



**STATE PROGRAMS TEAM**  
**Federal Transit Administration Region IV**  
**ARRA Phase II Bulletin**

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September 30, 2009

**State DOT ARRA Update – Phase II**

**ARRA Contacts**

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| Reporting (TEAM, 1512, 1201) and Oversight | Andres Ramirez<br>Maggie Sandberg (non-DOT) | <a href="mailto:Andres.ramirez@dot.gov">Andres.ramirez@dot.gov</a><br>404-865-5611<br><a href="mailto:Maggie.sandberg@dot.gov">Maggie.sandberg@dot.gov</a><br>404-865-5612 |
| Grant Amendment Questions                  | Robert Buckley                              | <a href="mailto:Robert.buckley@dot.gov">Robert.buckley@dot.gov</a><br>404-865-5618   |
| Amendment Review Requests                  | Marie Lopez                                 | <a href="mailto:Marie.lopez@dot.gov">Marie.lopez@dot.gov</a><br>404-865-5616   |

**Important Dates / Timeline:**

ARRA formula apportionments must be obligated 100% by March 5, 2010.

***Non-urbanized Section 5311 ARRA Grants***

We are asking our DOT partners to assist us in meeting this goal. Based on lessons learned for ARRA Phase I, the review time for draft applications was approximately 2 months. Therefore we are asking that all the non-urbanized ARRA Section 5311 draft grant applications and all NEPA documents associated with these grants be sent to FTA for review by November 30, 2009. Please see the timeline below for non-urbanized ARRA Section 5311 applications:

- **November 30, 2009: Non-Urbanized ARRA Section 5311 draft applications and all NEPA documents associated due to FTA for review**
- **January 29, 2010: Region IV Goal of having all non-urbanized ARRA Section 5311 grants sent for release**
- **March 5, 2010: Second deadline to obligate funds**

***Urbanized Section 5307 ARRA Grants (ALDOT, GDOT, KYTC)***

For the urbanized areas, per the Federal Register notice, FTA is requiring grant applications for the remainder of the apportionments to be submitted to DOL no-later-than December 30, 2009 to ensure that all funds are obligated by March 5, 2010. FTA Region IV’s goal is to have all the formula ARRA applications for the remainder of the

apportionments and/or zero dollar amendments submitted in TEAM and sent to DOL no-later-than Friday, November 13, 2009. This will help avoid any issues that may arise over the holidays. This includes ARRA Section 5307 Governor's Apportionment applications from ALDOT, GDOT and KYTC. The urbanized area Section 5307 applications and general ARRA timeline is below:

- **October 1, 2008: Pre-award authority for Formula ARRA funds**
- **March 5, 2009: FTA published formula apportionments and program requirements in the Federal Register**
- **September 1, 2009: Deadline to obligate 50% of apportionment**  
*\*\*All of FTA Regions met this goal!\*\**
- **November 13, 2009: REGION IV Goal of having all applications submitted to DOL for the remaining ARRA Funds!! (Urbanized Areas)**
- **December 30, 2009: Second deadline to submit applications in TEAM/submission to DOL (Urbanized Areas)**
- **March 5, 2010: Second deadline to obligate funds**
- **September 30, 2010: Unobligated funds revert to Treasury**
- **September 30, 2015: Last day obligated funds available for drawdown from the U.S. Treasury**

**TIP/STIP:** All amendment requests for operating assistance (OA) or additional capital projects must be adequately programmed in the TIP/STIP. When you apply for the remainder of your apportionment or if you are applying for OA, please let your FTA DOT representative know when the STIP will be modified or amended, if this step has not been completed already. As with our process before, we can accept grants and submit them to DOL while we wait for the STIP to be approved.

**NEPA:** Be sure to contact us about projects that will be included in your 2nd round application. If you have a facility project or any capital project that will require a documented categorical exclusion or EA, please contact your FTA DOT Representative (w/cc to Robert Buckley) to indicate when we can expect the environmental document for review. All NEPA documents for the ARRA Section 5307 applications are due as soon as possible, for the ARRA Section 5311 applications by November 30, 2009. We do not want NEPA to be a showstopper and prevent your grant award.

**Annual Requirements must be met –Certification and Assurance(C&A); Civil Rights (CR):** When FTA publishes the 2010 C&A they must be pinned by both the grantee's attorney and agency official (on file) before we can process the grant. Last year there was a grace period where 2009 C&A were still good in 2010, if there are delays we expect this still may be the case during this 2nd round of ARRA awards. If you have not submitted your DBE goals we will not be able to award your grant, they were due August 1. If you have other expired plans – EEO or Title VI – this will also prevent our ability to award your 2nd ARRA grant. Be sure to check this information in TEAM and contact Frank Billue with questions.

#### **ARRA Grant Modifications**

**Amendments:** During Phase II recipients are allowed to submit applications for only two types of amendments:

1. Zero Dollar amendment to utilize the eligible 10% for operating assistance.

2. Amendment to add remainder of recipient's original apportionment.

All additions to the ARRA grant should be included in the TIP/STIP. Grantees should follow the guidelines of their local metropolitan planning organization (MPO) to determine whether the change in project scope would necessitate a formal amendment or an administrative modification. **Please provide updated Split/Allocation letters confirming the amount of eligible operating assistance for your small urbanized areas in your State.**

PLEASE NOTE: Grantee should clearly state in their amendment application what will be done with the ARRA funds. State whether you are adding funds to an existing Scope/ALI or if funds are being used for a new Scope/ALI. If you are adding a new Scope/ALI then the STIP/TIP must be updated and NEPA review is required (if applicable).

**Budget Revisions:** At this time, budget revision requests should not be combined with your amendment requests. FTA will be issuing additional budget revisions guidance about what is and isn't permissible. As of today, your grant amendment requests are limited to the two types of changes described above. These are the only changes that should be included in your grant amendment request.

#### **Operating Assistance Eligibility**

FAQ are posted on the FTA website; click the following link view OA questions and answers ([http://www.fta.dot.gov/index\\_9440\\_10006.html](http://www.fta.dot.gov/index_9440_10006.html)). If you have additional questions about OA please submit them to Robert Buckley (contact information provided above). Please note that you can only program OA for your current local FY plus one. You can reimburse OA expenses dating back to 10/1/2008.

#### **ARRA Reporting and Oversight**

The FTA Region IV DOT ARRA reporting and oversight contact is Andres Ramirez (contact information above). Please cc Maggie Sandberg (contact information above), the urbanized areas Region IV ARRA reporting and oversight contact, on all correspondence.

*FSR/MPRs:* All award recipients submitted their Financial Status Report (FSR) and Milestone Progress Report (MPR) for projects that were awarded by June 30, 2009. FSR/MPRs for ARRA grants are due 10 days after the end of each quarter. **The next due date for FSR/MPRs is October 10, 2009.** Please note, revised milestone dates must have a detailed explanation of why the original milestone date was changed.

*1201 – Results of August submission:* We received 100% participation, thank you. All award recipients submitted their 1201(c) report for projects that were awarded by July 31, 2009. Subsequent 1201 (c) reports are due February 17, 2010, February 17 2011, and February 17, 2012.

*1512 – Register Now.* **The first quarterly report is due October 10, 2009.** Grant recipients must register at [www.Federalreporting.gov](http://www.Federalreporting.gov) to complete the 1512 quarterly report. The registration period started on August 17, 2009 and closes on September 30, 2009. Grantees can start inputting information into the system on October 1 and have until October 10 to complete the report. **Please contact Andres Ramirez** via email at

[Andres.ramirez@dot.gov](mailto:Andres.ramirez@dot.gov) (with cc to Maggie Sandberg) once you have completed the registration process or if you have any questions.

Please keep in mind that raw data from the reports will be published on the Recovery.gov site on October 11, 2009. Recipients will still have the opportunity to review their information from October 11 – 20, 2009 before the report is published on October 30, 2009.

See the attached Supplemental USDOT Guidance on Jobs Reporting under Section 1512 of ARRA.

**ARRA Photos:** Please send us any photos showcasing your ARRA projects in action. Please make sure these photos are “action” shots (e.g. men and women working on-site, bulldozers plowing through the earth, buildings being demolished, huge holes in the ground, buses rolling off an assembly line, etc.). Please send your photos to Robert Buckley at [Robert.buckley@dot.gov](mailto:Robert.buckley@dot.gov).

### **ARRA Discretionary Programs**

**TIGGER:** Projects have been announced for the \$100 FTA Program for Transit Investments for Greenhouse Gas and Energy Reduction (TIGER). Announcements were made Monday, September 21 and the following projects were awarded from Region IV:

*Alabama: Montgomery Area Transit System (Montgomery), \$2,675,000.* Purchase of Five Hybrid Electric Buses: City of Montgomery-MATS proposes to purchase 30-35 foot low floor hybrid-electric buses in order to replace existing transit system buses.

*Florida: Palm Tran (West Palm Beach), \$320,000.* Diesel Bus Efficiency Improvements with Thermal Motor Fans: Purchase and install Thermal Motor Fans for diesel buses to improve bus efficiency and lower fuel costs.

*Florida: Broward County Transit, \$2,000,000.* Diesel Bus Efficiency Improvements bus cooling System retrofits: Replace the mechanically/hydraulically driven cooling system on buses with electrically powered devices in order to achieve fuel savings and reductions in energy and greenhouse gas emissions. BCT will purchase and install MiniHybrid Thermal Systems ("MH8") from EMP Advanced Development LLC (EMP) which will increase fuel efficiency by 5 percent.

*Georgia: Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority, \$10,800,000.* Laredo Bus Facility Solar Canopies: Provide shade structures with integrated, grid tied photovoltaic cells to be erected on the bus storage lot at the Laredo Bus Maintenance Facility. PV canopies will produce power and reduce temperatures underneath canopies. MARTA anticipates that the power produced by these photovoltaic panels will be sold to Georgia Power under their Distributed Generation Contract Program. The largest PV installation in Georgia.

*North Carolina: City of Charlotte/Charlotte Area Transit System (Charlotte), \$3,000,000.* Hybrid Buses: Upgrade a planned order of buses from diesel to hybrid technology. CATS' fleet and financial plans call for the replacement 1998, 1999 and 2007 year diesel buses with new diesel buses in fiscal year 2012. This project will upgrade the replacement buses to hybrid technology.

*Tennessee: Chattanooga Area Regional Transportation Authority (Chattanooga), \$650,000.* Lighting Upgrades for Facilities: Purchase and installation of approximately 1,724 existing fluorescent lights with LED lighting in seven areas of operation. This project would encompass CARTA's parking garage facilities, bus barn and shop, service lane, steam room, and maintenance shop.

Each of these agencies has been contacted by Region IV to begin the application process. For State DOTs, you should be aware that all these projects should be in the STIP and all funds obligated by March 31, 2010. Please work with your local MPOs to ensure these projects are amending into the STIP as funding with ARRA TIGGER funds.

**TIGER:** – Projects for the \$1.5B USDOT TIGER Program were due September, 15 2009. Eligible projects must be of regional or national significance and include highway, bridge, transit, passenger and freight rail and port infrastructure projects. Approximately 1400 projects were submitted totaling \$57B. Announcements are expected in mid-January 2010.

FTA Region IV appreciates your cooperation and effort in partnering with us to meet the overall goal of ARRA, which includes meeting the statutory requirement of obligating 100% of these funds by March 5, 2010. Information for Phase II of the ARRA grant process can be found on FTA Region IV website at [http://www.fta.dot.gov/regions/region4/regional\\_offices\\_9284.html](http://www.fta.dot.gov/regions/region4/regional_offices_9284.html) under ARRA Phase II Standard Operating Procedures.

Thank you,  
David, Andres, Parris and Robert  
Region IV State Programs Team