Tribal Transit Competitive Program
June 29, 2021

W. Jacarl Melton
Tribal Transit Program Manager
Agenda

• FTA Objectives
• TTP Overview
• Eligible Applicants
• Eligible Projects
• Evaluation Criteria
• Grant Application Overview

Photo Credit: EBCI Transit (cherokeetransit.com); Cherokee, NC
FY 2021 Tribal Transit Program
Competitive Award
Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Objectives

• The Tribal Transit Program and its competitive award help FTA pursue its objectives by:
  – Providing timely and efficient investment in public transportation
  – Supporting the President’s Build Back Better initiative to mobilize American ingenuity to build a modern infrastructure and an equitable, clean energy future
  – Advancing the goals of the January 20, 2021 Executive Order on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government
Federal Register Notice

• FTA published a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) on May 27, 2021

• Applications are due **August 25th, 2021 at 11:59 PM ET**
FTA Tribal Transit Program (TTP)

• **Objective**
  – Provide direct funding to federally recognized Indian tribes to provide public transportation service on and around Indian reservations or tribal land in rural areas

• **Eligible Recipients**
  – Federally recognized Indian tribes, or
  – Alaska native villages, groups or communities as identified by the US Department of Interior
FTA TTP History

• The TTP is a set-aside of the Formula Grants for Rural Areas (49 US Code Section 5311)
• FY 2006: Competitive program created and funded at $8 million to $15 million a year (SAFETEA-LU)
• FY 2013: Formula program funded at $25 million a year and competitive program at $5 million a year (MAP-21)
Current Tribal Transit Program

• The Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act (FY 2016-FY 2020) continued the Tribal Transit Program and increased the amount made available under the formula program:
  – Formula Program: $30 million per year
  – Competitive Program: $5 million per year
  – TTP total: $35 million per year
FY 2021 Tribal Transit Program

• $10 million for TTP Competitive Program
  – $5 million continued from FAST Act
  – $5 million from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act

• Additional formula funding available:
  – FY 2020 Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act: $30 million
  – FY 2021 Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act: $30 million
  – FY 2021 ARP Act: $30 million
FY 2021 Eligible Applicants

• Eligible Applicants
  – Federally recognized Indian tribes or Alaska Native villages, groups or communities as identified by the US Department of Interior in rural areas with a population of less than 50,000

• Available Funding
  – FTA may choose to fund the program for more or less than the announcement amount

• Period of Availability
  – Funds are available for obligation the year allocated plus two years (total of three years)
## FY 2021 Eligible Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TTP Competitive Funds</th>
<th>Eligible Projects</th>
<th>Eligible Federal Share</th>
<th>Funding Availability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Planning</strong></td>
<td>$25,000 cap</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Capital</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>100%*</td>
<td>3 years (Year of Allocation + 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ New Services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Replacement (bus,equip,facility)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Expansion (bus,equip,facility)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Operating</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>100%*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ All eligible tribes**</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Change from 90% eligible federal share requirement

** Change from only tribes receiving less than $20,000 in TTP formula funds or not having existing transit service requirement
FY 2021 Planning Grant Projects

• Applicants should describe the need for and a general scope of the proposed study
• $25,000 cap on planning grant awards
• Maximum 100% federal share
  – No local match is required
FY 2021 Capital Projects

• Capital Projects include but not limited to:
  – Purchase of expansion or replacement buses/vans
  – Bus-related equipment (fare equipment, communications devices, etc.)
  – Construction and rehabilitation of facilities (transit maintenance and administrative facilities)
  – Mobility Management
  – Wheelchair lifts and restraints
  – Passenger shelters and bus stop signs
  – Technology, including computer hardware or software

• Maximum 100% federal share
  – No local match is required
FY 2021
Operating Assistance Projects

• Costs directly related to the service operations and may include:
  – Fuel
  – Oil
  – Drivers’ and Dispatchers’ salaries and fringe benefits
  – Licenses
  – Service agreements with private providers of public transportation services

• Maximum 100% federal share
  – No local match is required
Important: Capital or Operating Assistance requests and Planning requests have different required Evaluation Criteria:

- FIVE required Evaluation Criteria for operating and capital assistance requests
- ONE required Evaluation Criteria for planning assistance
Evaluation Criteria for Operating and Capital Assistance Requests

• Five required sections:
  – Planning and Local/Regional Prioritization
  – Project Readiness
  – Demonstration of Need
  – Demonstration of Benefits
  – Financial Commitment and Operating Capacity
Planning and Local/Regional Prioritization

• Describe the planning document and/or the planning process conducted to identify the proposed project
• Provide a detailed project description
• Discuss level of support by community and/or tribal government
• Describe what opportunities for public participation were provided and how proposed/existing service has been coordinated with:
  – Human Service Agencies
  – Intercity Bus Transportation Providers
  – Other rural public transit providers

• Describe how mobility and client access needs of tribal human service agencies were considered
Planning and Local/Regional Prioritization (Cont.)

• Identify existing transportation services in and near the proposed or existing service area
  – Document in detail whether project will provide coordination opportunities

• Describe how the proposed/existing service complements rather than duplicates any currently available service

• Describe any other planning or coordination efforts not mentioned above
Project Readiness

• Identify if project is a Categorical Exclusion (CE) or the required environmental analysis has been initiated or completed
• Describe and document a project implementation plan (e.g. including initial design of facilities projects)
• Demonstrate that the project and project funds can be implemented and obligated quickly, if selected
• Demonstrate the ability to carry out the proposed project successfully
• Describe the implementation schedule for the project
Demonstration of Need

• FTA will consider whether the project represents a one-time or periodic need that cannot reasonably be funded from FTA program formula allocations or State and/or local resources

• All applications:
  − Destinations and services not currently accessible by transit
  − Needs for access to jobs or health care, special needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities, income-based community, and those with any other mobility requirement

• Capital expansion projects: describe how current or growing demand for the service necessitates the expansion
Demonstration of Need (Cont.)

• Capital replacement projects: should include how the replacement may be necessary to maintain transit system in state of good repair
  – Age of asset
  – Condition of asset
  – Performance of asset

• If an applicant received a planning grant in previous fiscal years, it should indicate the status of the planning study and how the proposed project relates to that study
Demonstration of Benefits

• Identify expected or achieved project benefits
  – Existing Services:
    • Increased or sustained ridership and daily trips
    • Improved service, operations and coordination
    • Provide actual number of individual riders and trips
    • Improve the quality of life for tribe and surrounding communities
  – Start-up Projects:
    • Estimate number of daily one-way trips
    • Qualitative benefits to the tribe and surrounding community
Financial Commitment and Operating Capacity

• For FY 2021, no local match is needed
  – If included, the source must be identified
• Identify sustainable funding plan
  – Demonstrate how tribe plans to maintain operations once project is funded
  – Annual operating budget
Financial Commitment and Operating Capacity (Cont.)

• Explain how project funds are used in coordination with other services for efficient utilization of funds:
  − Humans service transportation funding
  − Tribal Transportation Program funds (FHWA)
  − Title VI or Older American Act funds (HHS)
  − Bureau of Indian Affairs funds
  − In-kind contributions
  − Commitment of support from local businesses
  − Donations of land or equipment
  − Tribal or community support
Evaluation Criteria for Planning Grants

• In ONE required section, proposals should address two key points:

  1. The tribes’ long-term commitment to transit
  2. How the proposed study will be implemented and/or further tribal transit
Important Links

- FY 2021 Tribal Transit Program NOFO
- FY 2021 Tribal Transit Program on Grants.gov
- FY 2021 Tribal Transit Formula Allocations, Table 10
- FTA’s Tribal Entities Landing Page
- Tribal Transit Program Competitive Award Webpage
Technical Assistance Centers

National Center for Mobility Management
www.nc4mm.org  1-866-846-6400
email: info@nc4mm.org  Annual Community Grants

National Aging and Disability Transportation Center
www.nadtc.org  1-866-983-3222
email: contact@nadtc.org  Annual Community Grants

Rural Transit Assistance Program
www.nationalrtap.org  1-888-589-6821
email: info@nationalrtap.org

National Center for Applied Transit Technology
n-catt.org  1-888-891-0590
Contact: grossglaser@ctaa.org
National Transit Institute (NTI)

• Provides training, education and clearinghouse services in support of public transportation
  – Short-form webinars
  – Multi-day in-person courses
• Some In-person courses:
  – Advancing Mobility Management
  – Grow Your Ridership by Welcoming Older Riders
  – Understanding ADA

Registration for all NTI courses and events is free to government and transportation agency employees
FTA Regional Tribal Liaisons

LINK: Contact Information for Tribal Liaisons at FTA Regional Offices
Contact Information

W. Jacarl Melton
Tribal Transit Program Manager

TribalTransit@dot.gov
(202) 366-2269

TTP Competitive Award Webpage:
https://www.transit.dot.gov/tribal-transit
Applying for FTA Grant Opportunities in Grants.gov
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 a hyperlink to the Grants.gov opportunity notice, related documents and application package.

https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/notices
NOTE: Anyone can download the application package from Grants.gov. However, only “authorized organizational representatives” can submit applications in Grants.gov.
Application Package

Select Grant Opportunity Package

PLEASE READ BEFORE APPLYING!
If you view and complete your application package using Grants.gov downloadable PDF forms, you MUST have Adobe Reader installed. You may receive a validation error using incompatible versions of Adobe Reader. To prevent a validation error, it is now recommended you uninstall any earlier versions of Adobe Reader and install the latest compatible version of Adobe Reader. If more than one person is working on the PDF forms, ALL applicants must be using the same Adobe Reader version. Click for more information on Adobe Reader Compatibility.

Opportunity Package(s) Currently Available for this Funding Opportunity:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CFDA</th>
<th>Competition ID</th>
<th>Competition Title</th>
<th>Opportunity Package ID</th>
<th>Opening Date</th>
<th>Closing Date</th>
<th>Actions</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>20.599</td>
<td>FTA-2021-003-TR</td>
<td>FY 2021 Competitive Funding Opportunity: Public Transportation on Indian Reservations Program, Tribal Transit Program</td>
<td>PK000207264</td>
<td>05/27/2021</td>
<td>08/25/2021</td>
<td>Preview</td>
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Apply for Grant Opportunity

Please review Applicant FAQs as you prepare and submit your application.

Selected Opportunity Package:

- Opportunity Package ID: PK000207264
- CFDA: 20.599 – Formula Grants for Rural Areas and Tribal Transit Program
- Competition ID – Title: FTA-2021-003-TR – FY 2021 Competitive Funding Opportunity: Public Transportation on Indian Reservations Program, Tribal Transit Program
- Agency Contact: Jacqui Methven
  Information: Office of Program Management
  (202) 366-3250
  TribTrans@dot.gov
- Who Can Apply: Organization Applicants

FTA FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION
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.
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 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
  - Application teams are typically comprised of AOR who uses a Workspace to oversee the application process for up to five collaborators

- **Advanced**: Best for organizations with external Grants.gov users, such as consultants
  - Application teams are typically comprised of AOR who uses a Workspace to oversee the application process for up to ten collaborators

Using Custom Roles in Workspace

Organizations are also able to create custom roles in their Workspace.

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 (E-Biz POC)

The E-Business Point of Contact (E-Biz POC) works primarily at the administrative level (among other tasks) assigning 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
    (800) 518-4726
    support@grants.gov
Questions?

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