



FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

# **2016 SSO Program Workshop**

## **SSO Grant Making and TrAMS**

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**Office of Program Management**

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U.S. Department of Transportation

Federal Transit Administration

# Agenda

- Overview of State Safety Oversight Grant Making
- Brief overview of the Transit Award Management System (TrAMS)
- Processing SSO Applications in TrAMS
- Questions

# The SSO Program

- Introduced in MAP-21 and carried forward in FAST
- Provides approximately \$23 million per year
- Funds are apportioned to eligible states on the basis of a formula outlined in law and finalized by FTA in 2013
- Funds must be obligated in grants within three fiscal years of appropriation (i.e. funds appropriated in FY 14 must be obligated by FY 16)

# Processing SSO Applications in TrAMS

- FTA HQ staff concurrence as well as regional staff concurrence is required
- We are able to give TSO staff the “initial reviewer” role in TrAMS so that they can log an ad-hoc comment that includes their concurrence or requests for changes
- Contact your TSO Local Security Managers (Scott Giering or Alison Pegram,) or David Schneider or Marci Malaster if you need this functionality

# Processing SSO Applications in TrAMS

- Example GA-2016-003

**Summary View of Review / Concurrence / Approvals**

Select a comment to view the details

Review Type	Review Decision	Reviewed by	Reviewed Date
<a href="#">Ad Hoc Review</a>		Jennifer Hibbert	Mar 31, 2016
<a href="#">Ad Hoc Review</a>		Alicia Berger	Apr 20, 2016
<a href="#">Ad Hoc Review</a>		Alicia Berger	Apr 25, 2016
<a href="#">Ad Hoc Review</a>		Eric Madison	May 24, 2016
<a href="#">Environmental Concurrence</a>	Concur - Move Forward	Robert Buckley	Mar 31, 2016

6-10 of 18

**Review Comments Details**

Comment Type  
Ad Hoc Review

Comment By  
Eric Madison

Comment Text  
FTA HQ has reviewed the application and TSO concurs with the submitted application.

# Tracking SSO Grant Implementation

- Milestone Progress Reports and Federal Financial Reports are required
- If SSO grants created in TrAMS contain funding for different projects, disbursements on these projects can be tracked separately
- If SSO grants created in TrAMS contain funding for different budget scopes, disbursements for these budget scopes can be tracked separately
- TrAMS allows applications to contain SSO funds along with other FTA fund sources. Talk to your regional office or TSO to determine if that would make sense in the future

# SSO Grant Making

- FY 13: No grants awarded.
- FY 14: 17 grants awarded for \$18.7 million
- FY 15: 15 grants awarded for \$19.8 million

# SSO Grant Making

- FY 16 (as of July 8):
  - 5 grants awarded for \$8.7 million
  - 5 applications for \$2.1 million are under FTA review
  - 4 applications for \$4.6 are being drafted by applicants
  - Total of 14 applications for \$15.4 million
  - There is still time to develop additional applications, if necessary



# SSO Grant Making

- As of early July, approximately \$8.3 million in FY 14 SSO Funds will lapse to the State after the end of FY 16 unless obligated in a grant
- Please work with your recipients and regional staff to ensure that lapsing funds are awarded in TrAMS prior to the 9/22 TrAMS shut-down
- TBP Budget runs regular reports of lapsing funds—consult Joy Whren for additional information on which funds will lapse
- Lapsing funds return to the program and are reapportioned to all eligible states on the basis of the SSO formula

# Goals and Objectives

TEAM had been in use since 1998, and technology has changed over time. We have the opportunity to build our grants system on a more flexible, efficient, and cost-effective platform

- **Efficiency:** FTA and its grantees will be able to consolidate redundant activities and streamline grant making and grant management processes
- **Transparency:** Stakeholders inside and outside FTA will be better able to understand how taxpayer dollars are awarded and disbursed for specific transit projects and services
- **Integrity:** Improved internal controls will help ensure that grants are awarded and managed consistent with Federal requirements
- **Consistency:** Data and information in TrAMS will match information found in related government IT systems
- **Flexibility**” The new system can be modified more quickly, easily and cost-effectively to make improvements and respond to new directives

## Results So Far...

As of Mid-July:

- Over 220 grants awarded for more than \$.14 billion
- Over 635 applications being reviewed by FTA
- Approx. 800 applications being drafted by grantees
- Over 450 applications closed

# Resolving Technical Difficulties

- Some individuals had trouble logging on due to outdated email address in TEAM migrated into TrAMS
- FTA contractors being deactivated or having problems with system access
- A glitch that duplicated certain budget activity line items has delayed award of some applications. (We have made a fix)
- TrAMS sent quarterly MPR and FFR tasks/emails to State DOTs and others who should be reporting annually
- Too many FFR and MPR reminder emails! (These have been turned off)
- A glitch associated with TEAM grants with non-add scopes is causing these scopes to be additive on post-award actions
- TrAMS data reports still need fixes and enhancements

# Unfamiliar TrAMS Users

- Please do not deactivate FTA contractors who have access to your organization
- Contractors appear in your organization's list of TrAMS users if they need access to your organization to do business with FTA
- These contractors have read-only access to your organization

# How long will TEAM remain available?

- TEAM will remain open in a “Read Only Status” through August 15, 2016
- This will allow users to review and to view/print information that resides in TEAM
- All other functions (create, modify, reporting, etc...) will continue to be disabled

# Reporting Errors/Issues to the Help Desk

## Help Desk: (877) 561-7466

### [FTA.TrAMS.Help@DOT.GOV](mailto:FTA.TrAMS.Help@DOT.GOV)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Your Name  | 1. Brief Description of Issue (steps of what you were trying to do) |
| 2. Your Email/Phone Number  | 2. Screenshots of forms/error messages                              |
| 3. Incident Number (if you called the Helpdesk and already have one)                          | 3. User Type (FTA vs. Recipient)                                    |
| 4. Date/Time incident occurred  | 4. Cost Center/Region   |
| 5. Environment (Production vs. Training)  | 5. User Roles   |
| 6. Browser and Version (Chrome vs Internet Explorer vs Firefox vs Safari vs Tablet vs Other?) | 6. Recipient ID (if applicable)                                     |
|   | 7. Application Number (if applicable)                               |

# Resources Available on the TrAMS Website

- The TrAMS user manual
- Presentations and recordings for prior trainings
- Guidance on developing applications
- The TrAMS help desk and FTA LSM contacts
- **Sign up for alerts when we update the TrAMS page**

<http://www.fta.dot.gov/TrAMS>



# Questions?

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