



STATE PROGRAMS TEAM

Federal Transit Administration Region IV

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Recent News:

Thank you to those that attended the Region-wide conference, [The Route to Success...Today and Beyond](#) on May 28-30, 2008. The presentations from the conference have been posted to the [Region IV website](http://www.fta.dot.gov/regions/region4/regional_offices_8042.html) (http://www.fta.dot.gov/regions/region4/regional_offices_8042.html) and pictures have been posted to the [conference website](http://www.routetosuccess.net/) (<http://www.routetosuccess.net/>). Also, congratulations again to SCDOT for receiving the "Shining Star" award!

State Management Review Workshop & Reviews:

The State Management Review Workshop will be held in Atlanta on August 12-13, 2008. The invitation was sent electronically on July 10, 2008 and is attached for your reference.

The contractors have begun the desk review and will be in the Regional office on July 15, 2008 to continue the preliminary work. Agenda packages will be sent within the next two weeks to schedule reviews in Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Tennessee. We expect at least three of the reviews to be conducted by September 30, 2008. We appreciate your cooperation with this short time-frame.

For the remaining state DOTs not scheduled for a state management review this year, you are encouraged to also attend the workshop. Valuable information will be provided, which will enable you to prepare early for your future reviews.

FTA Region IV – DOT Semi-Annual Meeting – August 14, 2008 (tentatively): (RESPONSE REQUESTED)

It is almost time for our next semi-annual meeting in Atlanta. We are soliciting your input as to whether you are available on August 14, 2008, following the State Management Review workshop, for a ½-full day meeting with the State Programs team and other FTA staff. If this date is not convenient and a later date in September or October is better both for your availability and travel budgets, please let us know.

Otherwise, we are proposing to host the meeting immediately after the workshop and encourage all of our States to attend. Draft agenda will include an "After Action Review" assessing what has worked since the creation of the State team and what improvements could be made for our continued partnership in FY 09, FTA updated guidance, and the FTA FY 09 performance goals.

Please respond to Jamie Pfister at Jamie.pfister@dot.gov if you are interested and available for the meeting on August 14, 2008 in Atlanta. Please also include any topics you wish to discuss.

REGION IV STATE PROGRAMS BULLETIN

FTA's Public-Private Partnership Workshops:

The next workshops will be in San Francisco, CA on July 30-31, 2008 and Philadelphia, PA on Sept. 17-18, 2008. The workshop series will end in Dallas, TX on Oct. 22-23, 2008. If your state is actively involved in any public-private partnerships and you wish to share your experience, please let us know. Regional Administrator Taylor is on the planning committee for the Dallas workshop in October and is soliciting potential State DOT involvement. These transit workshops will promote the use of public-private partnerships to facilitate transit project development. If you would like to register or learn more about the workshops, please visit www.ncppp.org.

Friendly Reminders:

Grants: It's time for both quarterly TEAM reports (due by July 30, 2008), if applicable, and grant applications – ESPECIALLY lapsing funds! Be sure to contact your liaison when your draft grant application is ready for FTA review. We are well past the June 16 regional deadline for the lapsing discretionary funds and are running out of time to guarantee the funds will be obligated by September 30, 2008. Complete formula grant applications should be entered in the system by July 16, 2008 to guarantee they can be processed and funds obligated by September 30, 2008. We have several DOTs that have not entered applications for lapsing funds and need to hear from you ASAP! Please remember--- lapsing funds are the priority now.

Timing Factors Impacting FTA Grant Award: The length of time it takes to process an FTA grant application through the Transportation Electronic Award & Management (TEAM) system is individual and specific in nature; it is dependent upon multiple factors: the Program for which one is applying (DOL certification, FTA Regional FTA HQ, or OST award/Congressional notifications periods); National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA documentation); the Season application filed; Status of Recipient General Readiness (legal, technical and financial capacity as well as Vendor Code, TEAM and ECHO access established), Certifications & Assurances, Designation as Recipient, Contacts and Civil Rights Program compliances, State Management Plan/Project Management Plan, Human Services Transportation Plan and Other Competitive Selections; currency of basic planning (LRTP with associated Air Quality Conformity Determination where needed) & programming (TIP/STIP with necessary amendments in place and UPWP) including required Participation Plan, and where applicable, New Starts Program Criteria, and transfer of funds completed (STP or CMAQ), and (Uniform Act appraisal/review appraisal); the complete character of the draft grant application and the drafter's responsiveness to FTA comments; and the availability of funds.

United We Ride FTA Region IV Update: Thank you to all the states that submitted information on your urban and rural area coordinated plans for the third quarter. As you know, one of Region IV's United We Ride objectives was to assure that 70% of urban and rural areas with transit develop a local public transit/human service coordination plan this fiscal year. We will be coming back to you for your fourth quarter reports in September to ensure we have met our goal. Please encourage your urban and rural communities to develop a coordinated plan if they have not done so yet. As a reminder, our next United We Ride Quarterly Call is on Tuesday, August 19, 2008 at 10AM. The call in number is 1.888.481.3045, Passcode: 373.225.83#

Charter Reporting: On June 9, 2008, we requested a list of the names and expected number of sub- recipients providing Charter for which the State DOT expected to report; we only heard from SCDOT. Please note that if the State DOT has subrecipients that are providing charter services and DO NOT have access to TEAM, the State DOT will need to submit the quarterly report in TEAM. The first quarterly reports are due July 30, 2008.