



NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD

Item #5

MEMORANDUM

November 19, 2014

TO: Transportation Planning Board

FROM: Kanti Srikanth
Director, Department of
Transportation Planning

Kanti

RE: Additional Letters Sent/Received

The attached additional letters sent/received will be reviewed along with other letters sent/received under item #5 of the November 19th TPB agenda.

Attachment

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments



One Region Moving Forward

District of Columbia
Bladensburg*
Bowie
Charles County
College Park
Frederick
Frederick County
Gaithersburg
Greenbelt
Montgomery County
Prince George's
County
Rockville
Takoma Park
Alexandria
Arlington County
Fairfax
Fairfax County
Falls Church
Loudoun County
Manassas
Manassas Park
Prince William County

November 17, 2014

Reginald B. Lovelace
Deputy Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration – Region III
1760 Market Street
Suite 500
Philadelphia, PA 19103-4124

Subject: MWCOG TIGER Grant (DC-78-0001) Status

Encl: (1) City of Alexandria Re: TIGER Grant Status, dated November 7, 2014
(2) DDOT Letter Re: TIGER Grant Status, dated October 28, 2014
(3) MDOT Letter Re: TIGER Grant Status, dated October 17, 2014
(4) PRTC Letter Re: TIGER Grant Status, dated October 16, 2014
(5) WMATA Letter Re: TIGER Grant Status, dated October 24, 2014

Dear Mr. Lovelace:

In response to your letter of September 25, 2014, on the progress of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' (MWCOG) TIGER Grant DC-78-0001, please find below the status and schedule of the sixteen projects included in the MWCOG TIGER grant. The table below summarizes the scheduled completion date for the sixteen component projects being carried out by the five implementing agencies and is followed by more detailed information on certain projects. I have also outlined the planned next steps aimed to complete implementation of the grant per the schedule outlined in your September 25, 2014 letter.

Additionally I am enclosing letters from the five implementing agencies, the City of Alexandria, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC), and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), have provided affirming their plans for and intention to complete their respective project activities of the TIGER Grant by the September 30, 2016 deadline.

As the TIGER grant funds have to be fully drawn down by September 30, 2016, MWCOG has established a deadline for the implementing agencies to complete all work funded by the grant by June 30, 2016. The June deadline has been set to ensure adequate time for invoicing by contractors, payment by the implementing agencies, submission of invoices and proof of payment to MWCOG, and subsequent drawdown for reimbursement from federal funds. Implementing agencies have been informed that they will have until August 30, 2016 to submit the final documentation to MWCOG.

*Adjunct Member

No.	Component Project	Implementing Agency	Scheduled Completion Date
1*	#2 - 16th Street Bus Priority Corridor Enhancements	DDOT	6/30/2016
2*	#3 - Georgia Avenue Bus Priority Corridor Enhancements	DDOT	6/30/2016
3	#4 - H Street/Benning Road Bus Priority Corridor Enhancements	DDOT	10/16/2015
4*	#5 - Wisconsin Avenue Bus Priority Corridor Enhancements	DDOT	6/30/2016
5*	#13 - Theodore Roosevelt Bridge to K Street Bus Priority Corridor Enhancements	DDOT	6/30/2016
6*	#14 - 14th Street Bridge to K Street Bus Priority Corridor Enhancements	DDOT	6/30/2016
7*	#6 - Addison Road Bus Priority Corridor Enhancements	WMATA	3/31/2016
8*	#11 - VA 7 (Leesburg Pike) Bus Priority Corridor Enhancements	WMATA	3/31/2016
9*	#16a - Pentagon & Franconia-Springfield Stations Improvements	WMATA	6/30/2016
10*	#7 - University Boulevard Bus Priority Corridor Enhancement	MDOT/SHA	2/29/2016
11*	#8 - US 1 (MD) Bus Priority Corridor Enhancements	MDOT/SHA	6/30/2016
12*	#9 - Veirs Mill Road Bus Priority Corridor Enhancements	MDOT/SHA	2/29/2016
13*	#18 - Takoma/Langley Transit Center	MDOT/MTA	12/31/2015
14	#10 - US 1 (VA) Transitway	CoA	12/31/2015
15	#12 - Van Dorn - Pentagon Bus Priority Corridor Enhancements	CoA	6/30/2016
16	#16b - PRTC Buses and ITS Technology	PRTC	5/31/2015

As may be noted from the above project schedule table we anticipate being able to complete implementation of all sixteen projects by June 30, 2016 to facilitate completing drawdown activity of FTA funds by September 30, 2016. We note that the anticipated project completion schedules for twelve projects (noted with an asterisk in the table) are contingent upon FTA's favorable consideration of revisions to the Activity Lime Item scopes and/or budgets in the FTA's TEAM system. A formal request for these revisions was submitted to the FTA's Region III office on October 28, 2014. The sections that follow detail the contents of the revision request, the key milestones, and MWCOG's contingency plans to address any inability to meet the critical milestones.

Revision Request

On October 28, 2014, MWCOG staff submitted a revision request to FTA officials. This detailed request, with supporting documentation from the implementing agencies, asks for twenty-three (23) modifications to the scope and budgets of the activity items, affecting twelve of the sixteen projects of the TIGER Grant. These revision requests are necessary due to developments since the grant application was originally submitted in 2009. Approval of the revision request by early January 2015 is critical to enabling the implementing agencies to move ahead with their projects to deploy new technologies and construct improvements in a way that represent the most cost-effective and feasible path.

Detailed Schedule

While the implementing agencies have outlined a work plan to complete the projects by the dates listed in the project schedule table above, MWCOG has identified a total of eight projects as having the greatest risk of incompleteness. These eight projects are grouped into two categories of projects – transit station improvements (grant project #16a) and transit signal priority (TSP) projects (grant projects # 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 13 and #14). The following sections focus on and provide some additional information on these two groups of projects.

Transit Station Improvement Project (WMATA)

The one project in this group is the Pentagon & Franconia-Springfield Stations Improvements referred to as project #16a in the TIGER grant document. The capital improvements under this project are being carried out by WMATA at two different transit stations: one at the Pentagon Transit Center and the other at the Franconia Springfield Station. Both of these planned project components are nearing completion of design but have submitted scope revisions that will have to be approved by USDOT and FTA before construction documents (Design, Permits, RFP, etc.) can be finalized leading to procurement and initiation of construction. With construction estimated to require most of a year to complete, finalization and approval of the scope revision will directly impact the anticipated project completion dates noted in the project schedule table above. The critical milestones for these projects are listed below:

ACTIVITY / Grant Project	#16a Pentagon Transit Center	# 16a Franconia Springfield Station
Approval of Scope Revisions	1/9/2015	1/9/2015
Construction Documents Finalized	3/9/2015	12/23/2014
Construction Starts	3/31/2015	5/12/2015
Construction Completed	12/28/2015	3/21/2016
Project Close Out	2/29/2016	4/18/2016
Submit Final Invoices to MWCOG	4/30/2016	6/30/2016

Transit Signal Priority Technology Projects (WMATA, VDOT, DDOT, and MDOT)

This group of projects involves the implementation of Transit Signal Priority (TSP) along key corridors across the region and is part of nine of the sixteen TIGER grant projects. Seven of nine projects in this group are identified as having the greatest risk of incompleteness. These seven different projects are located in Virginia (one project), Maryland (one project) and the District of Columbia (five projects). The three Departments of Transportation are working with WMATA, which has the lead role in the procurement and testing of the systems to be installed. In case of the Maryland and the District projects WMATA will procure the system and the DOTs will install it. But with the Virginia project WMATA is responsible for installing and the pilot test of the system as well.

The TSP technology procurement for these corridors is the most innovative portion of the TIGER grant; however it is proving to be the most challenging in achieving coordination among the multiple agencies and departments. Timing traffic lights to detect and provide priority to buses is fundamental to improving the reliability of bus travel in the region, and the goal of the TIGER grant is to enable multiple TSP demonstration projects across the region to promote widespread deployment of this technology. WMATA is leading the procurement of the TSP technology and has leveraged other bus

technology contracts to provide for equipping the entire Metrobus fleet to use TSP. The technical challenge is in making the wayside component attached to the traffic signals work, which is complicated by the multiple makes and owners of traffic signals in use among the various roadway agencies in the region.

The TSP system will initially be installed and tested on VA-7 (Leesburg Pike), for which corridor the implementing agency is WMATA, working in close coordination with Virginia DOT and the local jurisdictions (City of Alexandria and City of Falls Church). The TSP system will subsequently be tested in the District and Maryland, each of which is procuring their own wayside traffic signal equipment. Successful compatibility testing across multiple wayside traffic signal systems is technologically challenging. It will be critical to resolve quickly any delays to the planned TSP projects as the current schedules show completion just before the end date of the TIGER grant. The critical milestones for TSP implementation are listed below. It must be noted that all of the seven projects listed below have requested scope revisions. Finalization and approval of the scope revisions will directly impact the anticipated project completion dates noted below.

	BUS PRIORITY CORRIDOR (BPC) ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS		
ACTIVITY / Grant Project(s)	Lead: WMATA (#11 VA-7 BPC)	Lead: DDOT (#2 16th Street BPC, #3 Georgia Avenue BPC, #5 Wisconsin Ave. BPC, #13 TR Bridge BPC, #14 14th St. Bridge BPC)	Lead: MDOT/SHA TSP (#8 US-1 BPC)
RFP/IFB Issued	<i>completed 10/27/2011</i>	12/31/2014	<i>Using DDOT contract</i>
Approval of Scope Revisions	1/9/2015	1/9/2015	1/9/2015
Contract Award	<i>completed 12/9/2013</i>	3/31/2015	6/30/2015
TSP Field Testing	1/15/2015	6/19/2015	9/30/2015
TSP Implementation	4/13/2015	3/31/2016	3/31/2016
Project Close Out	6/8/2015	6/30/2016	06/30/2016
Submit Final Invoices to MWCOG	8/30/2016	8/30/2016	8/30/2016

We would be happy to respond to any request for additional information on the above projects or on the current status of the other projects in the TIGER Grant.

Next Steps

For the TIGER grant projects to be completed on time and the grant funds expended by the September 30, 2016 deadline, two sets of actions are critical:

1. Approval of the October 28 revision request by FTA and the US DOT Office of the Secretary by January 9, 2015.
2. The projects must meet the critical milestones above.

In the event any of the above scheduled dates are not met for a particular project(s), MWCOG will propose re-programming of the funds among the implementing agencies and their projects to any feasible alternatives that meet the intent and scope of the grant and can be completed within the time remaining for the TIGER grant. If feasible alternatives cannot be identified or are not approved by the FTA, MWCOG will direct the implementing agency for the particular project(s) to stop work funded by

the grant, in which case the remaining funds will be rescinded to the FTA. For projects that are stopped under the grant, the implementing agency will be required to either complete the project with funding from other sources or to reimburse the FTA for previous expenditures on the project funded by the TIGER grant.

MWCOG proposes that a meeting be held in the first week of June 2015 with FTA and the implementing agencies to review the progress of the critical projects of the TIGER grant and make a final determination on whether to fund the completion of these projects.

Implementation of the TIGER grant projects will provide a wealth of practical experience across the region in making bus transit more effective and efficient and meeting the aspirations of thousands of bus riders, catalyzing further investments to make bus transit more effective and efficient to meet the aspirations of thousands of bus riders. MWCOG is working closely with the implementing agencies to complete these projects on time and make best use of the 100% Federal funds of the TIGER Grant.

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation in implementing this important set of projects in the National Capital Region. I am directing Mr. Eric Randall of my staff, at 202-962-3254 or erandall@mwco.org, serving as the TIGER Grant Coordinator to assist your office with any further information needed. Please do feel free to contact me if I can be of further assistance in the matter.

Sincerely,



Chuck Bean
Executive Director
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

Cc: Mr. Yon Lambert, Acting Director T&ES, City of Alexandria
Mr. Matthew Brown, Director, District Department of Transportation
Mr. Donald Halligan, Director, Office of Planning and Capital Programming, Maryland
Department of Transportation
Mr. Alfred Harf, Executive Director, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission
Mr. Richard Sarles, General Manager and Chief Executive Officer, Washington Metropolitan
Area Transit Authority
Mr. Corey Walker, FTA, DC Metro Office
Mr. Kanti Srikanth, Director of Transportation Planning, MWCOG
Mr. Eric Randall, TIGER Project Coordinator, MWCOG