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of Transportation
**Federal Transit
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# REGION 10 BULLETIN NO: 09-25

Subject: Tribal Transit Program

Program Area: ARRA

Date: March 30, 2009

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), signed into law by President Barack Obama on February 17, 2009, provides appropriations and tax law changes totaling approximately $787 billion to support multi-pronged efforts to stimulate the economy. Appropriations in ARRA include $8.4 billion to preserve and create jobs and promote economic recovery through investment in public transportation. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) published a Federal Register notice on March 5, 2009 providing an overview of the ARRA transit provisions and established the principles, policies, and procedures that apply to all ARRA formula transit programs. The notice is located at http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-4745.pdf.

ARRA's Transit Capital Assistance program authorizes $6.9 billion in funding for capital expenses as defined by 49 U.S.C. 5302(a)(1). Most of this funding is appropriated by formula, and was apportioned by the March 5 notice. Ten percent of funding under the program was apportioned for grants under 49 U.S.C. Section 5311 (Nonurbanized Area Formula Program). Of this amount, 2.5 percent has been set-aside for discretionary allocation through FTA's Public Transportation on Indian Reservations program (Tribal Transit program (TTP)), as established by Section 3013(c) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA–LU).

ARRA specifies that funds it appropriates are to be used only for capital expenditures. This means that only items defined as capital under 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53 are eligible activities under the ARRA TTP program. The ARRA TTP program provides $17 million in capital funding intended to preserve or create jobs, contribute to cleaning our environment through green purchases, retrofitting existing facilities, making public transportation opportunities available to more people, and helping ease local fiscal problems. FTA published a Federal Register notice related to this program on March 23, 2009 at http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-6271.pdf. This notice presents the eligibility, project selection process, and grant application process for TTP funds made available by the ARRA. Additional information on program grant and ARRA's unique - and extensive - reporting requirements will be made available in the notice of selection.

FTA will announce the availability of, and competition for, the fiscal year 2009 (annual) TTP in a separate notice.

For further information, contact Region 10's Rebecca Reyes-Alicea at (206) 220-7965 or email rebecca.reyesalicea@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

R.F. Krochalis
Regional Administrator