

STATE OF COLORADO

Department of Transportation

Transit Unit,
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May 10, 2010

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2011

Persons Interested in Specialized, Rural, Small Urbanized, and Intercity Transportation Services:

I am writing to announce the availability of financial assistance for calendar year 2011 from three programs funded by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and administered by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT). The programs are: (1) [why not rural as well?] JARC FTA Section 5316, (2) rural New Freedom FTA Section 5317 and (3) Intercity Bus (ICB) FTA 5311(f). CDOT will make the application available through the Department's Transit Unit website (http://www.dot.state.co.us/App_transit/).

CDOT conducted an application process for 2010 and 2011 funding in calendar year 2009 and awarded funding for 2010. However, there are additional funds available in the JARC and New Freedom programs and CDOT has identified additional needs in the ICB program.

For those agencies currently receiving Section 5310 and/or 5311 funding, CDOT requests that you indicated that you are submitting an UPDATE *not* a new application.

If your agency is currently receiving 5316, 5317, or 5311(f) funding and will be requesting additional funding *above and beyond* what was requested in your application submitted in May of 2009, or if you have a *new project*, then please indicate that you are submitting a NEW application. NEW applicants for 2010 Section 5316, Section 5317, or 5311 (f) funding, must meet planning and other requirements (see below). New applicants must complete the entire grant application, and their applications will be evaluated by the appropriate CDOT Interagency Advisory Committee (IAC).

Colorado's small UZAs are Boulder, Grand Junction, Greeley, Longmont, Louisville/Lafayette, and Pueblo. If you are proposing a JARC or New Freedom project in a large UZA, you *cannot* apply to CDOT. You must apply to the designated recipient for your area. Check with your Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) if you're unsure who the designated recipient is. Colorado's large UZA's are Colorado Springs, Denver-Aurora, and Fort Collins.

An important prerequisite to project eligibility is the requirement that the services to be provided under either grant must be consistent with the state's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). For more information about planning eligibility, please contact John Valerio, CDOT Transit Planner, (303) 757-9769.

Currently, private for-profit (commercial) transit operators are not eligible recipients of funds under the above mentioned programs (except for ICB, as outlined above), but they can contract to provide service to, or lease federally funded equipment from eligible recipients.

Section 5316, Job Access and Reverse Commute program is intended *to improve access to transportation services to employment and employment related activities for welfare recipients and eligible low-income individuals*. Funds may be for capital, planning, and operating expenses that support the development and maintenance of transportation services to transport low-income individuals to and from jobs and job-related activities. The program requires participation in a human service transportation coordination plan.

Section 5317, New Freedom program, *seeks to expand the transportation mobility options available to persons with disabilities beyond the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990*. New Freedom is a new federal program authorized in SAFETEA-LU *to provide additional tools to overcome existing barriers facing Americans with disabilities*. It is intended to fill the gaps between human service and public transportation services and to facilitate the integration of individuals with disabilities into the workforce and full participation in the community. New Freedom funds are available for capital and operating expenses that support “new” (not existing *before* August 10, 2005) public transportation services and/or public transportation alternatives beyond those required by the ADA. Proposed projects must be both *new* and *beyond the requirements of the ADA*

Section 5311(f), Intercity Bus, encourages fixed-route, over-the-road bus service that is regularly scheduled and serves the general public. ICB service typically operates with limited stops connecting two or more urban areas not in close proximity or connecting one or more rural communities with an urban area not in close proximity. ICB service has the capacity for transporting baggage carried by passengers and makes meaningful connections with scheduled ICB service to more distant points. FTA gives preference to private bus operators who lawfully have provided rural highway passenger transportation over the routes or within the general area of the project.

Accessing the Application and Application Update

The online *application and application update* are available at: www.dot.state.co.us/App_Transit/ (there is an underscore between APP and Transit/). If your agency currently has a username and password issued by CDOT to access the Transit Program Website, please login to the system and fill out the application. The signature pages can be downloaded from the link located at the bottom of the online application instructions. The document is called 2010AppInstUpdate-CertsAssuresFILLABLE.doc.

Whether you are updating your 2010–2011 application or applying for a new project, you must update or complete the online Agency Profile and Capital Inventory. If you’re requesting any capital you must also complete the online Capital Request sections.

If your agency **does not** have a CDOT issued username and password, please call Eric Ellis, at the number below to discuss eligibility requirements.

You will email most of your application to Sylvia.Labrucherie@dot.state.co.us. Sylvia will email you a confirmation that she has received your application (If you submitted an application, but failed to receive a confirmation, it will be your responsibility to follow-up before the deadline to ensure that your application is received for consideration.). You will need to mail or hand deliver any attachments, specifically signed certificates and assurances by the due date., We recommend these important original documents be sent certified mail or through a private carrier (i.e. Fed Ex) in order to track the documents.

The combined grant application and application update will be available no later than May 10, 2010. The deadline is 45 days after the funding notice is issued. The completed application, including the forms that require original signatures, which will require being submitted via regular mail, must be received by CDOT no later than 5 pm June 28, 2010. There are no exceptions to this deadline.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

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