Public Transportation Emergency Relief Program

Notice of Funding Availability for Resilience Projects in Response to Hurricane Sandy

January 7, 2014
Agenda

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Introductory Remarks

FTA Deputy Administrator Therese McMillan
Overview of NOFA

Resilience:

A capability to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from significant multi-hazard threats with minimum damage to social well-being, the economy, and the environment.

Resilience Project:

A project designed and built to address future vulnerabilities to a public transportation facility or system due to future recurrence of emergencies or major disasters that are likely to occur again in the geographic area in which the public transportation system is located; or projected changes in development patterns, demographics, or extreme weather or other climate patterns.

Source: 49 CFR Part 602.5: Interim Final Rule for the FTA Emergency Relief Program
Overview of NOFA

• Approximately $3.0 billion available for resilience projects that protect transit assets against future disasters in the area affected by Hurricane Sandy

• Projects will be selected on a competitive basis, consistent with the criteria outlined in the notice

• If selected for funding, grantees must work with the appropriate FTA regional office to develop a grant application, and to assure Federal project requirements are met prior to incurring costs

• Resilience Projects selected under this NOFA are eligible for a maximum 75% Federal share, with a 25% non-Federal match.

• Non-Federal match may consist of an undistributed cash surplus, a replacement or depreciation cash fund or reserve, or new capital, or from available CDBG funds.
Overview of NOFA – Key Dates

• Notice of Funding Availability published – December 26, 2013

• Introductory Program Webinar (this session) – January 7, 2014

• Hazard Mitigation Cost-Effectiveness Training – January 21, 2014
  – Session 1 of 2. All applicants must attend one of two sessions. Registration required. This first session is offered online only.

• Hazard Mitigation Cost-Effectiveness Training – January 22, 2014
  – Session 2 of 2. All applicants must attend one of two sessions. Registration required. This session offered online or in-person in New York City.

• Applications Due – March 28, 2014
  – Application Package can be found at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) by searching for keyword “Sandy”. Applicants must register on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) at least 2-4 weeks prior to applying.
Applicant Eligibility

Applicant Eligibility Requirements:

- Project must be located within Hurricane Sandy affected counties in CT, DE, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, VA, WV, DC, as evidenced by a Presidential declaration of major disaster in response to Hurricane Sandy

Eligible applicants include:

1. States and Indian tribes,
2. Local governmental authorities and public transportation agencies that receive funding through FTA formula programs,
3. Other entities responsible for an eligible public transportation capital project that enter into a sub-recipient arrangement with an existing FTA grantee, and
4. Entities that provide intercity passenger rail service.*

*Projects that involve joint public transit and intercity passenger rail service will be administered under the provisions of (2) or (3) above.
Project Eligibility

• Capital projects that reduce the risk of damage to public transportation assets as a result of future natural disasters.

• Project examples:
  – elevating or relocating assets that are located in a special flood hazard area,
  – protecting assets vulnerable to high winds,
  – installing mitigation measures that prevent the intrusion of floodwaters into underground segments of a public transportation system

• FTA encourages innovative proposals, however, all projects must consist of proven and effective technologies.

• Project sponsor must demonstrate, as part of an overall system plan, how they will ensure protection and increase resilience of their existing assets before considering addition of redundant (new) infrastructure.
Minimum Requirements

1. Applicant is a current FTA recipient, is partnering with a current FTA recipient, or is an entity that provides intercity passenger rail service.

2. Applicant has identified the source for the required non-Federal cost share.

3. Project must be designed and built to be resilient to the best available FEMA flood hazard information as of February 1, 2014, plus one foot, as defined in this notice.

4. Applicant has participated in an FTA training session on Hazard Mitigation Cost Effectiveness (HMCE). Instructions and requirements regarding the HMCE analysis will be provided at these training sessions.
All projects must be designed and built to be resilient to the best available FEMA flood hazard information, plus one foot.

The best available information is defined in the NOFA as the WIDEST geographic area covered by the Special Flood Hazard Area (i.e. 100-year flood zone), and the HIGHEST base flood elevation, as indicated on any of the following sources released by FEMA as of February 1, 2014:

- Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) / Flood Insurance Study (FIS)
- Advisory Base Flood Elevations, plus one foot (ABFE+1)
- Preliminary FIRM / FIS
- Preliminary Work Maps
Competitive Evaluation

Evaluation Criteria:

- Hazard Mitigation Cost Effectiveness
- Project Implementation Strategy
- Protection of Most Essential and Vulnerable Infrastructure
- Local and Regional Planning Collaboration and Coordination
- Interdependency of the Public Transportation Resilience Project
- Local Financial Commitment
- Technical Capacity

Other Factors
Evaluation Criteria

Hazard Mitigation Cost Effectiveness

- Determines the probable value of a project based on both quantitative and qualitative information:
  - Asset value and useful life
  - Probability of future hazards affecting the asset
  - Potentially avoided damages and disruptions
  - Project cost and additional ongoing expenses

- Applicant must have information from historic disaster events of a known frequency (e.g. 50 or 100-year storm), or engineering estimates projecting damages from such an event occurring in the future.

- Applicant must then estimate the damages that would occur if the proposed project is completed (note that 100% protection may only be achieved through relocation).

- FTA will provide instruction and training on how to complete a HMCE analysis on January 21st and 22nd. The required analysis template will be distributed to participating applicants at these training sessions.
Evaluation Criteria

Project Implementation Strategy

- At a minimum, applicant must provide key project milestones and anticipated dates for:
  - NEPA compliance
  - Project Engineering & Design
  - Construction
  - Project Completion / In-Service

- Applicants must identify any critical dependencies that affect the project timeline or strategy and any potential variability in project costs.

- Applicants should describe how these have been considered in the implementation strategy and project budget, and should propose an appropriate contingency as part of the funding request.

- Projects will be evaluated based on the adequacy and completeness of the implementation strategy, and on how any critical dependencies or cost variability have been incorporated in the project implementation strategy.
Evaluation Criteria

Protection of Most Essential and Vulnerable Infrastructure:

- Applicants should identify those projects that are key to ensuring continued public transportation service, and must indicate the process used to prioritize individual projects.

- Applicants should provide data and information that illustrates how the protection of an existing asset – either individually or working synergistically with other proposed asset improvements – serves to protect functionality of the public transportation system as a whole from damage of future storm events, compared to discrete localized impacts.

- Projects will be evaluated based on the vulnerability of the asset to be protected, the criticality of the asset to existing public transportation service, and on the process or methodology used to prioritize assets for resilience improvements.
Evaluation Criteria

Local and Regional Planning Collaboration and Coordination:

- Applicants must provide documentation to show that proposed projects are the result of local or regional planning efforts.
- Applicants should also address the project scope and connectivity of the project within the broader regional public transportation system.
- Projects will be evaluated both on (i) the extent of local and regional planning, collaboration and coordination with local, state, and other Federal agencies that has influenced the identification and prioritization of the project, and (ii) on the connectivity of the project with other public transportation systems in the region, as evidenced by both planning efforts and the potential impact of the project on public transportation ridership in the region.
Evaluation Criteria

Interdependency of the Public Transportation Resilience Project:

- Applications should discuss the interdependencies of the proposed public transportation project’s resilience with other supporting infrastructure elements (e.g. flood management projects, power station improvements, etc.).
- This should include analysis on how a project will not shift risk to other infrastructure elements.
- FTA will take into account any coordinated efforts with other local or regional infrastructure resilience plans or infrastructure investment priorities.
Evaluation Criteria

Local Financial Commitment:

- Applicants must include a detailed project budget in their application, including a detailed breakdown of how the funds will be spent on each activity. If the project will be completed in individual segments or phases, a budget for each individual segment or phase must be included.

- Budget spending categories must be broken down between FTA discretionary resilience funding and other federal and non-federal sources, and applicants must identify how each funding source will be applied to the project. Additionally, applicants must identify any other sources of Federal funding included in the proposed project.

- FTA will evaluate applications in part on the viability and completeness of the project's financing proposal; evidence of the financial condition of the project sponsor; and the grant recipient's ability to manage grants.
Evaluation Criteria

Technical Capacity:
- FTA will evaluate applications on the applicant’s demonstrated technical capacity to undertake the proposed project, including the applicant’s experience undertaking projects of a similar scale or scope in the past.

Other Factors:
- Applications must clearly identify the location of the project and the types of public transportation services affected by the project.
- FTA may consider geographic diversity in the selection of projects.
- FTA may also consider diversity among project types, including the type of public transportation service protected by the resilience project (e.g. bus, rail, ferry).
Application Requirements


**Completed application must include:**

1. SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance (from Grants.gov)
2. Hurricane Sandy Resilience Supplemental Form (from Grants.gov or FTA website)
3. Hazard Mitigation Cost Effectiveness Analysis
4. Supporting Documentation

Application must be submitted through grants.gov by **11:59 PM EDT on March 28, 2014.** Late applications may not be accepted.

Contact FTA with any questions about the NOFA or Application Process.
Grants.gov Registration
Grants.gov Registration

Registering as an Organization
This is where the process of registering your organization for access to Grants.gov begins. Your organization must be registered to apply for grants.

Brief Overview of Registration Process

 aide: Registration takes, approximately, 3-5 business days but, allow 4 weeks to complete all steps.

Foreign Registrants: Anyone residing and doing business outside of the United States is still required to complete the five steps of the Grants.gov registration process, in addition to fulfilling supplementary requirements for doing business with the United States government.

STEP 1: Obtain DUNS Number
When requested by phone (1-866-766-5777), DUNS is provided immediately. If your organization does not have one, you will need to go to the Duns & Bradstreet website at http://上官.usa.gov/webform to obtain the number. Information for Foreign Registrants: Webform requests take 1-2 business days.

STEP 2: Register with SAM
Three to five business days or up to two weeks. If you already have a TIN, your SAM registration will take 3-5 business days to process. If you are applying for an EIN please allow up to 2 weeks. Ensure that your organization is registered with the System for Award Management (SAM) at System for Award Management (SAM). If your organization is not, an authorizing official of your organization must register.

STEP 3: Username & Password
Same day. Complete your DUNS (Authorized Organization Representative) profile on Grants.gov and create your username and password. You will need to use your organization’s DUNS Number to complete this step. Create a Username and Password.

STEP 4: AOR Authorization
* Same day. The E-Business Point of Contact (E-Biz POC) at your organization must login to Grants.gov to confirm you as an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR). Please note that there can be more than one AOR for your organization. In some cases the E-Biz POC is also the AOR for an organization. *Time depends on responsiveness of your E-Biz POC.

STEP 5: Track AOR Status
At any time, you can track your AOR status by logging in with your username and password. Login as an Applicant (enter your username & password you obtained in Step 3).
SF-424 Form
SF-424 Form
Supplemental Form

Applicant and Proposal Profile

Hurricane Sandy Competitive Resilience Program

This application form collects information from eligible applicants affected by Hurricane Sandy in areas for which a major disaster has been declared by President Obama under the Stafford Act. This information will be used for the purpose of allocating supplemental emergency funding through FTA’s Public Transportation Emergency Relief Program.

Section I. Applicant Information

- Organization Legal Name:
- FTA Recipient ID Number:
- Applicant Type:
  - State
  - Local government authority
  - Public transit agency
  - Other entity as subrecipient to FTA grant
  - Entity responsible for intercity passenger rail project
  - Other
  - If Other, Specify:

- Area(s) of Service:
- State (Select all that apply):
  - Connecticut
  - Delaware
  - District of Columbia
  - Maryland
  - Massachusetts
  - New Hampshire
  - New Jersey
  - New York
  - Ohio
  - Pennsylvania
  - Rhode Island
  - Virginia
  - West Virginia

Section II. Project Information
Supplemental Form

Project Executive Summary:

Does this project improve the resiliency of an asset damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Sandy?  
☐ Yes  ☐ No

Is this project compliant with FEMA’s Best Available Flood Hazard Information Plus One Foot?  
☐ Yes  ☐ No

If Not Feasible, Please Explain Why (To Include Other Mitigation Measures):

Describe how this project addresses each of the following evaluation criteria specified in the Notice of Funding Availability:

Hazard Mitigation Cost Effectiveness (HMCE) (Must Be Accompanied by HMCE Analysis):

Project Implementation Strategy & Timeline:

Protection of Most Essential & Vulnerable Infrastructure:
Supplemental Form

### Budget Summary

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**Grand Total:**

Sources For the Local Share:
Supplemental Form

Project Scalability

Is Project scalable?  ○ Yes  ○ No

If Yes, specify minimum Federal funds necessary (optional): 

Note: If Yes, a separate HMCE analysis is required for proposed scaled project.

Provide explanation of scalability with specific references to the budget line items above:

Congressional District  Congressional Representative

[Insert Item]
HMCE Analysis

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration
Hazard Mitigation Cost Effectiveness Tool

This tool may be used for benefit-cost analysis (BCA) of resiliency projects submitted to FTA for consideration for funding under the Public Transportation Emergency Relief Program and the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013 (Pub. L. 113-2) for States, local governmental authorities, tribal governments and other FTA recipients impacted by Hurricane Sandy, which affected mid-Atlantic and northeastern states in October 2012.

Resiliency projects are those hazard mitigation projects designed and built to address vulnerabilities to a public transportation facility or system due to future recurrence of emergencies or major disasters that are likely to occur in the geographic area in which the public transportation system is located; or projected changes in development patterns, demographics, or extreme weather or other climate patterns. Resiliency projects belong to FTA Level 4 project costs under FTA's Superstorm Sandy Public Transit Projects. All proposed projects for funding are required to provide a cost-effectiveness evaluation leading to a benefit-cost ratio (BCR) for the proposed project. This information will be used by FTA to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of the proposed project in reducing an asset’s and the public transportation system’s vulnerabilities to future disasters. Consistent with Executive Order 12893, selection of projects for funding will be based in part on a systematic analysis of benefits and costs. In general, a BCR of one or greater indicates a project is cost-effective. However, there are additional considerations that may lead to some projects with a BCR of less than one to be considered cost-effective.

Applicants should provide information about the qualitative benefits of the proposed project under Tab 2 of this tool.

Quantitative information that applicants must submit includes the estimated damage and losses from specifically identified hazards (recorded historical and/or expected theoretical events) and the reduction in the anticipated losses after such an event as a result of the proposed project.

FTA will review the explanations and justifications provided to determine the reasonableness of the submitted information, as well as the source of the information.
HMCE Analysis
HMCE Analysis Training

• All applicants must participate in at least one offering of this training:
  – **Session #1: January 21, 2014**, 9 AM – 12:30 PM via webinar or in DC / FTA HQ with limited capacity for in person participants:
    Participants must register in advance by sending an email with the subject “HMCE Training - 1” to FTASandyResilience@dot.gov. Registered participants will receive an email prior to the webinar with the link and phone number to connect to the webinar.

  – **Session #2: January 22, 2014**, 9 AM – 12:30 PM in New York City and via webinar. Participants must register in advance by sending an email with the subject “HMCE Training - 2” to FTASandyResilience@dot.gov. Registered participants will receive an email prior to the webinar with the link and phone number to connect to the webinar.
Questions and Answers
Thank you!

- For further application-specific information and other assistance needed in preparing a complete proposal, contact the appropriate FTA Regional Office found at [www.fta.dot.gov](http://www.fta.dot.gov). (Regions 1, 2, and 3)
- For program-specific questions about applying for the funds as outlined in this notice, please contact Adam Schildge, Office of Program Management, 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE., Washington, DC 20590, phone: (202) 366–0778, or email, [FTASandyResilience@dot.gov](mailto:FTASandyResilience@dot.gov).
- For legal questions, Bonnie Graves, Office of Chief Counsel, same address, phone: (202) 366–4011, or email, [Bonnie.Graves@dot.gov](mailto:Bonnie.Graves@dot.gov).