



**C F I R E**  
NATIONAL CENTER FOR  
FREIGHT & INFRASTRUCTURE  
RESEARCH & EDUCATION

## **Energy and Environment STAR: Grant Year 4 RFP**

**PROJECT AREA:** Assessment of Environmental and Energy Impacts of Freight Transportation

**PROBLEM STATEMENT:** Environmental considerations are a critical aspect of freight transportation planning and operations. The public, businesses, and policy makers are increasingly concerned about the impacts that freight transportation infrastructure, heavy vehicles, and our supply chain systems have on energy resources and our natural environment. Wide ranges of policies are available to combat, mitigate, or prevent these impacts. The National Center for Freight and Infrastructure Research and Education (CFIRE) is soliciting the research community for substantive solutions, and a broad range of policy options analysis.

**POTENTIAL RESEARCH AREAS:** The Request for Proposals is developed intentionally to solicit a broad range of potential approaches to addressing these critical issues. Some potential areas of interest include (this list is not exhaustive):

- Strategies for improving market penetration of fuel efficient technologies
- Incentives for improved and sustainable supply chain management strategies
- Air and water quality impacts of freight movements
- Evaluation of air and water quality impacts of Great Lakes vessels
- Environmental justice issues related to freight transportation in the Midwest
- Objective measures of transportation energy intensity for all transportation modes
- Proposals on other relevant topics are welcome.

A single proposal may address multiple issues, however, not all of these topics will be selected for funding.

**INSTRUCTIONS TO RESEARCHERS:** Studies proposed in this area must provide decision makers with a better understanding of the impacts and opportunities that can be gained from changes to the freight system. Preferably, this would include performance metrics for quantifying potential benefits and costs to either the private or public sectors.

Proposals can be mode specific or multimodal. Project case studies should be limited to the states of the Midwest region of the United States, including the states of the Mississippi Valley Conference of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). Researchers may look to other states and countries for development of best practices.

**ESTIMATED PROJECT DURATION AND COST:** Proposed projects are expected to have a 1 or 2 year duration with annual budgets not exceeding \$75,000. Proposals must clearly justify the suggested time frame and required budget. Non-Federal matching funding is strongly suggested.



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