



North Central Texas Council Of Governments

TO: Mayors and County Judges
City Managers and County Administrators
North Texas Tollway Authority
Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport
Texas Department of Transportation - Dallas District Engineer
Texas Department of Transportation - Fort Worth District Engineer
Regional Transportation Council Representatives
Surface Transportation Technical Committee Representatives

DATE: June 14, 2005

FROM: Michael Morris, P.E., Director of Transportation
North Central Texas Council of Governments

SUBJECT: RTC Partnership Program 2 – Transit Strategic Funding Program

With imminent reauthorization of the federal transportation funding bill, new federal funding sources will become available to fund transit improvements in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. In an effort to advance projects that increase mobility and reliability and improve air quality, the Regional Transportation Council (RTC), which serves as the transportation policy board of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), is initiating RTC Partnership Program 2 – Transit Strategic Funding Program. Throughout summer 2005, the MPO staff will be coordinating with area transit agencies to select transit projects for FY 2005 – FY 2009. Local governments and transportation agencies may also submit transit projects for consideration through this funding initiative.

The RTC Partnership Program 2 – Transit Strategic Funding Program is designed to flex Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) funds to make transit-related improvements in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Please note that a total of \$109 million in CMAQ funding is available for transit projects throughout the region.

This funding program is a strategic initiative, meaning that project funding decisions will be made through a cooperative, consensus process. Two rounds of meetings will be held. At the first meetings, transit agencies will have an opportunity to present their list of requested projects. In the meantime, local governments will also have an opportunity to submit projects involving transit. Then, a second round of meetings will be held, in which NCTCOG staff will meet with the individual transit agencies again to compare regional priorities, taking local government proposals, and proposals from other transit agencies within the same subregion, into consideration. Through these meetings, the priorities of individual agencies will be discussed within the framework of regional priorities and policies. Please note that projects or programs specifically identified in the Mobility Plan – Amended April 2005 will be given priority. A list of project funding recommendations will result from these meetings.

June 14, 2005

To be considered under the Transit Strategic Funding Program, local governments/ transportation agencies should provide the following items in their transit project proposals:

Proposal Content

Project Location - including project limits and/or individual locations to be improved

Map of Project

Scope of Work - detailed description of improvements to be made

Project Length (if applicable)

Cost Estimate - provide an estimated cost

Project Contact (include name of contact, their contact information, and name of the office or department serving as the primary contact)

Project proposals must be submitted to the NCTCOG Transportation Department in hard copy and electronic format no later than **Friday, August 12, 2005 at 5:00 p.m.** to be considered for funding. Send applications to Christie Jestis, Senior Transportation Planner, NCTCOG, P.O. Box 5888, Arlington, Texas 76005-5888.

We anticipate the first round of meetings to be completed in July 2005. The second round of meetings should be finalized by the end of August 2005. Final recommendations will be brought to the Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC) in September 2005 and to the RTC in October 2005.

Please note that RTC Partnership Program 2 – Transit Strategic Funding Program is one of several funding initiatives to be initiated under RTC Partnership Programs 2 and 3. A list of upcoming calls for projects and strategic funding programs is enclosed for reference. Should you have questions regarding the process, or require assistance in the development of a project proposal, please contact Christie Jestis at (817) 608-2338.


Michael Morris

CMJ:baw
Enclosures

cc: 2004-2005 UPWP Element 3.01 Project File

PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS 2 AND 3

Timeframe For RTC Action

Programs	Implementation Timeline							
	May/Jun 2005	Jul/Aug 2005	Aug/Sep 2005	Sep/Oct 2005	Nov/Dec 2005	Jan/Feb 2006	Mar/Apr 2006	May/Jun 2006
Arterial Street Program ²			████████████████████					
Local Air Quality Program ³	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████	████████
Freeway Interchange and Bottleneck Program (1/3 federal, 1/3 State, 1/3 local)		████████	████████████████████					
Arterial Intersection/Bottleneck Program ⁴	████████	████████	████████████████████					████████
High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes								
Intelligent Transportation Systems ⁵			████████████████████					
Transit (Partnership Program 2)	████████████████████							
Sustainable Development Projects/Programs			████████████████████					
Cost Overrun/Emergency/New Projects ⁶								

Notes:

- 1 All funds are reflected in millions of dollars.
- 2 Includes addition of lanes projects and new roadway projects.
- 3 Includes new 8-hour improvements, alternative fuel vehicle technology, bicycle/pedestrian regional connections, special studies/other, traffic signal improvements, travel demand management/park-and-ride, intermodal/freight projects, and local match for other federal projects.
- 4 Includes safety projects, grade separations, intersection improvements, and bottleneck removals.
- 5 Includes mobility assistance crews.
- 6 New projects may include quiet zones, other air quality projects, etc.
- 7 Local governments and transportation entities within the nine county ozone nonattainment area are eligible for funding under this program.