

February 7, 2012

To: Members of the Transit Committee

From: Alice Chen

Subject: FY 2012 Discretionary Grants

On February 6, 2012, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Department of Transportation (DOT) released three (3) Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFAs) for transit and transit related projects. There are two initiatives under the Section 5309 Bus and Bus Facilities capital program: (1) State of Good Repair Initiative (SGR) and (2) Bus Livability Initiative and one in support of Section 5308 Clean Fuels Program. The program directives and deadlines are as follows (Attachment 7a).

<b>Program Name</b>	<b>State of Good Repair</b>	<b>Livability</b>	<b>Clean Fuels</b>
Available Funding	\$650,000,000	\$125,000,000	\$51,500,000
Eligible Activities	The SGR Initiative Program is intended to contribute to the improvement of the condition of transit capital assets by providing financial assistance for recapitalization of buses and bus facilities.	The Bus Livability Initiative makes funds available to public transportation providers to finance capital projects to replace, rehabilitate, and purchase buses and related equipment and to construct bus-related facilities, including programs of bus and bus-related Projects	Assist nonattainment and maintenance areas in achieving or maintaining the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone and CO and to support emerging clean fuel and advanced propulsion technologies for transit buses and markets for those technologies. * FTA will also accept applications from attainment areas and may fund these projects using Bus and Bus Facilities funds.
FTA Deadline	11:59 pm EDT March 22, 2012	11:59 pm EDT March 29, 2012	11:59 pm EDT April 5, 2012
MAG Deadline	10:00 am CST March 8, 2012	10:00 am CST March 15, 2012	10:00 am CST March 22, 2012

Prior to the release of the NOFAs, on January 25, 2012, the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) hosted a workshop attended by transit operators in the region as well as some transit committee members to discuss potential project submissions (Attachment 7b). MAG proposed a submittal process for 2012 that is similar to the one utilized in 2011. It is as follows:

- Agencies interested in participating are required to provide the following documentation to MAG by the dates outline above:
  - Completed application including project cost estimate
  - Documentation of local match (CIP, budget, letter of commitment)
  - Support letter from city manager's office
  - NEPA documents if necessary
  - Fleet information if necessary
- MAG staff will work in collaboration with City of Phoenix and RPTA staff to prepare the applications
- All eligible projects with associated documentation will be recommended to MAG Regional Council for approval and submitted to FTA for consideration of funding

MAG staff, in coordination with City of Phoenix and RPTA, are proposing an alternative process that will only include projects that are deemed to be most consistent with FTA's funding principles and using guidelines from nationally awarded 2011 projects (Attachments 7c & d)

In addition to the process stated above:

- Form a task force consisting of 9 members: City of Phoenix, RPTA, METRO, MAG staff (2), 2 bike-pedestrian, 2 transit committee (1 east, 1 west valley each). The intent would be to identify:
  - Criteria for project selection
  - Projects that best fit with FTAs guidance, utilizing nationally awarded projects as benchmarks
  - Projects that have regional significance or are in the regional plan
- Only projects that are recommended by the task force will be recommended to MAG Regional Council for approval and be submitted to FTA for consideration of funding
- All other documentation and deadlines requirements remain unchanged

The submittal deadline does not allow enough time for the March 8, 2012 transit committee to make final recommendations and acquire approval by MAG Regional Council under the task force scenario. The Transit Committee may elect to call a special meeting or allow the projects to go to MAG Regional Council without further input.

Please be prepared to discuss the two options at the February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. We look forward to the committee's input on the matter. If you have any questions, please contact Alice Chen at the MAG office at 602-452-5066 or [achen@azmag.gov](mailto:achen@azmag.gov).

cc: MAG Intergovernmental Representatives