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**Federal Transit
Administration**

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REGION 10 BULLETIN NO: 2012-71

Subject: National Online Dialogue on Transit Asset Management

Program Area: Training

Date: December 14, 2012

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) invites you to participate in a National Online Dialogue on Transit Asset Management (TAM), December 12, 2012 – January 4, 2013.

Why an Online Dialogue?

The new Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) law sets forth new asset management requirements for all providers of public transportation services that receive grant assistance from FTA. This dialogue will provide public transportation stakeholders with an opportunity to provide comments to FTA on certain TAM requirements in MAP-21 in advance of FTA beginning a related rulemaking process. Comments will also be taken when the rulemaking is published in the Federal Register. This dialogue is free, open to the general public, and will be accessible 24/7 so that you can easily log on from work or from home.

Who Should Participate?

- States
- MPOs
- Local governments
- Transit agencies
- Non-profits and transit advocacy groups

Why Should I Participate?

We want to hear from our grantees, sub-recipients, and other stakeholders who will be affected by the new TAM rule, which should reflect the diversity and complexity of the transit industry. No one knows better the challenges faced by transit providers than those people working daily to keep America moving; share that insight with us. Your thoughtful responses will help to ensure that FTA's final TAM rule is clear and straightforward.

How Can I Participate?

Give us an idea, comment on someone else's idea or vote on someone else's idea, or comment! There are lists of questions that can guide your initial thoughts, but any feedback on TAM is welcome!

You may register online as an individual or a provider at any time. Once registered, you may add your recommendations, observations, vote on others' comments, and add your comments to other posts.

To learn more, follow <http://tam.ideascale.com>.

Suggested Topics Covered in the Dialogue

- How should FTA define State of Good Repair?
- What elements should be included in a TAM Plan?
- How will I know my TAM Plan meets FTA requirements?
- What triggers when I have to revise my TAM Plan?
- Should FTA tailor TAM Plan requirements to accommodate different sized transit systems?
- What kind of technical assistance should FTA offer to aid transit agencies in meeting these requirements?
- How should the requirement for state of good repair performance measures be implemented and integrated with the new MAP-21 performance-based planning process?
- Any other topics that you feel should be considered as we approach the TAM rulemaking.

What Happens to the Information Captured in the Dialogue?

Once the online dialogue has closed, you will be able to receive a report highlighting the full range of comments and suggestions, and to see which ideas were most popular. This information will help to guide us in the preparation of a final TAM rule.

A number of factors will contribute to the final TAM rule, including input from the public. Please note however, that while we value all of the feedback that we receive the final rule may not reflect all comments made in this dialogue or other related commentary venues.

Background Material

In response to the establishment of MAP-21, FTA put together a wealth of material on its web site, <http://www.fta.dot.gov/map21>, to help clarify new or changing programs. A list of frequently asked questions can be found there as well as past MAP-21 webinars, outreach opportunities, summaries, PowerPoint's and fact sheets. The program fact sheets for TAM and for Metropolitan & Statewide and Nonmetropolitan Transportation Planning in particular will be a useful resource to review in advance of participating in the online dialogue. The fact sheet may be found at

http://www.fta.dot.gov/documents/MAP-21_Fact_Sheet_-_Metropolitan_and_Statewide_and_Nonmetropolitan_Transportation_Planning.pdf.

Please register to give us an idea, comment on another idea or vote on an idea by clicking on the register link at the top right of the page on web site <http://tam.ideascale.com> or scrolling down to click on the Submit A New Idea button.

You can also chose to login using your Facebook, Gmail, Yahoo, Twitter, LinkedIn, or AOL account by selecting the log-in link at the top right of the page. Once you have registered and logged in:

- Please review the Campaign Areas to the left or browse the ideas below.
- Pick the Campaign Area or idea of your choice and click on it. Then select the “Submit New Idea” Button to share an idea.
- Comment or vote on someone else’s idea.
- Encourage other transportation professionals to join the dialogue and share experiences

Check Back Frequently

New questions and comments will be continually posted so please check back often and contribute.

For questions or problems joining this dialogue, contact Crystal Frederick at email crystal.frederick@dot.gov.

For further information, contact Region 10’s Steve Saxton at 206-220-4311 or email james.saxton@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

for R.F. Krochalis
Regional Administrator

