

Agenda
Federal Transit Administration – Region IV
State Programs Meeting
March 19-20, 2008

Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center (CMGC)
Chamber Room CH-14
600 East Fourth Street
Charlotte, NC

Wednesday, March 19, 2008

- 8:00 am** **Welcome and Introductions**
Miriam Perry, Director, Public Transit Division, NCDOT
Yvette Taylor, Regional Administrator, Region IV, FTA
- 8:15 am** **FTA Region IV Update - State Programs Team**
Yvette Taylor, Regional Administrator, Region IV, FTA
- 8:30 am** **“The Route to Success: Today and Beyond”**
What’s working and what’s not?
- 9:30 am** **Forward Thinking: The Road Ahead for Transit in your State**
(15 minute presentations by each State – Please see session description for more information.)
- 10:15 am** **Break**
- 10:30 am** **Forward Thinking: The Road Ahead for Transit in your State**
(15 minute presentations by each State – Please see attached session descriptions for more information.)
- 11:30 am** **Charter: Final Rule Highlights**
Jamie Pfister, State Programs Team, FTA
- 12:00 pm** **Working Lunch: North Carolina’s Rural Vanpool Program**
Dr. Travis Bradshaw, 2Plus, Inc.
- 1:15 pm** **Charlotte Area Transit (Lynx) Presentation**
Jim Zingale, CATS' Chief Operating Officer
- 1:30 pm** **TOUR: Charlotte Light Rail System (Lynx)**
- 4:00 pm** **Intercity Bus: How are intercity needs being met?**
David Schilling, State Programs Team, FTA
Wiley Brooks, ALDOT Study
- 5:00 pm** **Adjourn**
- 6:00 pm** **Group Dinner (TBA)**

Thursday, March 20, 2008

- 8:00 am** **Welcome back!**
FTA Administrators' Award
Region IV Awards Program
- 8:30 am** **Coordinated Planning - Part II**
Competitive Selection & Project Awards
David Schilling, State Programs Team, FTA
- 9:30 am** **Planning for Transit Facilities - Part II**
Keith Melton, Community Planner, FTA
- 10:15 am** **Break**
- 10:30 am** **Planning for Grant Making – Timing Considerations - Part II**
Myra Immings, State Programs Team, FTA
- 11:30 pm** **National Transit Database (NTD): Rural Reporting**
Jamie Pfister, State Programs Team, FTA
- 12:00 pm** **Lunch: Peer-to-Peer Exchange & Networking**
- Moderators:**
Myra Immings, State Programs Team, FTA
Judith Johnson, Communications & Marketing Services Team,
FHWA Resource Center
- 1:00 pm** **Oversight: State Management Reviews**
David Schilling, State Programs Team, FTA
- 1:30 pm** **Grant Management: Reporting & Close-outs**
Jamie Pfister, State Programs Team, FTA
- 2:00 pm** **“The Route to Success: Today and Beyond”**
Partnering with FTA
State Programs Team
Upcoming Opportunities
- 2:30 pm** **Adjourn**

Session Descriptions

“The Route to Success: Today and Beyond”

This roundtable session will be an opportunity for the participants to engage in an interactive discussion with Dr. Yvette Taylor, Regional Administrator, and the Region IV State Programs team about what is working and what isn't working under the current legislation, SAFETEA-LU. We invite participants to share State priorities and efforts underway with respect to implementing FTA programs, in particular, statewide and metropolitan planning, coordinated transportation programs, and the nonurbanized formula program.

Forward Thinking: The Road Ahead for Transit in your State

During this roundtable session, we ask that a representative from each State DOT address the following topics and questions:

1. Describe and explain your agency's organizational structure. What organizational changes are you expecting in the next 6-9 months?
2. Describe your State's transit vision, including short-term and long-term goals for transit in your State.
3. What successes or challenges do you expect with implementing your State's transit vision?

Intercity Bus: How are needs being met?

Wiley Brooks, ALDOT, will present information about Alabama's Statewide Intercity Bus Study, currently underway. States must spend 15 percent of the apportionment to support rural intercity bus service unless the Governor certifies that the intercity bus needs of the State are adequately met. SAFETEA-LU mandated an enhanced consultative process. While consultation between a State and intercity bus operators regarding the adequacy of intercity bus service within the State was encouraged prior to SAFETEA-LU, consultation is now mandatory for any State certifying that intercity bus needs are adequately met. For the States that certify intercity bus needs are being met, FTA is interested in hearing about their consultative process.

Coordinated Planning Part II

This session is a continuation of the Coordinated Planning session from the September 2007 meeting. Each State is asked to provide a brief update on its coordinated planning activities since we last met in September. During the session, we will discuss the latest issues revolving around the implementation of the Section 5310, 5316 and 5317 programs including strategies to obligate the funds, information to transfer the funds and best practices from around Region IV. We will close the session by asking the States “What's Next?” and discussing ideas for the future of these funds in the next reauthorization.

Planning for Grant Making – Timing Considerations

FTA will provide an overview and discuss all of the seemingly disparate planning tasks preliminary to grant application in a single, focused context—a timeline. Different types of grants require addressing different tasks, and different applications require input from different personnel resources—many of whom are not operating exclusively in support of the grant applications and may represent federal state and/or local entities as well as the

transportation-interested public. This session uses the Statewide and Metropolitan Planning Rule, Civil Rights Act compliance requirements, MPO actions including but not limited to Transportation Improvement Program and Unified Planning Work Program development, as well as DOL certification with attendant union negotiations, and National Environmental Policy Act compliance requirements, etc. as a structure for scheduling and coordinating planning activities leading up to submittal of complete FTA grant applications.

Planning for Transit Facilities

This updated presentation will address the many "cross-cutting" Federal requirements for developing a Transit Facility. Topics covered will include planning, feasibility, site assessment, environmental documentation, real estate, appraisal, risk, procurement and use of earmarks for facilities. The presentation is designed to enable the grantee to be aware of and better understand the various laws and regulations which govern the use of Federal funds for transit facilities; and their implications for grant-making. Finally, an internal checklist used by FTA Region IV for the review of TEAM grants will be described and shared with the participants.

Peer-to-Peer Exchange & Networking Lunch

FTA will moderate an informal peer-to-peer exchange and networking lunch on Thursday. During this session, we are interested in hearing from the participants on topics such as: how each State plans for FTA grant applications, including the management of subrecipients' applications; methodology for fiscal management of FTA funds; environmental stewardship/leadership within the State DOTs; how State DOT interaction with Transportation Management Areas (TMAs); and coping with transition and change.

Oversight: State Management Reviews

FTA will provide an update on the State Management Review Program, including common findings, updated guidance, and the plans for the 2008 Region IV State Management Reviews.

Grant Management: Reporting & Close-outs

FTA will address the requirements for submitting TEAM reports and processing grant close-outs.

“The Route to Success: Today and Beyond”

During this session, we will recap the meeting and discuss future partnering opportunities with the FTA, specifically the Region IV State Programs Team. Participants will be asked to share ideas for future meetings, quarterly meetings, and desired training. FTA will also share information and solicit ideas for the upcoming FTA Region IV All-grantee conference scheduled for May 28-30.