



September 28, 2016

Subject: Call for FTA Section 5303 Projects – FY2018 Grant Application Package for Metropolitan Planning

To: Public Transportation Partners

From: Jamie A. Cochran, FAICP – Transit Program Manager

Copies: Carol Comer – Intermodal Division Director, Nancy Cobb – Intermodal Administrator, and Robert Hiatt – President, Georgia Transit Association; Corey Hull – GA Association of MPOs; Cindy VanDyke – GDOT Planning Administrator

Dear Public Transportation Partner:

The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) is pleased to announce its annual call for projects for its FY2018 federal transit funding under the Federal transportation authorization entitled “Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act” or FAST Act. Within this authorization, Federal funding is provided through the Federal Transit Administration’s (FTA’s) Section 5303 Program for Metropolitan Planning. This program provides funding to support public transportation planning in Census-designated urbanized areas with a population of 50,000 or more. Eligible recipients include metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) and State Departments of Transportation.

Federal planning law (49 U.S.C. 5303) calls upon local officials to cooperate with states and public transportation providers in undertaking a continuing, comprehensive, and cooperative multimodal transportation planning process. Well-organized, inclusive transportation planning can help a region meet current mobility needs, while preparing for future challenges. Should you elect to apply for this funding, it is very important that your completed grant application describe in detail the work activities and work products that will be completed with the requested funding and how they will contribute to improved metropolitan and/or statewide transportation planning.

We understand that the various metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) responsible for carrying out transportation planning consistent with federal regulations have varying fiscal year start and end dates. However, the Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget (OMB) has established firm deadlines issuing our call for projects as well as the deadline for receiving grant applications from interested parties. GDOT must announce its call for transit planning projects no later than September 29, 2016. The deadline for receiving completed applications from interested organizations is November 29, 2016.

GDOT will use the following evaluation criteria to assess the Section 5303 grant applications as shown in Table 1. Funding amounts to MPOs will depend on FTA fund availability and results of the grant application evaluation process.

Table 1: Section 5303 Grant Application Evaluation Criteria

Evaluation Criteria	Share of Total Points
Demonstrated value to improved metropolitan and/or statewide multimodal transportation planning	25
Past performance in Section 5303 contract management, including procurement, reimbursements, and technical project management	25
Technical soundness of current and prior Section 5303 work activities and deliverables	35
Integration of Section 5303 work products into comprehensive metropolitan transportation planning processes	15
TOTAL	100

The grant application has been prepared in a “fillable” Microsoft Word format for ease of entering text and numerical information. All potential subrecipients, should review this package carefully and complete all sections of the application as outlined in the instructions. If you have any questions or need technical assistance, please contact Mr. Theo Letman, Urban Transit Group Leader in GDOT’s Intermodal Office – Transit Program in our Atlanta office (phone number: 404-631-1238; e-mail address: tletman@dot.ga.gov).

Please submit your completed one (1) original signature application plus two (2) copies via U.S. Mail and an electronic copy (PDF) via e-mail by close of business on November 29, 2016 to the following address:

Mr. Theo Letman
GDOT Intermodal Office - Transit Program
One Georgia Center
600 W. Peachtree Street – 9th Floor
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Failure to meet this deadline may jeopardize your grant application. Please use the Section 5303 Grant Application Checklist in Appendix A to assure that your submittal is complete prior to sending it to GDOT. **Please make sure you schedule the approval of your application and exhibits, including your authorizing resolution in time to meet the November 29, 2016 deadline for submitting your application.**

Thank you for all that you do in support of public transportation on behalf of our Georgia citizens.

JAC:c