

# MaineDOT SHIP and BIG Programs

Improving Maine's Small Harbors  
with State, Municipal, Federal and  
Private Partnerships

# Small Harbor Improvement Program (SHIP)

- A State and Local partnership focused on making improvements in coastal communities.
- Originating in 1995, approximately, over \$14 million has been awarded to over 85 different coastal communities.
- Funds come from voter approved Bonds, State Multi-Modal Transportation Funding, and Local Cash Match.

# Small Harbor Improvement Program (SHIP)

- The program is designed for communities that have desire to make critical improvements at water access points, public wharves, landings, boat ramps, etc.
- Improvements target and help maintain water dependent, resource based industries and provides economic development opportunities.
- Fishing, Lobstering, Clamming and Local Economies rely on critical waterfront infrastructure improvements

# Small Harbor Improvement Program (SHIP)

- 2020 Projects include; Boothbay Harbor and Harpswell.
- State share of \$410,000 for 2020 projects.
- 50/50 Local and State match.
- \$250,000 Project Assistance Limit.
- SHIP has a rolling application throughout the year, so there is no deadline.

# Small Harbor Improvement Program (SHIP)

- Applications should be thorough, and express the benefit to the users of the facility and potential economic impacts.
- Letters of support from local businesses and city, state or federal government go a long way.
- Site visits typically occur after receipt of the letter of intent.
- New SHIP projects are currently in queue to 2023.

# New for 2020 and Beyond!

- We are currently updating our application!
- New SHIP projects will have an 'intake' meeting before application. This involves a discussion with a MaineDOT engineer, LPA coordinator and the Program Manager.
- We want to help municipalities understand the public process and the MaineDOT Locally Project Administration guidelines.
- This includes the bid process, bid book and other responsibilities of the town for a SHIP project.

# Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG)

- A federal grant program, MaineDOT is the grantee, accepted projects become the sub-grantee.
- The purpose of BIG is the Construct, Renovate and Maintain dockage facilities for transient boaters 26 feet or more in length.
- Applicants can apply for up to \$1.5 million.
- 25% minimum matching funds
- Grant cycles run yearly, all deadlines are final.

# Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG)

- Tier 1 Grants allow funding opportunity for 75% of the total project cost up to a maximum of \$200,000 per State.
- Tier 2 Grants allow funding opportunity for 75% of the total project cost up to a maximum of \$1.5 million. This is nationally competitive!
- Costs for facilities that will benefit operators of boats other than transient recreational vessels of 26ft. or more must be prorated.



# Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG)

- Types of projects include; Moorings, Buoyage, Navigational Aids, Docks, Transient Slips, Floating Docks, Fixed Piers, Dinghy Docks, Restrooms and Showers, Retaining Walls, Bulkheads, Dockside Utilities, Electrical Service, Water Service, Fueling Stations, Dredging (if necessary for the project at large), Repair and Restoration of Roads or Parking Lots.

# Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG)

- We are currently in the process of reviewing our application and
- I expect the FY20 awards to be announced sometime this spring.
- Projects have a 3 year time period to be obligated by the feds. Construction can not start until the grant is obligated.

# Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG)

- All applications must follow a general guideline to be accepted.
  - Standard Form 424 Application for Federal Assistance
  - Project Summary and Project Statement
  - Budget Form and Budget Narrative
  - Single Audit Reporting Statements
  - Assurances
  - Geographic Location/Drawings/Charts

# Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG)

- Application packages must include everything, no exceptions. These are then submitted to Matt Burns at MaineDOT, who is responsible for sending the application to USFWS for review.
- If a project is not selected for funding, USFWS typically works with the State and in turn, the applicant, to revise the application for resubmittal in the next grant cycle. This is not a guarantee though!

# Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG)

- Notice of Funding Opportunity is usually released around July, deadline for submittals is typically mid-September.
- If you are looking to get started, contact me for a copy of last year's NOFO to review and get an idea of what the application process entails.

58 Fore Street | Rendering 1



**58 Fore St. – Portland – BIG Tier 2**  
(Concept)

# For More Information

- MaineDOT Homepage –SHIP Grants  
[www.maine.gov/mdot/pga/ship/](http://www.maine.gov/mdot/pga/ship/)
- USFWS Homepage – BIG Grants  
[www.wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/grantprograms/big/big.htm](http://www.wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/grantprograms/big/big.htm)
- Matt Burns – Program Coordinator  
matthew.burns@maine.gov  
624-3409

# LAP Information

- MaineDOT Homepage - LAP  
[www.maine.gov/mdot/lpa/](http://www.maine.gov/mdot/lpa/)
- 207-624-3420
- Next training is Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at the Augusta Civic Center.
- Download the registration form and follow the instructions on the website if you would like to attend.
- More information available at:  
[www.maine.gov/mdot/lpa/ccm/](http://www.maine.gov/mdot/lpa/ccm/)