

MEMORANDUM

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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TO: Transit and Intermodal Committee

FROM: Mark Imhoff, Director, Division of Transit & Rail

DATE: April 9, 2012

RE: Report on FTA Section 5309 Activities

At your last meeting we presented an overview of the grant programs managed by DTR. It included mention of the FTA Section 5309 program. We recently had some activity in this program that I'd like to summarize for you.

BACKGROUND – FTA Section 5309 is a discretionary grant program that offers funding for capital projects. This discussion is about one portion of it: the Bus and Bus Facilities program. B&BF funds have been distributed at the discretion of Congress for a number of years, by means of Congressional earmarks. However, since has for now halted its earmarking, these funds instead revert to the FTA for distribution by means of a nationwide competitive application process. Projects from urbanized areas submit applications directly to the FTA. The FTA requires that projects from rural areas be submitted as part of a consolidated state grant application and has suggested that it is helpful if the state DOT prioritizes the projects. The FTA makes all project selections.

The FTA has further divided B&BF into four subprograms, each with their own focus and criteria: **State of Good Repair** (SGR) is available primarily for bus replacements and facilities that support them. **Bus Livability** focuses on projects that tie in to housing and other community facilities, while the emphasis of **Clean Fuels** is on alternative fueling technologies. The **Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative** (VTCLI) offers funding for software and hardware used to support “one-call/one-click” coordinated call and dispatch systems used to serve human services programs for the elderly, disabled, and veterans.

DTR solicited applications for these four programs from operators in rural areas. We reviewed and scored them, using two DTR staff members, a representative from DTD and one from the Policy Office, using general criteria approved by this committee a year ago. The criteria focus primarily on the mileage and age of buses, project readiness and benefits, and the responsiveness to the FTA's criteria.

We believe it helps our consolidated application to rank the projects rather than leave all the decision making to the FTA, since we have a better understanding of the projects. We also believe we should not advance projects if they do not seem to adequately conform to the FTA criteria.

Twelve SGR projects were submitted to the FTA. Six other projects were not submitted. All four Bus Livability projects and both of the requested Clean Fuels projects, were submitted to the FTA. The deadline for submitting VTCLI applications is still two weeks away, but we expect to submit applications for four continuing projects awarded funds last year.

State of Good Repair applications submitted:

CDOT Rank	Agency, Agency Priority	Project	Federal amount requested
1	RFTA (3)	Replace four (4) full-size coaches	\$1,600,000
2	Town of Mountain Village (2)	Gondola Gear Motors and Drives End of Service Life Replacement	\$60,000
3	Summit Stage	2 Bus Replacements	\$704,000
4	City of Durango (2)	Rolling Stock Replacement – 1 Trolley Bus	\$112,000
5	Town of Breckenridge	Replacement of 2 buses	\$600,000
6	Town of Mountain Village (1)	Vanpool vehicle replacement (5 vehicles)	\$100,000
7	Town of Avon	Replacement of 3 buses	\$868,500
8	RFTA (2)	Aspen Maintenance Facility Re-commissioning, Phase III	\$4,800,000
9	Crested Butte (2)	26' Bus Replacement	\$93,600
10	RFTA (4)	Glenwood Maintenance Facility Expansion, Phase I	\$2,400,000
11	Crested Butte (1)	38' Bus Replacement	\$116,000
12	Town of Telluride	Vehicle Replacement	\$96,000

Projects not submitted:

CDOT Rank	Agency, Agency Priority	Project	Federal amount requested	Rationale for non-submittal
13	Wet Mountain	ADA equipped van (replacement)	\$40,000	metrics*, local match
14	Town of Snowmass Village (1)	Snowmass Village 1 - Two Replacement Vehicles, Small-Sized, Heavy-Duty	\$100,000	metrics
15	City of Durango (1)	Project LIVE: Bus garage, parking structure, bikeshare, electric vehicle plug-in	\$7,688,441	not aligned with FTA criteria
16	Town of Snowmass Village (2)	Town of Snowmass Village, 2 Replace 1 Vehicle – Medium-Sized, Light Duty	\$56,408	metrics
17	City of Durango (4)*	Bus replacement – one Type I Paratransit Bus	\$72,000	metrics
18	City of Durango (3)	Bus replacement – two Type II Buses	\$128,000	metrics

* Metrics are measured by FTA Minimum Useful Life guidelines for miles, age

Bus Livability applications submitted (all):

CDOT Rank	Agency	Project	Federal Amt Requested
1	RFTA	Aspen Airport/Aspen Business Center BRT Station grade-separated pedestrian crossing	\$2,000,000
2	RFTA	Town of Basalt/RFTA BRT Station grade-separated pedestrian crossing	\$2,080,000
3	Steamboat Springs Transit	GPS System Purchase and Installation	\$65,683
4	City of Durango	Project LIVE: Bus garage, parking structure, bikeshare, electric vehicle plug-in	\$7,688,441

Clean Fuels applications submitted (all, unranked):

Agency	Project	Federal Amount Requested
RFTA	Replace 4 vehicles with CNG vehicles	\$1,600,000
Via Transit	Purchase 3 CNG vehicles	\$136,950