

December 20, 2021

## **FFY 2022 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 2022 and 2023 (to be allocated to sub-recipients October 2022-September 2024) 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 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) of 2021, Public Law 117-58.

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 \$15 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 Webinar**

ADOT will host a webinar, which will provide applicants with training on how to use E-grants to apply for Section 5311 funds.

**Webinar**                      Wednesday, January 5, 2022  
9:00 am to 11:00 am

Email the 5311 Program Managers Deb Brunner at [DBrunner@azdot.gov](mailto:DBrunner@azdot.gov), Aubree Perry at [APerry2@azdot.gov](mailto:APerry2@azdot.gov) or Shatawn Reed at [SReed2@azdot.gov](mailto:SReed2@azdot.gov) 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 2022 5311 application will be available in E-Grants by December 20, 2021.

Applications are due by **February 23, 2022 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. The 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.

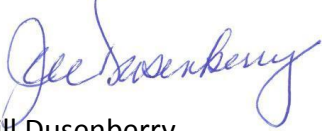
Those who are awarded FTA funds will:

- 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, Deb Brunner at [DBrunner@azdot.gov](mailto:DBrunner@azdot.gov) or 602-712-7106, Aubree Perry at [APerry2@azdot.gov](mailto:APerry2@azdot.gov) or 602-712-8947 and Shatawn Reed at [SReed2@azdot.gov](mailto:SReed2@azdot.gov) or 602-712-7318.

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 than the last name "Dusenberry".

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).