

***Canada-British Columbia
BUILDING CANADA FUND
- Communities Component***

Category Specific Supplement

SHORTLINE RAILWAYS

March 2009

Canada



SHORTLINE RAILWAYS

BUILDING CANADA FUND - COMMUNITIES COMPONENT

OBJECTIVES

Promote Canada's competitiveness, trade, security and quality of life by optimizing the use of all transportation modes in order to maximize the efficiency, productivity, and sustainability of the national transportation system.

SUBCATEGORIES

- Construction of industrial branch lines to allow a railway to serve a group of companies (an industrial park), an intermodal yard, a port, or a marine terminal
- Construction, rehabilitation and/or upgrading of tracks and structures, excluding regular maintenance, to ensure safe travel at speeds deemed acceptable for safe and efficient operations
- Construction, development or improvement of facilities to improve the interchange of goods between modes
- Procurement of technology and equipment used to improve the interchange of goods between modes, including Intelligent Transportation Systems.

Shortline operators must offer year-round service.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

The project must demonstrate how it provides benefits to Canadians in support of one or more of the following outcomes:

- Improving efficiency (e.g. increased traffic volumes, new shippers, increased speed, etc.)
- Increased freight capacity of shortline railways (e.g. heavier traffic loads and volume, etc.)
- Improved safety;
- Minimizing environmental impacts (e.g. reduced emissions of air pollutants and greenhouse gases, negative land-use impacts, etc.)

PROGRAM CRITERIA

Through your application, you must demonstrate the following:

- The project is supported by a comprehensive, credible and feasible business case that outlines the costs and benefits of the proposed project. *(Please note that the application form will set out information requirements regarding project costing, ongoing operation and maintenance, engineering, technology, project management and governance)*
- How the project is consistent with applicable provincial, regional, or municipal plans (e.g., land-use, integrated watershed management plan, municipal official plans, Integrated Community Sustainability Plans).

- That the project will meet all applicable legislative or regulatory requirements, including the requirement for a federal Environmental Assessment process that meets the requirements of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, which may include specific requirements for aboriginal consultation.
- That the contract award process will be competitive, fair and transparent (e.g., no sole-source contracts, no union-only processes).
- That major risks related to extreme natural events and/or climate change risks with a potential impact on the project during construction or once completed have been considered, and, where applicable, a mitigation plan developed.
- That infrastructure intended for use by the public ensures appropriate access for persons with disabilities.
- That opportunities regarding a regional service area or other cooperative arrangements, particularly with First Nations communities, have been considered, as appropriate, in respect of the project.

PROJECT CRITERIA

- Must increase transportation system efficiency and capacity (e.g. reduce congestion, bottlenecks)
- The proponent must demonstrate:
 - The importance of the line for the region's transportation system and economy
 - The economic advantages for shippers
- Will the proponent leverage additional investment by business and community groups?
- Does the project maximize opportunities to introduce or enhance security measures?
- Will the newly constructed or materially rehabilitated buildings exceed the energy efficiency requirements of the Model National Energy Code for Buildings, or (preferred) will it obtain a LEED certification? (Gold or equivalent standard is recommended)
- Will newly constructed buildings meet the requirements of the Canadian Standards Association Technical Standard Accessible Design for the Built Environment (CAN/CSA B651-04)?

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

The following are examples of information that must be submitted to help support and strengthen the business case for your project.

- Project Drawings
- Detailed project cost breakdown including quotes or cost estimates
- Confirmation of sources of project funds, i.e., bank statements, approved bank loan documentation, letters of commitment (or copies of cheques) from funding contributors, approved referendum (or a council resolution to hold a referendum to borrow for the project).
- Approvals of land use required prior to construction proceeding, i.e. Agricultural Land Reserve, right of ways, federal and/or provincial assets, etc.

- Land lease agreement, if applicable
- Current 5 year financial plan
- Information on measurable project benefits
- Letters of support, if available
- Short term employment hours during construction & creation of full time permanent jobs (job title), if applicable;
- Details on the incremental impact of funding (e.g.: should BCF-CC funding not forthcoming, would the project be reduced, delayed (months/years) or not proceed.
- Current financial statement (for registered non-profit organizations)
- Society's certificate (for registered non-profit organizations)
- Board of Directors resolution or minutes of meeting approving the project (for non-profit organizations)
- Details on how the project will minimize the negative impacts on the environment? Will it reduce ongoing energy consumption and/or water consumption and/or waste compared to the existing infrastructure? Will it encourage recycling? Will it use recognized green materials in the construction or improvement of the infrastructure?
- Details on how the project will reduce the greenhouse gas emissions through best practices and new approaches and/or innovative technologies during the construction and operation of the infrastructure and where applicable, will they be reduced and by how much?

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Additional resources can be found on the Building Canada Fund – Communities Component website: www.bcbuildingcanadafundcommunities.ca

The Shared Information Management System for Infrastructure (SIMSI) on-line application, can be found at: <https://bcfcc-fccvc.infrastructure.gc.ca/>

To be assigned a username and password to access the SIMSI on-line application system, please forward a request to Infra@gov.bc.ca.