



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Transit  
Administration**

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## **REGION 10 BULLETIN NO: 2011-23**

Subject: Outstanding Achievement Award for Excellence in Environmental Document Preparation

Program Area: Environmental

Date: May 17, 2011

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) created the Outstanding Achievement Award for Excellence in Environmental Document Preparation to promote efficient development of useful environmental documents. The award recognizes environmental documents that exemplify best practices for a well-managed environmental documentation process, comply with prevailing requirements and expectations, and achieve the objective of paperwork reduction.

FTA-funded project sponsors and their consultants are eligible to submit environmental impact statements and environmental assessments that meet the selection criteria.

The environmental documents submitted for the award are evaluated based on:

- Content – Are the content requirements of the NEPA implementing regulations and relevant guidance satisfied?
- Utility – Is the document designed to be truly useful to the public and decision-makers?
- Practicality – Have procedures to reduce paperwork and delay been effectively employed? (See 40 CFR §1500.4 and §1500.5 at [http://www.fta.dot.gov/documents/40CFR1500\\_4\\_5.pdf](http://www.fta.dot.gov/documents/40CFR1500_4_5.pdf)).

Please refer to Keys to Efficient Development of Useful Environmental Documents <http://www.fta.dot.gov/documents/enviroDocs.pdf> as a helpful reference.

FTA Regions perform the initial screening and submit recommendations to FTA Headquarters. FTA Headquarters, in cooperation with recognized experts in the field, evaluates submissions and determines the award winners.

The project sponsor submits materials to the Planning Director of the FTA Region in which the project is located. An eligible submission includes an electronic copy of the environmental document and a brief cover letter (no more than three pages) explaining how the document meets the selection criteria. **Applications will be accepted from April 22 (Earth Day) to June 1.**

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**Winners will be notified by September 15.** Awards will be presented at the American Public Transportation Association's Annual Meeting in October in San Antonio, <http://www.apta.com/mc/conferences/allother/2010annual/Pages/default.aspx>.

Additional information may be found on the FTA Environmental Planning web site [http://www.fta.dot.gov/planning/environment/planning\\_environment\\_8191.html](http://www.fta.dot.gov/planning/environment/planning_environment_8191.html).

For further information, contact Region 10's Carrie Deichl at (206) 220-4307 or email [carrie.deichl@dot.gov](mailto:carrie.deichl@dot.gov).

Sincerely,



*for* R.F. Krochalis  
Regional Administrator