

5309 Bus Ladders of Opportunity Discretionary Program (Question & Answer Session)

7-17-14 (2:30-4:00PM Eastern Time)

- 1. Where can we get a copy of the presentation?**
 - a. You can download a copy of the presentation from the following location: http://www.fta.dot.gov/documents/BUS_LADDERS_Training_Webinar_for_Public_7-16-14.pdf.
- 2. Can an agency submit more than one project for consideration of funding?**
 - a. Yes, an agency can submit more than one project for consideration. If this is done, we recommend you tell us your priorities, if you have them.
- 3. Can we submit scalable projects where we identify a lesser amount we could do a portion of the project with?**
 - a. Yes.
- 4. When will awards be announced and what timeframe can we expect a notice to proceed for project scheduling purposes?**
 - a. We expect to announce these allocations Fall 2014.
- 5. If two agencies jointly participate in a project, and each is an FTA grants recipient, can the grant be split among the two agencies, or would one agency need to be a sub-recipient to the other?**
 - a. The application should identify how you would propose to have the two eligible entities apply for and manage the different components of the project. We will review and advise if the project is selected for funding.
- 6. When submitting the proposal via Grants.gov for this opportunity, will Supplemental Form be attached to the SF-424 Form using the Add Attachment feature?**
 - a. Yes. It must be attached that way.
- 7. If we have problems with the form, is there a contact person for technical issues?**
 - a. Sam Snead (Samuel.snead@dot.gov) is the contact for the applicant proposal form. Grants.Gov is the contact for the SF424 form.
- 8. Is there a definitive timeline for spending awarded funds?**
 - a. There is a statutory requirement to have the funds obligated 3 years (plus the year announcement) and then FTA has standards for inactivity/activity of grants once funds are obligated. In addition, one of the criteria is project readiness.
- 9. Can in kind be used as part of the local match? from Ohio DOT**
 - a. Yes, In-kind is allowable; please be sure to work with the Regional office to have any real property in-kind match valued and documented.
- 10. In a situation where multiple projects are in one application, is it possible for some projects to get partial funding?**
 - a. You should indicate if your projects are scalable and provide the amount. It is possible that projects may be partially funded and if so, then FTA will review the scalable amount information provided by the applicant.

- 11. Will construction projects be rated higher than bus projects?**
- a. There is no weighting of types of projects over others.
- 12. How well will a replacement bus project fare with the Ladders of Opportunity grant priorities in the NOFA?**
- a. It will depend on how well you address the criteria in the NOFA and how the project supports the ladders of opportunity principles.
- 13. Can in-kind be used for local matching funds?**
- a. Yes, In-kind match is allowable. Please make sure this is identified in the proposal, include the value of the in-kind match. As needed, work with your regional office on questions related to valuing real property that may be used as in-kind match.
- 14. Is there an ability to attach or append materials such as letters of support or supporting maps and graphics?**
- a. Yes, you can attach materials, but you need to ensure you reference them in the supplemental form.
- 15. what is the maximum file size of the total submittal?**
- a. The file size attachment limit is 50MB. Please be reasonable with your attachment size.
- 16. If you want to use revenue bond proceeds as the local match what documentation should we include in the application?**
- a. We would want to see supporting documentation for this. A board approval or other documentation to justify the amount would suffice.
- 17. Will the grant be administered in accordance to SAFETEA-LU or MAP-21?**
- a. We will administer pursuant to the statutory authority of the funding, which is SAFETEA-LU.
- 18. My city is a sub-recipient of transit funds; what options do we have in gaining access to funds if we cannot directly apply?**
- a. You should contact the State or the urbanized operator under which you receive your funds. If they are a recipient of 5307 Urbanized Area Formula funds directly from FTA, they are eligible to apply on your behalf.
- 19. Will there be a copy of verbal answers available after this webinar?**
- a. Yes, this information will be made available after this session.
- 20. If you use cash what "supporting" documentation do you want to see attached to grant application?**
- a. Financial documents or approval of the amount by a local planning board. financial statements are ideal
- 21. Will this Q & As be distributed?**
- a. We will make the information from this Q & A available at www.fta.dot.gov.
- 22. How many awards are expected?**
- a. We don't know how many awards are expected. It is dependent on the number of proposals and the dollar amount requested in those proposals.
- 23. For replacement vehicles, should current mileage be used or the estimated mileage if the Ladders vehicles are not delivered until 2016?**
- a. We recommend including the mileage at the time of application and the mileage expected (projected) at the time of replacement.

- 24. Our official bond documents state that proceeds can be used for capital projects. We have proceeds that have not been specifically programmed to projects yet. Our board would approve the use of the bond proceeds as local match after the FTA award was made.**
- a. Make sure the application makes this point clear and indicates the available amount that would be made available if the project is selected.
- 25. Can a proposed transfer station location be identified by corridor or general location assuming predetermination of CE and funds requested for land acquisition (previous question) + construction costs.? Will types of applications (ex. buses, transfers centers) be ranked comparably by type vs. rankings based on merits of projects and scalability?**
- a. We will review and evaluate projects based on their merit and ability to describe how they meet the criteria in the NOFA, including the Ladders principles
- 26. Is the construction/renovation of a joint development facility used by various entities (including transit) an eligible project as long as the proposal appropriately addresses the Ladders of Opportunity principles?**
- a. The facility would have to support bus service.
- 27. Are there administration funds available for State DOTs to administer these funds?**
- a. The only allowable administrative expenses are those directly related to the implementation of the capital project. General admin/overhead expenses are not eligible.
- 28. The applications are due on Aug. 4, 2014. When you anticipate that the announcements would be made regarding projects that FTA selects as a part of this NOFA?**
- a. Fall 2014.
- 29. Are there any overall format requirements?**
- a. There are no specific format requirements but please use the application and NOFA in order to sequence your answers in the same order as the criteria.