FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

2021 Funding Opportunity:

Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Planning

May 7, 2021
The contents of this webinar 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

• Sixth funding round with $10 million available
  – Five previous rounds = 90 projects for $80 million

• NOFO released April 21, 2021

• Applications due June 21, 2021 (aim to apply earlier)

• Estimated Project Selection Announcements: Oct. 2021 or Nov. 2021
Awards, 2015-2020: 90 Projects, $80M

Project descriptions available at http://www.transit.dot.gov/TODPilot
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 candidate for or recent recipient of 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)
Eligible Activities

• Policies to encourage TOD with the development of affordable housing

• Develop TOD plans to increase access to environmental justice populations, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and the effects of climate change

• An equity and inclusion program/plan or equity-focused policies
Work Plans

- Address all six aspects in NOFO section (C)(3)(ii)
  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)(ii) 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
  – See NOFO section (C)(3)(iii) for examples
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-2021-004-TPE-TODP)
  • Don’t wait until June 21!

• SF 424 Mandatory form with attachments:
  – Applicant and Proposal Profile supplemental 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 supplemental 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
  – Address affordable housing needs
  – Provide equitable housing choices
  – Avoid displacement of low-income households
  – Geographic diversity
  – Diversity in the size of the grantees receiving funding
  – Applicant’s receipt of other competitive awards
Environmental Justice

• Environmental justice populations include low income and minority population(s) as defined in Executive Order 12898 “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations” and FTA’s Environmental Justice Circular 4703.1.

• Applicants are encouraged to identify any EJ populations located within the proposed service area and describe anticipated benefits to that population(s).

• The geographic unit should be appropriate to the scope of the project.

A formal EJ analysis is not requested.
Equity

• Executive Order 13985:
  – Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government
  – Pursue a government-wide approach to advancing equity for all, including people of color and others who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality
Climate Change

- **Executive Order 14008 & 13900**
  - Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle Climate Crisis
  - Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad
  - An approach to achieve net-zero emissions by no later than 2050
  - Addressing the disproportionately high and adverse human health, environmental, climate-related and other cumulative impacts on disadvantaged communities
FTA Notice of Funding Opportunity

FTA website:
Funding Opportunity Notices:

https://www.transit.dot.gov/
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.
Download Application

NOTE: Anyone can download the application package from Grants.gov. However, only “authorized organizational representatives” can submit applications 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 grantee 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 typically compile AOR who oversee a Workspace of forms

**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 users in their organization.

Grants.gov Roles & Privileges

When an applicant organization user registers with Grants.gov, the organization’s E-Business Point of Contact (EBiz 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 (EBiz POC) works primarily at the administrative level (among other tasks) to assign roles to organization users once they register with Grants.gov.
Web Addresses

• FTA Funding Opportunities:
  – https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/notices
• Grants.gov:
  – http://www.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 3)

• When are the responses to this Notice of Funding Offering due?

• What is the maximum allowable period of performance, if we get a TOD planning award?

• Are MPOs and Cities eligible for an award?
Common Questions (2 of 3)

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

• 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, would this project be eligible?
Common Questions (3 of 3)

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

• Is there a minimum or maximum number of transit project stations that can be included in the comprehensive TOD plan?
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

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