

## March 22, 2017 Region V Webinar

### Questions & Answers

1. With the transition of staff in Region V when will the email contacts be available for our Pre-Award Manager be available?
  - If you are transitioning to a new pre-award manager, your leadership will receive an email from our Regional Administrator which will include the contact information. In addition, your new pre-award manager will be reaching out to you.
2. Does FTA have a preference for amendments or can new grants be done - especially if they are super grants with multiple projects? I feel like there is a bias toward amendments.
  - Amendments are reasonable for awards where the recipient is continuing the scope of work originally awarded. Amendments are reasonable when adding a second or third year of apportioned funds for the purposes of operating or preventative maintenance. Amendments are not the best method for adding “new” scope of work. In this case, a new application/award is preferable.
3. Are the Purchase Order# s assigned by FTA?
  - Purchase Order numbers are assigned by FTA during the grant review process. This information identifies the fund source and may not be modified. This information is also needed for recipients to complete ECHO drawdowns.
4. Should the ALI code 113 always be used for the 1% safety and security funding even if another ALI fits the project scope better?
  - Generally, yes, but please discuss with your pre-award grant representative.
5. If I close out a grant with remaining funds - How long does it take for deobligated funds to be available to put into a grant?
  - This typically takes 1-2 weeks but the timeframe may vary due to the time of year. Please contact your assigned pre-award manager for more details prior to initiating a grant close out if you are doing so for the purposes of re-obligating the funds.
6. Is the offline grant still entered into TRAMS and officially submitted when the FTA Grant manager and grantee have agreed that the grant is complete?
  - Grantees may work on grants prior to transmitting to FTA for preliminary review. The FTA Region V Office encourages grantees to keep their pre-award manager apprised when working on new draft grants in TrAMS so that we can provide guidance and feedback. Please contact your assigned pre-award manager for more details.
7. Can we submit a new application in TrAMS if our DBE Program or EEO Program are still under review?

- Yes. Please see Section 5 of the TrAMS recipient user guide at [https://www.transit.dot.gov/sites/fta.dot.gov/files/docs/Recipient\\_document.pdf](https://www.transit.dot.gov/sites/fta.dot.gov/files/docs/Recipient_document.pdf) for more details.
8. We've noticed that you can only have one Grant No. per ECHO Request, will this continue since we are having to drill down to the Scope and Suffix level??
- This is required to achieve the level of accountability and transparency FTA desired with the transition to the new system and application format.
9. Will these slides be available to print?
- Yes, the slides are available for printing at <https://www.transit.dot.gov/sites/fta.dot.gov/files/docs/2017%20Grant%20Development%20Webinar.pdf>
10. Will we be able to copy grants in TrAMS from previous grants similar to the way we did it in TEAM?
- This capability is currently not available in TrAMS.
11. My state DOT (FHWA designated recipient) requires a final FAIN for transfer of the funds to FTA. This was a huge problem last year because the grant application can't be submitted until the funding is in FTA hands (from FHWA). Has this been addressed at all? This is related to CMAQ/STP (flexible) funding.
- As noted in Section 6.8.3 of the TrAMS recipient user guide located at [https://www.transit.dot.gov/sites/fta.dot.gov/files/docs/Recipient\\_document.pdf](https://www.transit.dot.gov/sites/fta.dot.gov/files/docs/Recipient_document.pdf), the FTA assigns the FAIN after completing the initial, preliminary review of a grant and prior to its submission. Up until that point a temporary application number is available for use if needed. This temporary application number remains available for use even after the FAIN is assigned.