Alternative Transportation in Parks and Public Lands

Webinar
January 16, 2007

Federal Transit Administration

www.fta.dot.gov/atppl

Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, Arizona
Technical introduction *(Eric Plosky, U.S. DOT Volpe Center)*

- This webinar has three components:
  1. Audio (teleconference)—phone number was provided when you registered
  2. Web—software plug-in was provided when you registered *(presentation also at www.fta.dot.gov/atppl)*
  3. E-mail: questions can be sent to the presenters via the webinar interface (or to austinc@volpe.dot.gov) for discussion during the webinar
- For technical questions or problems with the webinar while it is running, please call the Verizon help desk, at 1-866-449-0701.
Webinar agenda *(Scott Faulk, FTA)*

- Welcome and introductions
- ATPPL overview: background, legislation, and goals
- ATPPL program structure
- Applicant and project eligibility and requirements
- Project application process
- Funds administration
- Sample project proposals
- Description of reference documentation and materials
- Q&A period
Federal Transit Administration representatives

- **Terry Rosapep**, Deputy Associate Administrator for Program Management (TPM)
- **Henrika Buchanan-Smith**
- **Scott Faulk**
- **Dwayne Weeks**
Federal lands management agency representatives

- **Lou DeLorme**, U.S. Department of the Interior
- **Nathan Caldwell**, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- **Linda Force**, Bureau of Land Management
- **Mark Hartsoe**, National Park Service
- **Ellen LaFayette**, U.S. Forest Service
Introduction (Terry Rosapep, FTA)

- The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) (2005) authorized the Alternative Transportation in Parks and Public Lands (ATPPL) program
  - Federal Lands Alternative Transportation Systems Study
  - $97 million authorized during FY 2006 – FY 2009
  - Inter-agency team
Introduction

- For FY 2006 (first year of the program):
  - About 70 project proposals were submitted, totaling more than $40 million in requests
  - 42 planning and implementation projects were selected for a total of $19,631,170 in funding (full list of projects is at [www.fta.dot.gov/atppl](http://www.fta.dot.gov/atppl))
    - 17 planning projects ($3.6 million);
      25 capital projects ($16 million)
    - 22 projects were under $250,000;
      9 projects were between $250,000 and $500,000;
      11 projects were above $500,000
ATPPL overview

- **Program goals**
  - Two broad objectives specified in legislation, relating to *the visitor experience* and *resource protection*
  - Five specific program goals identified:
    1. Conserve natural, historical, cultural resources
    2. Reduce congestion and pollution
    3. Improve visitor mobility and accessibility
    4. Enhance the visitor experience
    5. Ensure access to all, including persons with disabilities
ATPPL overview

- **Program management goals**
  - *Sound evaluation*: select the most meritorious projects for funding, based on a quantitative evaluation process
  - *Demonstrated need*: develop the best possible solutions to current or anticipated problems
  - *Financial efficiency and sustainability*: use federal dollars wisely, and stimulate funding from partnerships
  - *Sound, integrated, and participatory planning*: use objective analysis and cooperative planning processes
  - *Project variety*: geographic diversity, urban/rural, project size, new/existing projects
ATPPL program structure

- Legislative requirements
  - DOT, DOI cooperate to conduct program-level activities, such as technical assistance (up to 10% of ATPPL program funding can be used for this purpose)
  - Annual report to Congress

- DOT-DOI Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)
  - The ATPPL interagency working group will undertake major program tasks: technical assistance, developing documentation and procedures, evaluating project proposals, providing oversight, monitoring project and program performance
ATPPL program structure

- For information about metropolitan and statewide planning, see [www.planning.dot.gov/state.asp](http://www.planning.dot.gov/state.asp)
ATPPL program structure

- Communications
  - Regular meetings of the interagency team
  - Notices published in the Federal Register
  - ATPPL web site (www.fta.dot.gov/atppl)
  - Guidance and outreach materials
  - Training activities (such as this webinar)
  - Designated agency point of contact (HQ, regions)
  - E-mail distribution list for news, updates, announcements
Applicant and project eligibility and requirements

- **Eligible areas:** any federally owned or managed park, refuge, or recreational area open to the general public, including:
  - National Park Service units
  - National Wildlife Refuge System units
  - Bureau of Reclamation recreational areas
  - Bureau of Land Management recreational areas
  - National Forest System units
Applicant and project eligibility and requirements

Eligible applicants:

- Any federal land management agency, including:
  - National Park Service
  - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
  - Bureau of Reclamation
  - Bureau of Land Management
  - U.S. Forest Service

- State, local, or tribal governments with jurisdiction over land in the vicinity of an eligible area, acting with the consent of the relevant federal land management agency
Applicant and project eligibility and requirements

- **Eligible project types:**
  - *Planning projects* are intended to identify potential solutions to alternative transportation problems, and to justify possible capital expenses.
  - *Implementation (‘capital’) projects* generally involve purchasing, designing, or constructing alternative transportation facilities or equipment.
  - Eligible projects (*next slide*) must be in or near an eligible area, be “alternative transportation,” and contribute to the goals of the ATPPL program.
  - Operating assistance (e.g., driver salaries) is **not** eligible.
Applicant and project eligibility and requirements

- Eligible planning projects:
  - Alternative transportation planning studies, including evaluation of no-build and other alternatives, traffic studies, visitor utilization studies, transportation analysis, and environmental studies
  - Activities to comply with metropolitan and statewide planning requirements
Three categories of eligible implementation projects

#1: General capital expenses

- Acquiring, constructing, inspecting, or supervising equipment or facilities
- Capital cost of service contracts
- Deployment/commercialization of alternative transportation vehicles
Three categories of eligible implementation projects

#2: Fixed guideway and bus projects

- Fixed guideway
  - Development of a new fixed guideway project
  - Rehabilitation, modernization, or expansion of existing fixed-guideway systems

- Bus projects
  - Purchase, rehabilitation, replacement of buses and related equipment
  - Construction of bus-related facilities
Three categories of eligible implementation projects

#3: “Other” projects

- Capital costs of coordinating with external transit
- Non-motorized transportation systems
- Water-borne access systems
- Any other alternative transportation project
Non-motorized transit projects

- Are eligible projects for implementation and planning
- Non-motorized projects involving facilities for bicycling, walking, and watercraft need to meet the following criteria:
  - Reduce or mitigate the number of automobile trips by providing an alternative to travel by private vehicle
  - Provide a high degree of connectivity with a transportation system
  - Improve safety for motorized and nonmotorized transportation system users
Project application process *(Dwayne Weeks, FTA)*

- Determine the project type: **planning** or **implementation**
- Planning and implementation projects have different forms — **use the correct form**
- Review the proposal forms and the questions
- Gather data and documentation
  - *Planning* emphasis: purpose and need—why is it necessary to consider transportation alternatives?
  - *Implementation* emphasis: good projects with sound cost-estimate, solid financial plan, strong implementation strategy, local partnerships
Planning project evaluation criteria

Planning Proposal Overall Rating

Demonstration of Need (50%)
- Visitor Transportation Experience
- Environmental Conditions

Visitor Mobility and Experience (15%)
- Reduced Traffic Impacts
- Enhanced Visitor Mobility
- Improved Education Recreation health Benefits

Environmental Benefits (15%)
- Protection of Natural Resources
- Reduced Pollution

Financial Feasibility (20%)
- Effectiveness in Meeting Management Goals
- Feasibility of Financial Plan
- Cost Effectiveness
- Partnership/Funding

Federal Transit Administration – U.S. Department of Transportation
Implementation project evaluation criteria

Implementation Proposal Overall Rating

- Demonstration of Need (25%)
  - Visitor Transportation Experience
  - Environmental Conditions

- Visitor Mobility and Experience (25%)
  - Reduced Traffic Impacts
  - Enhanced Visitor Mobility
  - Improved Education Recreation health Benefits

- Environmental Benefits (25%)
  - Protection of Natural Resources
  - Reduced Pollution

- Financial Feasibility (25%)
  - Effectiveness in Meeting Management Goals
  - Feasibility of Financial Plan
  - Cost Effectiveness
  - Partnership/Funding
Project evaluation process: helpful hints

- Tell the story:
  - Why is this project necessary?
  - Who benefits?
  - How?
- Do homework: use previous studies for data
- Document environmental impacts and benefits
- Clear definition of the project: length, mode, stations, vehicles, capital cost, operating cost
- Map of project and area
Project evaluation process: helpful hints

- Financial plan – make it real!
- Use actual cost estimate – request only the amount of funding necessary!
- Capital funding needed – five years
- Operating funding needed – five years
- Identify capital and operating funding for project
- Leverage other funding sources
- Supporting documentation – commitment letters
Project evaluation process

Proposals submitted to land management agencies (February 16)

Land management agency internal screening review

Screened proposals distributed for technical working group review

Proposals rated by the technical working group

Ratings are compiled; projects are ranked based upon scores

Technical working group prioritizes project selections; recommends project funding levels

Highest-ranked projects are recommended for funding to DOI

Project selections by DOI; concurred by FTA (summer 2007)
In summary

- Work with partners to develop the best proposals
- Use data to support the benefits of your project—document and cite sources
- Develop a strong financial plan and leverage funding
- Craft the best project proposal to meet identified needs
## Project proposal forms (two types!)

### U.S. Department of Transportation

**Federal Transit Administration**

### Alternative Transportation in the Parks and Public Lands Program

**Project Proposal for Fiscal Year 2007 Funds – Planning Project**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BASIC PROJECT INFORMATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Name (Please provide a 1-2 sentence description of the project):</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposed Funding Recipient:</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Public land unit(s) involved:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location of Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congressional District:</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Federal Land Management Agency managing the above unit(s):</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bureau of Land Management</td>
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<td>Bureau of Reclamation</td>
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<td>Fish and Wildlife Service</td>
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<td>Forest Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Park Service</td>
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<tr>
<th>Type of Planning Project:</th>
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<tr>
<td>(Implementation projects, please use the alternate form)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Planning</td>
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Funds administration

- Funds awarded to FLMAs will be made through interagency agreements between FTA and the FLMA
- Funds awarded to state, local, and tribal entities will be made through grants directly from FTA
Requirements for funding recipients

- Federal requirements triggered by ATPPL
- ATPPL specific requirements as contained in the legislation
- Requirements that apply to all FTA programs
- Requirements referenced in 49 U.S.C. §5307
- Reporting requirements

**Full list** of requirements is available on the ATPPL web site at: [www.fta.dot.gov/documents/ATPPL_FY_2006_Requirements_Final.pdf](http://www.fta.dot.gov/documents/ATPPL_FY_2006_Requirements_Final.pdf)
Program documentation and reference materials

- ATPPL program manual is central reference document
- ATPPL web site (www.fta.dot.gov/atppl) contains links to other program documentation and reference materials, *including FY 2007 project application forms and guidance*
Question-and-answer period

Open Q&A period

Please use the webinar interface to submit questions, or you may e-mail questions to austinc@volpe.dot.gov
Webinar close-out *(Scott Faulk)*

- Thanks to all participants
- Your feedback will be solicited, and the webinar will be archived, on the ATPPL web page:
  
  www.fta.dot.gov/atppl

- If you have questions or would like to follow up, please contact Scott Faulk at scott.faulk@dot.gov or 202-366-1660
END OF WEBINAR

Thank you for participating!