

# 2<sup>nd</sup> CALL FOR ARRA PROJECTS

## Georgia Department of Transportation

### Sections 5307, 5311 & 5311(f) Intercity Bus ARRA Funds

**Introduction**

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) published the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 Public Transportation Apportionments, Allocations and Grant Program Information on March 5, 2009. Nationally, ARRA includes \$8.4 billion for transit capital improvements of which Georgia received \$143.7 million. The Georgia Department of Transportation is the designated recipient for the following ARRA funds:

1. Section 5307 Small Urban	= \$12,323,977
2. Section 5311 Rural Areas	= \$21,802,225
3. Section 5311(f) Intercity Bus	= \$ 3,847,450
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Total	= \$37,973,652

The regulations indicated that at least 50% of the apportionments have to be obligated by FTA no later than September 1, 2009. For the 1<sup>st</sup> Call for Projects GDOT has obligated a total of \$30,110,477 for Sections 5307, 5311 and 5311(f) before the deadline date. The balance of funds has to be obligated by FTA on or before March 5, 2010. In addition, the Second Call for Projects has to be ready for implementation (“shovel ready”) with all planning and NEPA program requirements completed. Because of this tight schedule, we are distributing this “2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Projects” *by e-mail* in order to allow project recipients sufficient time to complete the necessary grant requirements.

For Sections 5307, 5311 and 5311(f) projects, the region must ensure that it is prepared to access and use federal stimulus funds as quickly as possible. To do this, we are requesting that each transit agency or jurisdiction provide a list of projects that will be eligible under the stimulus program. Failure to respond by the deadline will be interpreted as meaning that you have no eligible projects.

Balance of ARRA funds:

1. Section 5307 Small Urban	= \$3,233,800
2. Section 5311 Rural Areas	= \$2,781,925
3. Section 5311(f) Intercity Bus	= \$1,847,450
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Total	= \$7,863,175

**GDOT will follow the Sections 5307, 5311 and 5311(f) State Administrative Guides for small urban, rural and intercity bus projects. Eligibility and Guidelines for ARRA Small Urban Projects**

All projects must be completed as required by the Administrative Guides. Furthermore, other FTA transit program applications to GDOT may not be combined with the ARRA projects. Based on FTA regulations, all projects submitted for consideration must meet the following criteria:

- The application (**must be submitted to GDOT by November 13, 2009**)

- Project must have or will shortly have all required NEPA documentation (i.e. Categorical Exclusion, Environmental Assessment, Finding of No Significant Impact, etc.)
- Only capital projects are eligible. Small urban transit agencies may submit preventative maintenance and paratransit support as eligible capital categories at this time.
- Project must be in the adopted local TIP and STIP no later than November 13, 2009. A project may also be considered if it can be added to the TIP via an administrative modification including air quality conformity implications.

All capital projects will be ranked by a committee comprised of GDOT and the transit community using a specific evaluation criterion. The criteria that will be used for all small urban and rural capital projects will include the following:

- Timely Completion of Project (Time frame of ARRA)
- Included in Local Transportation Plan
- Environmental Documentation Included
- Procurement/Work Can Start Once Approvals Are In
- Project Affects Service Delivery
- Project Preserves Existing Facility/Service
- Facility will improve passenger experience
- Supplementing an Existing Project

#### **Eligibility and Guidelines for ARRA Rural Projects**

GDOT wants to make a call for projects for vehicle purchase for the rural program. Rural transit providers already know their replacement schedules and should submit vehicle requests based on their current and future replacement schedules. If there are any additional funds after we exhaust the vehicle replacements, we will fund additional projects for the rural areas. Subgrantees should submit a list of non-vehicle items that will enhance the rural transit service. The evaluation criteria will be the same as illustrated above. All rural projects need to be discussed between the Section 5311 subrecipients and the Public Transportation Coordinators (PTCs) and the PTCs must submit these projects utilizing the attached ARRA spreadsheet under this 2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Projects.

#### **Eligibility and Guidelines for ARRA Rural Intercity Bus Projects**

This 2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Projects for the Section 5311(f) funds is on a competitive basis for transit projects that develop and support intercity bus transportation in all areas of the state. Intercity Bus Service is defined as:

- Regularly scheduled bus service to more distant points
- Available to the general public
- Making limited stops
- Operating on fixed routes
- Connecting two or more urban areas not in close proximity
- Capacity for transporting baggage
- Provide meaningful connections and reasonable layover times
- Excludes air, water, rail transportation, charter-tour, and commuter service

Eligible sub recipients include public governmental agencies, private for profit organizations, private non-profit organizations and tribal governments. Eligible projects must serve the general public in rural areas. Projects that primarily serve elderly persons and persons with disabilities, but that do not restrict service to other members of the public, are considered available to the general public if they are marketed as public transit services. Service

may not be restricted to elderly or persons with disabilities. Under this call for projects, the Department has \$1.85 Million in balance to program for 5311(f) eligible projects. For this solicitation the Department is seeking applications for intercity buses with a heavy emphasis on infrastructure development. Terminal construction can be part of a multimodal facility that will base other modes such as regional or commuter bus and/or rail service. Applications must demonstrate the costs for construction are going towards providing new or improved facilities for intercity bus services.

The Department is requesting applications for infrastructure investments that meet the following criteria:

- Bus Shelter
- Bus benches
- Signage
- Technology (i.e. transit related ITS systems such as AVL or smart cards)
- Equipment (communication equipment, computer hardware and software)
- Terminal construction
- Layover facilities
- Project is already included in the MPO TIP or STIP in a nonurbanized area
- Project has NEPA completed or will be completed in 60 days
- Terminal Construction for LEED designed facilities

The criteria that will be used for all intercity bus capital projects will include the following:

- Work can be completed timely (within 3 years)
- Project has been identified in a local transportation plan
- Request is for additional funds for project already started
- All NEPA documentation is included
- Procurement of contractors can begin as soon as contract is executed
- Project directly affects the agency's ability to deliver service
- Project preserves existing facility or service
- Facility purpose will improve passenger experience

### **Schedule for Awarding Funds**

GDOT will notify recipients of precise award amounts for small urban, rural and intercity projects by **October 2, 2009**. We encourage all project applicants to begin working on their grant applications now so that grants can be submitted by **November 13, 2009**. In addition, TIPs need to be amended to ensure that the ARRA projects are clearly illustrated in the current TIP. Projects that are not advancing rapidly enough under the requirements of the ARRA will be subject to cancellation, with subject funds redistributed to the remaining grantees.

### **Local Match Requirements**

ARRA funds are 100% federally funded, with no state or local match required.

### **Submittal Requirements**

The deadline for this **2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Projects** (*attached spreadsheet*) is **on or before 1:00 p.m. on Friday, October 2, 2009**. Because of the urgency associated with implementing the ARRA stimulus program, this is a **strict** deadline. Please submit your list of projects electronically to Steve Kish at [skish@dot.ga.gov](mailto:skish@dot.ga.gov), (404) 631-1237. Projects submitted in response to the **2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Projects** selected to participate during this round of funding will be notified no later than **Wednesday, October 13, 2009**. Upon notification, these applicants should be ready to

submit a full GDOT grant application, including all budgets and appendix items, no later than **1:00pm, Friday, November 13, 2009**.

**Additional Guidelines for ARRA Funds**

We encourage all of you to visit the FTA website at [http://www.fta.dot.gov/index\\_9118.html](http://www.fta.dot.gov/index_9118.html) or GDOT's website at <http://www.dot.ga.gov/informationcenter/gastimulus/Pages/default.aspx> for the latest information on ARRA funding. Awards for ARRA are subject to subrecipients following all ARRA reporting requirements.