

December 20, 2019

FFY 2020 SECTION 5311 NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

The purpose of this notice is to announce the availability of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant funding financial assistance for Federal Fiscal Year 2020 and 2021 (to be allocated to sub-recipients October 2020-September 2022) administered by the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT).

ADOT's Multimodal Planning Division (MPD) administers the Rural Public Transit Program which makes Federal resources available to rural areas with a population under 50,000 for general public transit and intercity transportation.

Program Overview

The Formula Grants for Rural Areas Program, codified at 49 U.S.C. 5311 (Section 5311) is authorized under the provisions set forth in the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act), Public Law 112-141.

FTA apportions or awards funds to States, Indian tribes, or other eligible recipients located in rural areas for public transportation. Eligible activities include planning, administration, capital projects, operating costs, intercity and job access reverse commute projects.

Eligible applicants include local governments, non-profits, and Tribal governments. Private operators are eligible to apply for intercity funds through this program. Aside from planning requests, new applicants must have a planning feasibility study completed and an implementation and operations plan prior to application award.

Funding Available

For this two year application process approximately \$13 million will be available each year. This funding is dependent upon FTA apportionment and Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG). Statewide Planning funds may also be awarded.

Required Public Notice

Prior to submission, all applicants for Rural Public Transit Program funds must provide an opportunity for public involvement. Public notice must be sufficiently early for the public to

participate in the decision making process. The requirements for public notice are detailed in the 5311 Guidebook.

Further details about the Section 5311 grant programs can be found on the ADOT website <http://azdot.gov/planning/TransitProgramsandGrants>.

Application Webinars and Workshops

ADOT will host an in-person workshop as well as a webinar, which will provide applicants with training on how to use E-grants to apply for Section 5311 funds. The workshop and webinar will cover the same material, therefore, it is not necessary to attend both.

In-person Workshop	Monday, January 13, 2020 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm ADOT's Human Resources Development Center (HRDC) 1130 N 22 nd Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85009
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Webinar	Thursday, January 16, 2020 9:00 am to 11:00 am
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Email the 5311 Program Managers Sarah Fitzgerald at SFitzgerald@azdot.gov and Aubree Perry at APerry2@azdot.gov to RSVP for the in-person workshop or for the login details of the webinar.

All application materials are to be completed and submitted electronically using ADOT's E-Grants system found at <https://egrants.azdot.gov>. The 2020 5311 application will be available in E-Grants by December 20, 2019.

Applications are due by **February 20, 2020 at 3:00 pm**. Late applications will not be accepted.

Evaluation Criterion

The State's Long Range Plan requires that ADOT first fund preservation of systems, then modernization, and then expansion. ADOT Transit program through its State Management Plan first prioritizes the preservation of systems, then the expansion of current systems and finally new systems, while also considering Title VI and Environmental Justice factors to ensure equitable distribution of funds to eligible entities throughout Arizona.

The evaluation criteria address six specific areas: Appropriateness and Effectiveness of Service, Benefit to Rural Community, Financial and Managerial Capability, Local Commitment to Transit

and Accessibility, Safety and Training, and Coordination. Applicants from existing 5311 programs are evaluated based on current system performance, financial management, and contract deliverables. New applicants are evaluated on estimated performance and demonstrated operational and financial management capability.

Those who are awarded FTA funds will:

- Enter into a contract with, and become a Sub-recipient of ADOT.
- Be required to comply with all Federal program requirements.

If you have questions about the Section 5311 Program, please contact ADOT's 5311 Program Managers, Sarah Fitzgerald at SFitzgerald@azdot.gov or 602-712-7106 or Aubree Perry at APerry2@azdot.gov or 602-712-8947.

We look forward to receiving your application. Thank you for your interest in FTA funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jill Dusenberry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jill" being more prominent.

Jill Dusenberry
Transit Group Manager

ADOT operates its programs and services without regard to race, color, national origin or disability in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA).