

# National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Suite 300, Washington, D.C. 20002-4290 (202) 962-3310 Fax: (202) 962-3202 TDD: (202) 962-3213

## **Item #5**

### **NEW FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION LIVABILITY PROGRAMS**

In June 2009, the US Department of Transportation (DOT) joined with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and created an interagency partnership, known as "The Livability Initiative," to coordinate federal transportation, housing, and environmental protection investments.

On December 8, 2009, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced two grant programs under this Livability Initiative: The Livability Bus Program and the Urban Circulator Program. Through these programs, FTA will invest in projects that fulfill 6 principles of The Livability Initiative: provide more transportation choices; promote equitable, affordable housing; enhance economic competitiveness; support existing communities; coordinate policies and leverage investment; value communities and neighborhoods. Applications submitted for each of these program funds will be evaluated by FTA in coordination with HUD and EPA. The deadline for applications under both programs is February 8, 2010, and awards will be announced in early 2010.

### **FTA LIVABILITY BUS PROGRAM**

#### Highlights

- \$150 million in unallocated Discretionary Bus and Bus Facilities funds for capital projects.
- 20% local match is required. FTA will not approve deferred local share. No floor/upper limit constraint.
  - FTA intends to fund as many projects as possible – applicants selected for funding may receive less than the amount originally requested.
- Projects must be ready to begin upon receipt of award.
- Projects must have a demonstrated need for resources.

#### Key Requirements

- Eligible Expenses: Capital Projects to purchase and rehabilitate buses, vans, and bus-related equipment (including ITS, fare equipment, communication devices), or construct and rehabilitate bus-related facilities.
- Eligible Applicant: WMATA (Direct Recipient, Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Program)
  - Eligible subrecipients are public agencies, private non-profit organizations, and private providers engaged in public transportation.
- MPO Role:
  - TPB must endorse project, indicating project is a regional priority (part of FTA evaluation criteria)
  - If awarded, project must be incorporated into TIP and CLRP

## **FTA URBAN CIRCULATOR PROGRAM**

### Highlights

- \$130 million in unallocated Discretionary New Starts/Small Starts Program funds available for urban circulator projects (eg: streetcars, corridor-based bus projects that meet six specific minimum requirements).
- At least 20% local match required. FTA will not approve deferred local share. Applicants must seek less than \$25 million in federal funds.
- Projects must have a schedule demonstrating construction can begin within 18 months of award.

### Key Requirements

- Eligible expenses: New fixed guideway capital projects (including acquisition of real property, rolling stock, rights-of-way, and relocation). Projects must be based on results of alternative analysis and preliminary engineering.
- Eligible Applicant: Public bodies and agencies including states, municipalities, other political subdivisions of states, public agencies and instrumentalities of one or more states, certain public corporations, boards, and commissions established under State law and authorized to engage in public transportation.
- MPO Role:
  - No specific MPO endorsement required; applicants encouraged to notify MPO if funding will affect region
  - Projects must satisfy requirements for inclusion in TIP and CLRP before grant award.