



# Federal Transit Administration

Intercity Bus Program

Section 5311 (f)

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Federal Transit Administration



# OBJECTIVE

- ❑ Support the connection between nonurbanized areas and the larger regional or national system of intercity bus service.
- ❑ Support services to meet the intercity travel needs of residents in nonurbanized areas.
- ❑ Support the infrastructure of the intercity bus network through planning and marketing assistance and capital investment in facilities.
- ❑ FTA encourages States to use the funding under 49 U.S.C. 5311(f) to support these national objectives, as well as priorities determined by the State.



# GOVERNOR'S CERTIFICATION

- A State is required to expend at least 15 percent of its apportionment for an intercity bus program, unless “the chief executive officer of the State certifies to the Secretary of Transportation, after consultation with affected intercity bus service providers, that the intercity bus service needs of the State are being met adequately.”



# INTERCITY BUS

- ❑ The legislative history indicates that the assessment of intercity bus needs be made “relative to other rural needs in the State.”
- ❑ A State certifying that its needs are adequately met must demonstrate that it has assessed statewide intercity mobility needs no more than four years before the date of the certification
- ❑ The State must document in the State Management Plan (SMP) its consultation process and any process that it develops for periodically assessing statewide needs



# FTA REGION 4 CERTIFICATION STATUS

State	FY2007	FY2008
ALABAMA	17%	Need Certification Letter
GEORGIA	17%	14%
FLORIDA	15%	15%
KENTUCKY	15%	15%
MISSISSIPPI	12%	15%
NORTH CAROLINA	13%	13%
SOUTH CAROLINA	Need Certification Letter	Need Certification Letter
TENNESSEE	15%	Need Certification Letter



# Activities of Consultation

- ❑ Inform intercity bus carriers of the State's rural planning process and encourage their participation in that process, and where a State is considering possible certification, provide an opportunity to submit comments and/or request a public meeting to identify unmet needs and discuss proposals for meeting those needs
- ❑ Include intercity providers' participation in scheduled meetings, such as State agency transit meetings and public transit conferences
- ❑ **Meet with individual intercity providers periodically via Internet, email contact ABA, National Bus Association major carriers**



# Activities of Consultation

- Notify providers either through direct mail or advertise in various locations around the State of availability of funds for the current year's intercity bus program
- Inform intercity bus providers about the development of the locally developed, coordinated public transit-human services transportation plans and encourage their participation
- Solicit comments through direct mail and advertise in newspapers in various locations around the State of the State's intent to certify unless needs are identified



# CONCERNS OF ICB INDUSTRY

- States do not have national connectivity criteria
- Grant awards are not based on connectivity or needs for connectivity
- Almost half the states certify needs are met and use the money for rural transit
- Very few states have intercity programs or purposefully use the funds to build or maintain intercity service in their states
- ICB does not coordinate with rail and air



# ICB PROJECTS

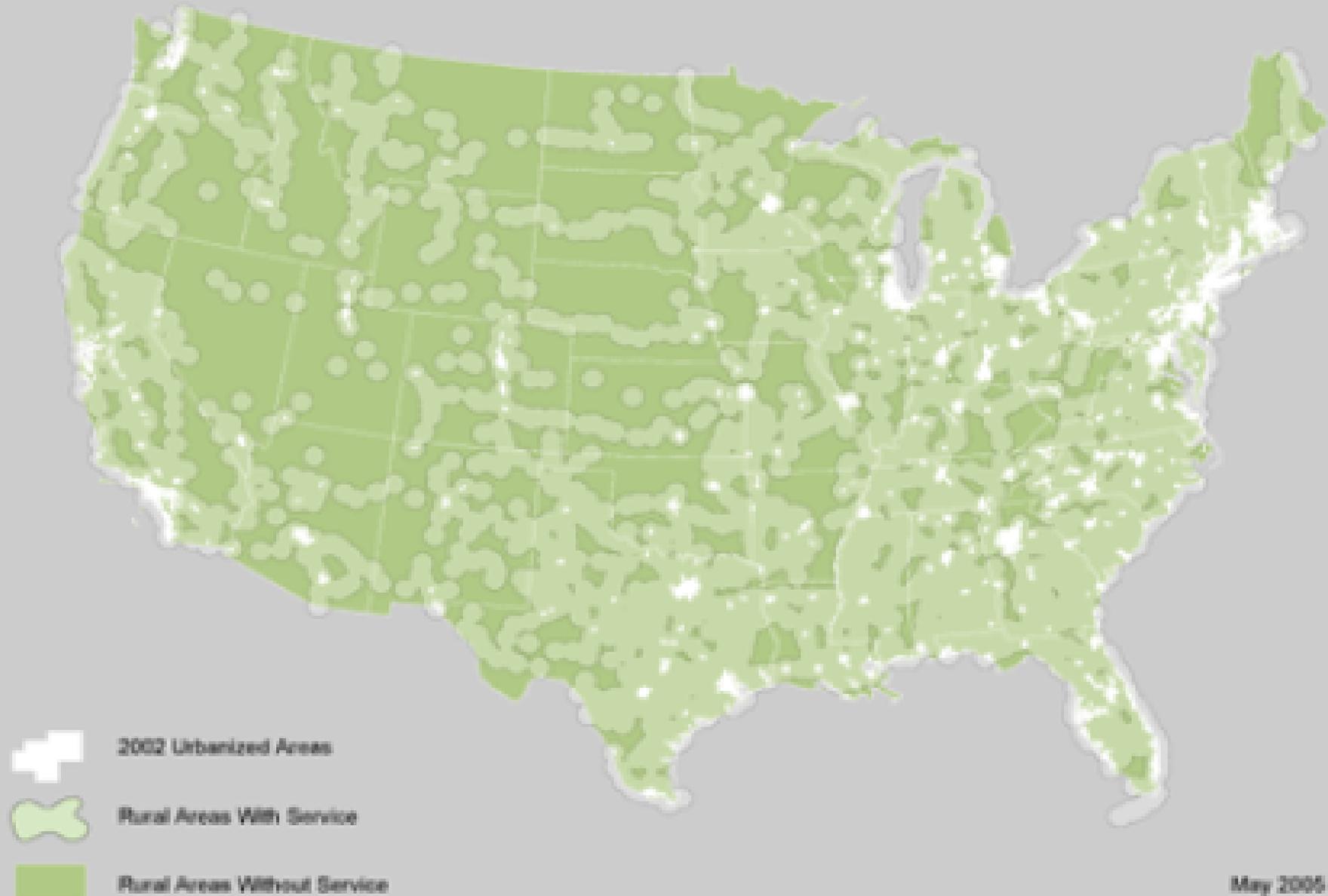
- Planning and marketing for intercity bus transportation
- Capital grants for intercity bus shelters
- joint-use stops and depots, operating grants through purchase-of-service agreements
- User-side subsidies and demonstration projects
- Coordination of rural connections between small public transportation operations and intercity bus carriers



## ICB PROJECTS CONT.

- Purchase vehicles or vehicle related equipment such as wheelchair lifts for use in intercity service
- Charter and tour services are not eligible for FTA assistance
- Improvements to existing intercity terminal facilities for rural passengers, modifications to transit facilities to facilitate shared use by intercity bus and rural transit operators, operating assistance to support specific intercity route segments, and applications of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) technology for coordinated information and scheduling

## Rural Areas Served by Scheduled Intercity Bus





# HELPFUL INFORMATION

- Internet, email contact ABA, National Bus Association major carriers
- Getting people where there is missing or gap in service but where the whole system connects and it must interline
- Greyhound and Amtrak
- Ensure that your subrecipient systems is a member (\$150 ) National Bus Traffic Association – allows you to write tickets on the larger intercity network
- Do what is best for the whole community but what part of the community are you talking to



## BEST PRACTICE

□ Walla Walla to Pasco Washington service

[www.grapeline.us](http://www.grapeline.us)





# GRAPELINE CONNECTIONS

## **Boarding locations for Grape Line service:**

- Walla Walla Airport, 45 Terminal Loop Rd
- Walla Walla Transit Center, 108 W Main St
- College Place, Frog Hollow Hobby Shop, 335 N College Ave
- Touchet Chevron Station, 16284 W Hwy 12
- Wallula Post Office, 150 N Columbia Way
- Burbank Shell Sun Mart, 35 Apple Lane
- Pasco Intermodal Station, 535 N 1st Ave
- Pasco Transit Center, 1120 N 22nd Ave
- Pasco Airport, 3601 N 20th Ave



# GRAPELINE

- ❑ Grape Line offers scheduled service between Walla Walla and Pasco in south-eastern Washington State. Through a partnership with WSDOT and Greyhound, Grape Line is a regularly scheduled service that runs 3 round-trips daily. [View our schedule >](#)
- ❑ To ride Grape Line, you can board at any of our [boarding locations](#) and pay cash to the driver (exact change required), or get tickets at the Grape Line office at Walla Walla Transit Center, or at the Greyhound counter at Pasco Intermodal Station. To make a reservation in advance, [book online](#) or call our toll-free number, 1-877-433-4775. Use Grape Line to connect in Pasco with [Greyhound](#), [Amtrak](#), and [Ben Franklin Transit](#), and in Walla Walla with [Valley Transit](#), Milton-Freewater Bus, and Columbia County Public Transportation.
- ❑ We sell Greyhound tickets to anywhere - come see us at our Grape Line office at Walla Walla Transit Center, or call us at 509-529-7442.
- ❑ Grape Line buses are ADA equipped for wheelchair use.



## QUESTION AND ANSWERS

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