAST-41 covered project sponsors and the agencies reviewing and authorizing FAST-41 projects, as well as the broader permitting community. The Executive Director maintains a dedicated team focused on the implementation and administration of FAST-41, providing support across all sectors and aspects of the Federal permitting process. As more FAST-41 projects are added to the Federal Permitting Dashboard, support is needed to help work with project sponsors and permitting agencies to address challenges, manage permitting timetables, and convene necessary parties to make timely permitting decisions. Also, with the recent funding provided by the IRA, the Executive Director requires adding staff expertise to manage funding transfers from the ERIF to Federal agencies and state, local, and Tribal governments. Additional staff will oversee the ERIF Assistance Program, support transfers to make environmental reviews and authorizations of FAST-41 projects more timely and efficient, ensure proper accountability controls, and advance permitting best practices. Finally, the Executive Director is strengthening the role of the Permitting Council as a Federal center for permitting excellence. Staff supporting permitting excellence examine opportunities, needs, and challenges across the Federal permitting community. This support spurs the development of innovative solutions that promote efficiencies in the Federal permitting processes. The Executive Director's staff engages all levels of government and all sectors to explore improvements and synergies across stakeholders that the Permitting Council can champion. Such areas advancing permitting excellence include training, permitting policy and guidance, and tools and technology.

Implementation of ERIF TAP

In early FY 2024, the Executive Director created the ERIF TAP based on the Tribal consultation and announced the opportunity for Tribes to request ERIF TAP funding. The Executive Director's staff is actively engaged in socializing the program with Tribes including offering application technical assistance on a weekly basis. The Executive Director's staff is also working with agencies represented on the Permitting Council to promote the program. The Permitting Council maintains its commitment to working with Tribal governments and continues to maintain an ongoing dialogue to help ensure Tribal involvement in the Permitting Council's implementation and administration of FAST-41.

FY 2025 Request

Annual appropriations for FY 2025 will be directed towards agency staff and related personnel expenses. The Executive Director will focus on ensuring staff levels reach capacity and continue driving efforts as a forward-thinking, service-oriented resource within the permitting community. Permitting Council resources will advance existing initiatives and support the strategic use of IRA funding.

Advancing the FAST-41 Mission through Targeted Outreach

The Executive Director plans to continue communication and outreach activities to socialize the benefits of the FAST-41 with the permitting community in a meaningful way. As the Executive Director continues to implement the Permitting Council's strategic communications plan, FY 2025 communications activities will focus on targeted outreach. The Executive Director will continue to seek and participate in outreach opportunities to bring greater awareness of FAST-41 and the value that FAST-41 brings to project sponsors as well as promoting the role of the Permitting Council as a Federal center for permitting excellence. Outreach efforts include participation in conferences, working groups, interviews, and other speaking engagements that provide opportunities to establish and foster relationships across Federal agencies, state, local, and Tribal governments, and private industry. During FY 2024, the Executive Director is reinforcing the Permitting Council's role as a convenor to bring various perspectives together to garner insights on FAST-41 and permitting processes. Through this targeted engagement, the Executive Director can better understand policy and practitioner pain points to help shape Permitting Council services and solutions. The Permitting Council is committed to continual, proactive engagement within the permitting community to ensure a holistic view that can best inform how the resources of the agency can advance timely and efficient environmental reviews and authorizations for FAST-41 projects and to serve as a Federal center for permitting excellence.

Growing FAST-41 Participation

Stemming from targeted outreach, the Permitting Council anticipates a growing FAST-41 covered project portfolio with greater representation from various infrastructure sectors. To support this growth, the Executive Director is planning for increased resources to support projects in FY 2025. Resources will expand the Executive Director's staff's permitting and sector-specific expertise, enabling staff to engage more effectively with project sponsors, providing targeted technical permitting proficiencies to support and promote transparent and accurate permitting timetables and timely permitting decisions. Providing these dedicated resources is integral to the value the Permitting Council brings to FAST-41 projects. Through staff's direct project support, the Permitting Council helps overcome obstacles and identify critical paths to improve the transparency and predictability of the Federal environmental review and authorization process for all FAST-41 projects.

Promoting Service-Oriented Activities

During FY 2025, the Executive Director will prioritize resources that advance the Permitting Council as an agency that brings value to the Federal permitting community. As FY 2025 annual appropriations comprise personnel expenses, the Executive Director will direct the time and efforts of staff that emphasize activities that support services for project sponsors and permitting agencies. Services provided by the agency will bring innovation and focus on advancing FAST-41 projects, as well as cultivating permitting excellence to create efficiencies in Federal permitting.

Explanation of FY 2025 Changes

FY 2024 to FY 2025 Budget Changes

(Amounts in thousands of dollars)

	Amount	Positions	FTE
FY 2024 Budget Request	\$10,000	33	28.75
Adjustments to Base:			
Annualization of 2024 pay raise and positions	\$163		4.25
Inflation and other mandatory adjustments	107		
Total, Adjustments to Base	\$270		
FY 2024 Current Services	\$10,270	33	33.00
Program Changes:			
2025 pay raise	\$74		
Staffing increases	1,320	9	6.75
Program changes	-232		
Total, Program Changes	\$1,162		
Total, FY 2025 Funding Level	\$11,432	42	39.75
Less: Activities shifted to IRA funding	\$2,429		
Total, FY 2025 Request	\$9,002	42	39.75

Adjustments to Base

- **Annualization of 2024 Pay Raise and Positions (+\$163,000)** – The budget request reflects the annualization of the new positions planned for hire in FY 2024, the impacts of the Federal civilian pay raise of 5.2 percent beginning in January 2024 for the three months falling in FY 2025.
- **Inflation and Other Mandatory Adjustments (+\$107,000)** – The budget request reflects the impact of inflation and standard increases in service fees for financial management, human resources, information technology, and contract support.

Program Changes

- **2025 Pay Raises (+\$74,000)** – The budget request reflects a Federal civilian pay raise of 2.0 percent beginning in January 2025, along with anticipated within-grade increases and staffing promotions.

- **Staffing Increases (+\$1,320,000)** – Several changes continue to necessitate staffing adjustments such as statutory and policy changes, increased interest and participation in FAST-41, and extensive investments in Federal permitting. In light of these changes, the Permitting Council Executive Director expects to increase staffing by nine positions to meet demand and increased opportunity to implement FAST-41. Positions include:
 - Infrastructure Project Advisors: Actual and anticipated growth of the FAST-41 covered project portfolio requires additional advisors to support FAST-41 permitting timetable management and engagement with project sponsors and agencies to resolve permitting disputes and bottlenecks. Advisors bring expertise and sector-specific experience that help promote timely permitting decisions. The Executive Director requires this additional support to maintain the value FAST-41 brings to projects.
 - Outreach and Engagement Specialist: Advancing the Permitting Council’s strategic communication efforts includes taking advantage of outreach and engagement activities that bring greater awareness of FAST-41 and more stakeholders to advance the conversation on permitting efficiencies and excellence.
 - Permitting Planning and Performance Experts: In accordance with FAST-41, the Permitting Council acts as a Federal center for permitting excellence. The Executive Director seeks permitting experts to work with the permitting agencies, Permitting Council members, project sponsors, Tribes, and others in the permitting community to identify and advance permitting best practices, identify opportunities for permitting and interagency efficiencies, and understand and apply methods for evaluating permitting effectiveness.

- **Other Program Changes (-\$232,000)** – The budget request includes program changes to direct additional funding to outreach support and associated communications and collateral materials and for the professional development of additional staff. However, these increases are more than offset by reductions in other program areas.



Amounts Available for Obligation

FY 2023 – FY 2025 Amounts Available for Obligation (Annual Appropriations)
 (Amounts in thousands of dollars)

	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Estimate	FY 2025 Request
Resources			
Available from prior years	\$8,760	\$3,417	\$ –
Appropriations	–	–	\$9,002
Total resources available	\$8,760	\$3,417	\$9,002
Obligations			
Labor	\$4,209	\$2,107	\$8,218
Non-labor	1,134	1,310	784
Total obligations	\$5,343	\$3,417	\$9,002
Resources less obligations	\$3,417	\$ –	\$ –

Comparison of Obligations by Budget Object Class

FY 2023 – FY 2025 Comparison of Obligations by Budget Object Classification (Annual Appropriations)

(Amounts in thousands of dollars)

	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Estimate	FY 2025 Request
11.0 Personnel compensation	\$3,424	\$1,535	\$6,025
12.0 Personnel benefits	784	571	2,194
Total, Personnel Compensation and Benefits	\$4,209	\$2,107	\$8,218
21.0 Travel and transportation of persons	201	300	300
23.0 Rent, communications, and utilities	–	–	–
24.0 Printing and reproduction	3	5	5
25.1 Advisory and assistance services	668	722	338
25.2 Other goods and services from non-Federal sources	21	144	–
25.3 Other goods and services from Federal sources	3	31	34
26.0 Supplies and materials	57	95	97
31.0 Equipment	2	10	10
40.0 Grants and fixed charges	180	–	–
Total, Non-Labor	\$1,134	\$1,310	\$784
Total Obligations	\$5,343	\$3,417	\$9,002



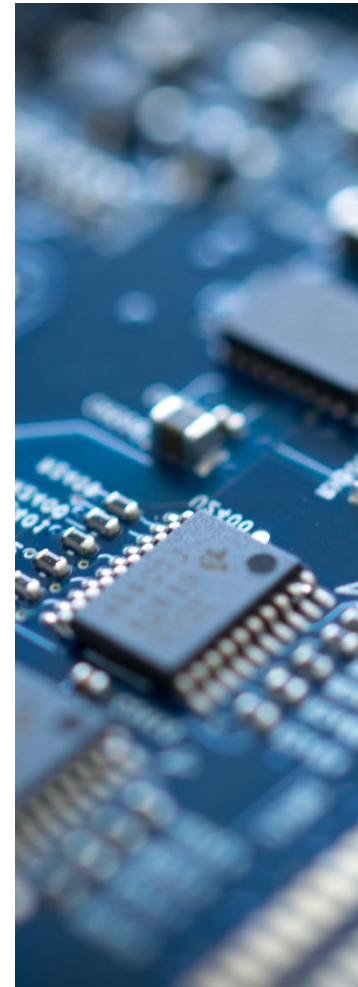
Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Appropriations Act

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Appropriations Act (Division J of the IIJA) appropriates \$650,000 per year for each of FYs 2022 through 2025, and \$400,000 for FY 2026, into the ERIF for the purposes of administering and implementing FAST-41, which includes the operations of the Permitting Council, staffing, and to support the role of the Permitting Council as a Federal center for permitting excellence. The Executive Director is also authorized by 42 U.S.C. § 4370m-8(d)(3) to transfer amounts from the ERIF, with the approval of the Director of the OMB, to other Federal agencies and state, Tribal, and local governments to facilitate timely and efficient environmental reviews and authorizations for FAST-41 projects. The funding provided each year is available for only that fiscal year.

FY 2023 Accomplishments

A key component of successfully implementing FAST-41 is maintaining and refining a public-facing online database, known as the Federal Permitting Dashboard, on which the permitting timetables for each FAST-41 project are posted and managed according to the requirements of FAST-41. FAST-41 directs the Permitting Council Executive Director to establish and maintain the Federal Permitting Dashboard and agencies must create and maintain a coordinated permitting timetable for each FAST-41 project to facilitate deliberate, synchronized, and transparent Federal environmental reviews and authorizations for each project.

The Federal Permitting Dashboard is a transparency and accountability tool that provides public access to important project-related information, including a comprehensive permitting timetable and information about project-related public meetings, public hearings, and public comment periods. During FY 2023, the Executive Director used IIJA funds to enhance the Permitting Dashboard to ensure compliance with FAST-41, as revised by IIJA. Enhancements aligned Federal Permitting Dashboard entries and management with FAST-41 statutory requirements, increased transparency and accuracy of project timelines, improved and simplified project information data entry for responsible agencies, and helped to comply with FAST-41 as amended. For example, Permitting Council staff developed an enhanced electronic submission of statutorily required Coordinated Project



Plans, which allows for agencies to enter data directly into the Federal Permitting Dashboard and maintain on a quarterly basis in the same space. Previously the process was in two steps and maintained separately. This effort resulted in greater efficiency for all agencies.

FY 2024 Program Highlights

For FY 2024, the Permitting Council Executive Director continues to direct the \$650,000 provided annually by IJA to operate, maintain, modify, and enhance the Permitting Dashboard. Increased focus will be placed on the user experience, providing a more positive digital experience for the public and Permitting Dashboard users providing data entry.

FY 2025 Planned Program Highlights

The Executive Director will use FY 2025 IJA funds to explore transitioning the operation and maintenance of the Permitting Dashboard. Currently, the Permitting Dashboard is maintained by the Department of Transportation. The Permitting Council Executive Director will examine various operating models to eventually transition operation and maintenance of the Permitting Dashboard to a solution providing greater control and flexibility to suit the needs of FAST-41. With increased ownership of the Permitting Dashboard, the Executive Director can maximize the benefits of the Permitting Dashboard as a transparency and accountability tool for timely infrastructure project review and authorization pursuant to the requirements of FAST-41, consistent with the Permitting Council’s statutory responsibility.

Amounts Available for Obligation

FY 2023 - FY 2025 Amounts Available for Obligation (IJA)

(Amounts in thousands of dollars)

	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Estimate	FY 2025 Estimate
Resources			
Available from prior years	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Appropriations	650	650	650
Total resources available	\$650	\$650	\$650
Obligations			
Labor	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Non-labor	650	650	650
Total obligations	\$650	\$650	\$650
Resources less obligations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Comparison of Obligations by Budget Object Class

FY 2023 - FY 2025 Comparison of Obligations by Budget Object Classification (IJA)

(Amounts in thousands of dollars)

	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Estimate	FY 2025 Estimate
11.0 Personnel compensation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
12.0 Personnel benefits	-	-	-
Total, Personnel Compensation and Benefits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
21.0 Travel and transportation of persons	-	-	-
22.0 Transportation of things	-	-	-
23.0 Rent, communications, and utilities	-	-	-
24.0 Printing and reproduction	-	-	-
25.1 Advisory and assistance services	650	650	650
26.0 Supplies and materials	-	-	-
31.0 Equipment	-	-	-
Total, Non-Labor	\$650	\$650	\$650
Total Obligations	\$650	\$650	\$650



Inflation Reduction Act of 2022

Section 70007 of the IRA appropriated \$350 million in FY 2023 into the ERIF for the purposes of administering and implementing FAST-41, which includes the operations of the Permitting Council, staffing, and to support the role of the Permitting Council as a Federal center for permitting excellence. Additionally, as authorized by 42 U.S.C. § 4370m-8(d)(3), the Executive Director may, with the approval of the Director of the OMB, transfer amounts in the ERIF to other Federal agencies and state, Tribal, and local governments to facilitate timely and efficient environmental reviews and authorizations for FAST-41 projects. The funding provided is available until September 30, 2031.

FY 2023 Program Accomplishments

During FY 2023, the Permitting Council Executive Director used IRA funding to make investments to facilitate timely and efficient environmental reviews and authorizations for FAST-41 projects. The Executive Director also used these funds to help fulfill the Permitting Council's role as a Federal center for permitting excellence. With a holistic view across the Federal infrastructure permitting community, the Permitting Council plays a valuable role in identifying trends, challenges, and opportunities to help make reviews and authorizations for infrastructure projects more timely and efficient.

To foster the best use of the funds appropriated through IRA, the Executive Director is using ERIF funds to develop an assistance program to make impactful investments to assist Federal infrastructure permitting project managers, support timely and effective environmental reviews, build capacity, and improve the Federal interagency processes for permitting infrastructure. In FY 2023, the Executive Director developed the ERIF Assistance Program to fund Federal agency permitting improvement efforts, consulted Tribes to inform the development of the ERIF TAP, and explored funding mechanisms for state and local governments to make the environmental review and authorization for FAST-41 projects more timely and efficient. The Executive Director also began using IRA funds to lead initiatives for developing tools and templates to improve permitting across the Federal government.

ERIF Assistance Program

Following the passage of the IRA, the Executive Director solicited ideas from agencies represented by Permitting Council members for uses of ERIF funds to support FAST-41 projects or would leverage the role of the Permitting Council as a Federal center for permitting excellence. The Permitting Council is strategically positioned to coordinate the Federal government's efforts to invest in solutions that can simplify and improve the environmental review and authorization process to result in more timely and efficient permitting decisions. The funding provided by the IRA creates an opportunity to make

transformational investments to improve Federal permitting capabilities and to help develop the permitting workforce of the future. In FY 2023, using the IRA funds, the Executive Director was able to provide direct support to Federal agencies to better implement FAST-41, to make the review of FAST-41 projects more timely and efficient, and to improve other aspects of the Federal environmental review and permitting processes for infrastructure projects in FAST-41 covered sectors.

The Executive Director reviewed the proposals received from the Federal agencies and evaluated them based on Administration priorities and impact to FAST-41 projects and/or support for the role of the Permitting Council as a Federal center for permitting excellence. The Executive Director reviewed the agencies' proposals with input from the Office of Management and Budget. The 24 agency requests submitted totaled almost \$400 million. In FY 2023, the Executive Director approved approximately \$162 million in ERIF funding for initiatives that will be disbursed over the next several fiscal years. The IRA funds provided to agencies both further the role of the Permitting Council as a Federal center for permitting excellence and will make environmental reviews and authorizations of FAST-41 projects more timely and efficient, as highlighted below.

- **Offshore Wind:** Offshore wind projects are 53 percent of current FAST-41 covered projects. As an Administration priority, advancing timely and efficient environmental reviews and authorizations for these offshore wind projects contributes to greater energy independence and reduces carbon emissions, lessening our contributions to climate change. Offshore wind permitting requires significant agency expertise, tools, and coordination. The Executive Director is providing funding to support Federal environmental reviews and authorizations for offshore wind projects at Federal agencies such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), and the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). Funding allocated to these agencies is intended to increase capacity of technical specialties, allowing for more efficient survey and analysis, occurring concurrently across multiple projects. Specific examples of the types of activities using the IRA funds include comprehensive acoustic modeling and analysis for impacted wildlife, air quality analysis, and review and identification of the most efficient, low emission equipment.
- **Tools and Technology:** The Executive Director provided support for the development and deployment of various tools and technology to assist agencies and project sponsors in efficiently proposing and reviewing infrastructure projects. This includes resources to improve and expand functionality to the FWS's Information for Planning and Consultation tool, a publicly available Endangered Species Act (ESA) screening and consultation tool. The tool can be used by many entities (Federal agencies, project developers, state agencies) to expedite ESA analysis and inform surveys/analyses for project developers in a timely manner.

- **Early Planning & Stakeholder Engagement:** Early planning and stakeholder engagement often results in more efficient permitting and decision-making. Early planning may include identifying sites and project areas to better consider and minimize impacts sooner in the planning process. Stakeholder engagement ensures Tribal, state and local governments have the opportunity and strategies to identify environmental, cultural and historic resource concerns in advance of project development. Investments made by the Executive Director to support early planning and stakeholder engagement include: enhanced engagement for Section 106 reviews for the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; providing Tribal, state, and local government access to geospatial data related to broadband deployment and environmental and historical preservation reviews provided by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration; and improved spatial planning and mapping for informed engagement on future offshore wind lease areas for NOAA.

- **Workforce Capacity:** Infrastructure projects face process bottlenecks created by stretched resources and staffing needs. Several agencies requested support for targeted staff increases to work specifically on environmental review and permitting activities for infrastructure projects. Positions include project managers that coordinate work against project plans with clear timelines and milestones to drive timely and efficient decision making, and subject matter experts that provide support for extensive permitting needs to implement IRA and IJA. Additional specialists such as biologists, GIS specialists and environmental permitting specialists at the Department of Agriculture, BLM, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Homeland Security, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs can help facilitate more efficient environmental reviews and authorizations for critical renewable energy, carbon capture, broadband and transmission projects.

In FY 2023, the Executive Director announced an initial investment of \$5 million from the IRA funds available to Tribal governments to enhance Tribal engagement in the environmental review and authorization process for FAST-41 covered projects to support more timely and efficient project reviews and authorizations. This targeted funding furthers the Federal government's efforts in its trust responsibility to Tribes by addressing the capacity issues Tribes face when reviewing FAST-41 infrastructure projects.

In an effort to develop the ERIF TAP program with Tribal input, the Permitting Council Executive Director and staff hosted Tribal consultations in FY 2023 to better understand Tribal needs in the permitting review and authorization process. Feedback from those consultations assisted in the development of the ERIF TAP. Funding aids in engagement and participation in the FAST-41 process including staff for Tribal Historic Preservation Officers or Natural Resource offices, third party studies, and training.

Permitting Council-led Initiatives

In coordination with Permitting Council members, the Executive Director continues to be well positioned to identify and address common roadblocks and challenges to advancing environmental and permitting review of infrastructure projects across the Federal family. In that capacity, the Executive Director began pursuing several initiatives to holistically benefit the entire Federal permitting process. The Executive Director develops these initiatives in coordination with the Permitting Council members, CERPOs, and the Administration. Current initiatives in FY 2023 include creating and funding a partnership with the Office of Personnel Management for cross-governmental hiring actions to provide agencies a collective pool of highly qualified candidates for expedited hiring. Initial efforts focus on agency needs for project management staff, tailored to FAST-41 projects and permitting experience.

FY 2024 Program Highlights

The Executive Director continues to marshal IRA funding to help transform the permitting landscape of yesterday into a more efficient process that meets our nation's current and future infrastructure needs. This requires innovative thinking and new approaches. The Executive Director plans to continue to identify and support activities that advance FAST-41 projects, improve Federal infrastructure permitting processes, and help tackle challenges across the permitting community. The Permitting Council Executive Director maintains a forward-thinking approach that drives innovative solutions towards greater predictability and timeliness for infrastructure permitting decisions. Examples of this work include:

- **Monitor the ERIF Assistance Program:** The Executive Director will conduct proactive monitoring and oversight of funding provided to Federal and Tribal recipients. This includes routine reporting, financial reviews, and examining progress against the scope of the funding. Further, the Permitting Council will continue to explore mechanisms and need for funding state and local governments to support permitting.
- **Deploy the ERIF TAP:** During FY 2024, the Executive Director released a funding opportunity to support Tribal participation in the environmental review and authorization for FAST-41 projects. Tribal involvement in the review of projects seeking Federal approvals is a key element to the environmental review and authorization process. Based on consultations and numerous discussions with Tribes, the Executive Director understands that Tribes often face capacity issues, such as limited staffing and funds to provide technical input on planned projects, which may delay project permitting. The ERIF TAP will help to address this challenge and enable projects to benefit from robust engagement.

- **Digitizing Environmental Review Processes:** The Executive Director, in coordination with the Office of Management and Budget and the Council on Environmental Quality, announced up to \$25 million to support innovative software and technology solutions that will leverage the role of the Permitting Council as a Federal center for permitting excellence by advancing permitting efficiency, transparency, and predictability. Technology offers an opportunity to increase permitting efficiencies and improve the way Federal agencies interface with each other and the public throughout the permitting process, thus improving the overall customer experience. This effort supports the Administration’s infrastructure permitting strategy and also promotes positive environmental and community outcomes. In FY 2024, the Executive Director will review and select proposals that will advance efficiencies and permitting excellence.

For FY 2024, the Permitting Council plans to devote a portion of IRA funding to support the operations of the Permitting Council and the Executive Director staff. In the absence of FY 2024 annual appropriations, this is a necessary step to provide the continued support for essential activities that advance the transparency and efficiency of FAST-41 projects and the role of the Permitting Council as a center for permitting excellence.

FY 2025 Planned Program Highlights

Looking to FY 2025, the Permitting Council intends to continue implementation and administration of FAST-41 through project support and permitting excellence activities.

- **Monitor the ERIF Assistance Program:** The Executive Director will continue work from FY 2024 to monitor and oversee efforts supported by the ERIF and anticipates additional funding recipients through the ERIF TAP. The Permitting Council plans to leverage recipient reporting to develop best practices and lessons learned to support improvements across the permitting community.
- **Training:** The Executive Director is examining training needs across the Federal permitting community to address identified gaps in permitting workforce training capacity. A value-driven, broadly-applicable approach to training is expected to provide greater consistency in agency permitting processes and can foster the sharing of information and knowledge management across the Federal agencies. The Executive Director is exploring training solutions that may include Federal Permitting Dashboard training, Tribal engagement training, and certificate programs in FAST-41 and NEPA for Federal, Tribal, state and local agencies as well as project sponsors.
- **Promoting Permitting Excellence:** In its role as a Federal center for permitting excellence, the Permitting Council is well-positioned to provide targeted technical assistance to stakeholders in industry as well as Tribal, state, and local

governments. The Executive Director is exploring opportunities to engage on programmatic permitting issues with external stakeholders to provide technical assistance that will deliver benefits beyond FAST-41 covered projects. This includes developing template agreements, conducting trend analysis, identifying and disseminating best practices, and project management support that will elevate the state of the practice.

Based on the Permitting Council’s continued outreach and engagement, the Executive Director anticipates funding needs across the permitting community to outweigh available resources, resulting in obligating all IRA funds well before the end of FY 2031. Estimated obligations by fiscal year are as follows:

Anticipated Obligations of IRA Funding by Fiscal Year

(Amounts in thousands of dollars)

FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031	TOTAL
\$18,123	\$91,877	\$84,000	\$57,000	\$52,000	\$47,000	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$350,000



Amounts Available for Obligation

FY 2023 – FY 2025 Amounts Available for Obligation (IRA)

(Amounts in thousands of dollars)

	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Estimate	FY 2025 Estimate
Resources			
Available from prior years	\$ —	\$331,877	\$240,000
Appropriations	350,000	—	—
Total resources available	\$350,000	\$331,877	\$240,000
Obligations			
Labor	\$628	\$5,158	\$613
Non-labor	17,495	86,719	83,387
Total obligations	\$18,123	\$91,877	\$84,000
Resources less obligations	\$331,877	\$240,000	\$156,000

Comparison of Obligations by Budget Object Class

FY 2023 – FY 2025 Comparison of Obligations by Budget Object Classification (IRA)

(Amounts in thousands of dollars)

	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Estimate	FY 2025 Estimate
11.0 Personnel compensation	\$628	\$3,990	\$613
12.0 Personnel benefits	—	1,168	—
Total, Personnel Compensation and Benefits	\$628	\$ 5,158	\$613
21.0 Travel and transportation of persons	—	—	—
22.0 Transportation of things	—	—	—
23.0 Rent, communications, and utilities	—	—	—
24.0 Printing and reproduction	—	—	—
25.1 Advisory and assistance services	2,142	6,657	11,846
25.2 Other goods and services from non-Federal sources	—	5	163
25.3 Other goods and services from Federal sources	15,353	75,057	66,375
26.0 Supplies and materials	—	—	—
31.0 Equipment	—	—	—
40.0 Grants and fixed charges	—	5,000	5,000
Total, Non-Labor	\$17,495	\$86,719	\$83,387
Total Obligations	\$18,123	\$91,877	\$84,000