2020 Funding Opportunity:

Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development Planning

October 14, 2020
The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies. Grantees and subgrantees should refer to FTA’s statutes and regulations for applicable requirements of the TOD Pilot Program.
Introduction - Pilot Program for TOD Planning

• Grants for comprehensive planning in new fixed guideway and core capacity improvement transit project corridors

• Fifth funding opportunity with $6.22 million available
  – Four prior awards = 81 projects for $74 million

• NOFO released September 25, 2020

• Applications due October 26, 2020 (aim to apply earlier)

• Award announcements anticipated December 2020 or January 2021
Awards, 2016-2018: 57 Projects, $51M

Project descriptions available at http://www.transit.dot.gov/TODPilot
Awards, June 2020: 24 Projects, $23M
Goals for the Program

• Encourage comprehensive TOD planning at transit station areas in corridors containing eligible projects

• Support TOD planning work that goes beyond what local agencies would usually fund themselves

• Encourage partnerships to maximize chances for successful TOD implementations
Transit Project Requirements

- TOD planning work must be associated with a new fixed guideway or core capacity improvement project as defined in the NOFO
  - **Does not** need to be a candidate for or recent recipient of Capital Investment Grants Program funding (or any FTA/DOT funding)
  - Fixed guideway projects under construction or recently opened can be considered “new”
  - Core capacity improvement projects are also “new”
Eligible Applicants

• Existing FTA grantees that meet one of the following:
  – Sponsor of an eligible transit project and partnering with an entity in the project corridor that has land use authority
  – An entity in an eligible transit project corridor that has land use authority and is partnering with the transit project sponsor
  – Sponsor of an eligible transit project and has land use authority

• Only one application per transit project corridor

• Multiple corridors allowed (but separate application needed for each)
Work Plans

• Address all six aspects in NOFO section (C)(3)
  A. Enhance economic development and ridership
  B. Facilitate multimodal connectivity and accessibility
  C. Increase non-motorized access to transit hubs
  D. Enable mixed-use development
  E. Identify infrastructure needs associated with the transit project
  F. Include private sector participation

• Identify final deliverables
  – See NOFO section (C)(3) for examples
Ineligible Activities

• TOD planning work in a single transit capital project station area

• Transit project development activities that would be reimbursable under an FTA capital grant

• Capital projects

• Site- or parcel-specific planning
Grant Conditions

• Awards of $250,000 to $2 million
• Maximum 80 percent Federal funding share
• In-kind contributions permitted; transportation development credits (toll revenue credits) do not count towards the local match requirement
• Pre-award authority guidance with notice of award selections
• Section 5303 Metropolitan Planning Program requirements apply
Submitting an Application

• Apply through grants.gov (FTA-2020-014-TPE)
  • Don’t wait until October 26!

• SF 424 Mandatory form with attachments:
  – Cumulative 15-page limit for all attachments
  – Applicant and Proposal Profile form, available via http://www.transit.dot.gov/TODPilot
  – A map of the proposed study area
  – Evidence of partnerships between the transit project sponsor and land use planning authority
  – Documentation of local (non-federal) funding commitments
Initial Application Screening Criteria

• Eligible applicant and transit project
• Evidence of partnership
• Complete application including:
  – Overview of comprehensive TOD planning project
  – Work plan by task, including substantial deliverables
  – Schedule in terms of milestones
  – Project budget and identification of matching funds
  – Performance measures for the planning work
  – Potential impediments and how the work plan will address
Formal Application Evaluation Criteria

• Based on the information provided in the Applicant and Proposal Profile form and other attachments
  – Demonstrated need for TOD planning funds
  – Strength of the work plan, schedule and process
  – Funding commitments for TOD planning work
Additional Considerations

• Department objectives
  – Supporting economic vitality
  – Leveraging Federal funding
  – Using innovative approaches
  – Reducing regulatory barriers
  – Holding grant recipients accountable
Other Factors

• These may include:
  – Geographic diversity
  – Diversity in the size of the grantees receiving funding
  – Projects located in or that support public transportation service in a qualified opportunity zone
    • [https://www.transportation.gov/opportunity-zones](https://www.transportation.gov/opportunity-zones)
  – Support of the US DOT R.O.U.T.E.S. initiative
  – Applicant’s receipt of other competitive awards
  – Prioritization of projects with a higher non-federal share
Applying for FTA Grant Opportunities in Grants.gov
FTA Notice of Funding Opportunity

FTA website: https://www.transit.dot.gov/
Funding Opportunity Notices: https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/notices
FTA Notice of Funding Opportunity

FTA NOFO Page contains:

- Summary Description
  - Application requirements
  - Eligibility
- Supplemental Form
- Links to Grants.gov
- Links to Program Information
- Other references and links

FTA NOFO provides hyperlinks to Grants.gov opportunity notice, related documents, and application package.

https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/notices

Link and Instructions for attaching the supplemental form to the SF-424: All applicants must complete the attached supplemental form and attach it to their submission in GRANTS.GOV.
NOTE: Anyone can download the application package from Grants.gov. However, only “authorized organizational representatives” can submit applications in Grants.gov.
The “Attachment Form” shown below is included in the SF-424 Grant Application Package in Grants.gov.

Please attach the **FTA Supplemental Form** to the **Attachment Form** shown below when submitting in Grants.gov.

**CAUTION:** Do not use “**Supplemental Form**” from prior years or create your own form. Please use the file provided on the FTA website.
Grants.gov – Applicants

https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants.html
Organizations must register in Grants.gov in order to submit applications.
Workspace in Grants.gov

Get Started on Your Workspace Application

Workspace is the standard way for organizations or individuals to apply for federal grants in Grants.gov. Workspace allows a grant team to simultaneously access and edit different forms within an application. Plus, the forms can be filled out online or offline—your choice.

Grants.gov Workspace also allows applicants and organizations to tailor their application workflow. Here are three approaches that applicants can take when completing a Workspace application:

**Basic**
- Best for organizations with 1-2 registered Grants.gov users
- Application forms are downloaded and emailed to collaborators before being uploaded back to the workspace

**Intermediate**
- Best for organizations with 3-5 registered Grants.gov users
- Applicant teams are typically comprised of AORs who are part of a Workspace oversees for an organization

**Advanced**
- Best for organizations with external Grants.gov users, such as consultants

Using Custom Roles in Workspace

Organizations are also able to create custom roles for their organization.

Grants.gov Roles & Privileges

When an applicant organization user registers with Grants.gov, the organization E-Business Point of Contact (E-Biz POC), or a user with the Expanded AOR role, can assign the user a core role, a custom role, or no role.

E-Business Point of Contact

The E-Business Point of Contact (E-Biz POC) works primarily at the administrative level (among other tasks) and assigns roles to organization users once they register with Grants.gov.
Web Addresses

• FTA Funding Opportunities:

• Grants.gov:

• Contact Grants.gov Support Center to get help with Grants.gov issues:

  **GRANTS.GOV Applicant Support**
  1-800-518-4726
  support@grants.gov
Common Questions (1 of 4)

• When does FTA expect to release the next TOD NOFO?

• What is the maximum allowable period of performance, if we get a TOD planning award?
Common Questions (2 of 4)

• If we get a TOD planning award, does this mean we must eventually pursue a Capital Investment Grants application?

• We are still in the early planning stage, and have not yet nailed down the station locations, do we have a project that is eligible?
We have a BRT service in operation that does not meet the fixed guideway BRT definition in the NOFO, but are considering a possible upgrade that will meet this definition. Will this project be eligible for consideration of an award?
Common Questions (4 of 4)

• My agency received TOD Pilot Program funds under a previous funding opportunity. Are we eligible for consideration of another award?

• Does the 15-page limit apply to cover pages and letters of support?
Open Session: Q & A

Please enter your questions in the Q & A box
Thank you!

For more information about the program, visit [http://www.transit.dot.gov/TODPilot](http://www.transit.dot.gov/TODPilot)

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