The FAA proposes to rule and invites public comment on the application to impose and use the revenue from a Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) at Tulsa International Airport. A PFC application number: 00-04-C-00-TUL. The following is a brief overview of the application. Level of the proposed PFC: $3.00. Proposed charge effective date: June 1, 2000. Proposed charge expiration date: June 1, 2003. Total estimated PFC revenue: $13,500,000. PFC application number: 00-04-C-00-TUL. Brief description of proposed project(s): Projects to Impose and Use PFC’s Terminal Security and Flight Information Display System Improvements. Conduct Noise Mitigation. Interior Terminal Improvements. Airfield Drainage Improvements. Airfield Snow Removal Equipment. Building Improvements. Terminal Access Improvements. Proposed class or classes of air carriers to be exempted from collecting PFC’s: None. Any person may inspect the application in person at the FAA office listed above under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT and at the FAA regional Airports office located at: Federal Aviation Administration, Southwest Region, Airports Division, Planning and Programming Branch, ASW–611, 2601 Meacham Blvd., Fort Worth, Texas 76137–4298.

In addition, any person may, upon request, inspect the application, notice and other documents germane to the application in person at Tulsa International Airport.

Issued in Forth Worth, Texas on February 29, 2000.

Joseph G. Washington, Acting Manager, Airports Division.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Joseph G. Washington,
Acting Manager, Airports Division.

[FR Doc. 00–6132 Filed 3–13–00; 8:45 am]
Transportation Statistics, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590; (202) 366–0963; fax: (202) 366–3640; e-mail: david.banks@bts.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background—Advancing the Discipline of Transportation Statistics

The purpose of this grant program is to provide financial assistance to eligible organizations to help advance the discipline of transportation statistics. These grants are authorized by section 5109 of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA–21) (Pub. L. 105–178 (1998), codified at 49 U.S.C. 111(g)). BTS anticipates awarding up to $500,000 per year in grants for projects that (1) support development of the field of transportation statistics; and/or (2) advance research or development in transportation statistics.

BTS is a separate operating administration within the Department of Transportation (DOT). Its mission is to lead in developing transportation data and information of high quality, and to advance their effective use in public and private transportation decisionmaking. In accomplishing this mission, BTS works to improve six key attributes of transportation data and analysis—quality, comparability, completeness, timeliness, relevance, and utility.

Our ultimate goal is to make transportation better—to enhance safety, mobility, economic growth, the human and natural environment, and national security (the five strategic goals of the Department of Transportation). BTS’s role in this goal is to put together data and information that others need to make decisions concerning transportation. We collect data and compile, analyze, and publish statistics. Many others, both within and outside DOT, are involved in building this knowledge base and BTS could not do it alone.

While there are many excellent transportation data programs and many excellent statistics programs, few are devoted to the intersection of these two disciplines. Bringing a better understanding of statistics to transportation data will improve data quality, increase utility (e.g., by improving measures of travel), and reduce costs (e.g., by using techniques to make data collection, analysis, and dissemination more efficient). BTS wants to foster the transportation statistics discipline and increase its quality and usefulness to the transportation community. This grants program is one way BTS is working toward this goal.

II. Eligibility Requirements

What Organizations May Apply?

BTS invites applications from public and private non-profit institutions of higher education. We strongly encourage Minority Serving Institutions, which have been traditionally under represented in transportation statistics, to submit applications. If organizations partner on a project, the participants should submit a single application. You may submit more than one application as long as the applications are for separate and distinct projects.

What Projects Are Eligible for Funding?

Eligible projects must support the development of the field of transportation statistics and/or involve research or development in transportation statistics. Examples include, but are not limited to, research and development in the following areas:

1. Visualizing and mining transportation databases;
2. Aggregating and analyzing databases maintained by DOT agencies, especially where the research involves multiple modes of transportation;
3. Improving the quality and usability of federal transportation statistics;
4. Developing exposure measures (e.g., vehicle miles traveled) for use in risk analyses;
5. Improving the statistical use of geographic information systems to better understand and quantify travel behavior;
6. Developing performance measures for the transportation system;
7. Designing and analyzing transportation surveys; and
8. Improving data quality and data collection.

What Are the Cost Sharing Requirements?

For awards of $100,000 or more, the recipient shall fund at least 50 percent of the project’s costs. The nonfederal match must come from sources other than the project sponsor, and must be cash contributions rather than in-kind contributions. In reviewing all applications, even those requesting less than $100,000, the degree of cost-sharing will be considered, with more weight given to cash contributions than in-kind services.

III. Application Contents

For more information about sending your application, please refer to the ADDRESSES and DATES sections listed above. In order to be considered for funding under this program, your application package must include the following:

1. A Project Narrative. This must not exceed five letter-size pages, single-sided and double-spaced. Use at least 12 point type and one inch margins. In general, the information you provide should be in sufficient detail so BTS understands the proposed work and its anticipated benefits and to demonstrate that you have the necessary experience and resources to accomplish it. The narrative must identify the organization; how it meets the eligibility criteria; its experience and accomplishments in collecting, analyzing, and/or disseminating transportation data; and the qualifications of the principals proposed to conduct the activities. The narrative must also describe the proposed activity, including how you would accomplish it, a time line listing major milestones associated with the project, and a list of specific products and/or services with the dates they will be delivered.

2. An Application for Federal Assistance. Submit OMB SF–424 (Application for Federal Assistance), which is the official form required for all federal grants. It requests basic information about the grantee and the proposed project. Under Part 10 of this form, use 20.920 and Transportation Statistics Research Grants for the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number and Title. Also submit OMB SF–424A (Budget Information—Nonconstruction Programs). You can download these forms from the OMB Internet site at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants.

3. An Evaluation Plan. Include a brief description of how you will evaluate and measure the success of the project, including the anticipated benefits and challenges in completing it. This can be part of the Project Narrative.

4. Resumes. Include resumes from up to three key personnel who would be significantly involved in the project.

5. Letters of Commitment. If your proposal includes the significant involvement of other eligible organizations, your application must include letters of commitment from them.

IV. Application Review Process and Selection Criteria

The Transportation Statistics Research Grants program uses a competitive process and applications will be evaluated based on the merit of the proposed project in relation to the other applications received. BTS anticipates making multiple awards based on this solicitation. While BTS will select the most meritorious proposals, we may choose to not award all available funds.
Upon receiving an application, BTS will conduct an initial review to determine if it meets the eligibility criteria and contains all of the items specified under the Application Contents section of this announcement. A BTS evaluation committee will then review each complete application from an eligible recipient using the evaluation criteria listed below (the order of criteria does not designate priority) and the BTS Director will select the final grants. The evaluation criteria are:

1. How well does the proposal support BTS’s strategic goals of improving the quality, comparability, completeness, timeliness, relevance, and utility of transportation data? How well does the proposal serve the broad transportation interests of the United States?
2. How innovative is the proposed activity? To what extent is the work being accomplished elsewhere?
3. How much experience has the applicant demonstrated in one or more of the following areas—collecting, analyzing, storing, or disseminating transportation data, particularly data collected or disseminated by BTS, and working with theoretical statistical issues concerning transportation data?
4. Does the applicant have the professional qualifications and team members necessary for satisfactory performance of the proposed activity?
5. How well does the technical approach and proposed costs reflect an understanding of the procedures necessary to complete the required tasks?
6. To what degree does the proposal include cost-sharing? More weight will be given to proposals with cash contributions than in-kind services. For awards of $100,000 or more, BTS requires cash contributions of 50 percent toward the total project’s cost.

V. Amount of Funds Available and Period of Support

We anticipate that approximately $500,000 per year will be designated to support grants over the next five years, subject to the availability of appropriated funds. This estimate does not bind BTS to a specific number of offers or awards, nor to a specific amount of funding support for particular awards or awards in aggregate. It is anticipated that individual awards amounts, based upon demonstrated needs, will likely range from $50,000 to $200,000, though BTS has not established minimum or maximum funding levels.

Given the amount of funds available, applicants are strongly encouraged to seek other funding opportunities to supplement the federal funds. Preference will be given to applicants with cost sharing proposals from within or outside their organizations.

The period of time of awards will vary with the complexity of the project and it is possible that grants will be awarded for periods greater than one year.

VI. BTS Involvement

BTS involvement, if any, will vary by award. If you anticipate BTS involvement, you must note this in your project narrative and any support BTS provides will be specified in the award agreement. BTS will assign a liaison to serve as the primary contact regarding the grant.

VII. Terms and Conditions of Award

1. Prior to award, each grantee will be required to complete additional government application forms, such as OMB SF-424B (Assurances—Nonconstruction Programs) and with the certification requirements of 49 CFR part 20, Department of Transportation New Restrictions on Lobbying, and 49 CFR part 29, Department of Transportation Government-Wide Debarment and Suspension (Non-Procurement) and Government-Wide Requirements for Drug Free Workplace (Grants).
2. Each grantee shall submit a program implementation plan no more than one month after award. The BTS liaison will review and comment, if necessary.
3. Each grantee shall submit quarterly progress reports, a draft final report, and a final report that reflects the BTS liaison’s comments.

Thank you for your interest in our Transportation Statistics Research Grants program.

Ashish Sen,
Director.

[FR Doc. 06–6254 Filed 3–13–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–FF–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms within the Department of the Treasury is soliciting comments concerning the Notices Relating to Payment of Firearms and Ammunition Excise Tax.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before May 15, 2000 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Linda Barnes, 650 Massachusetts Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20226, (202) 927–8930.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the form(s) and instructions should be directed to Marjorie Ruhf, Regulations Division, 650 Massachusetts Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20226, (202) 927–8230.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Title: Notices Relating to Payment of Firearms and Ammunition Excise Tax.

OMB Number: 1512–0512.

Abstract: Excise taxes are collected on the sale or use of firearms and ammunition by firearms or ammunition manufacturers, importers or producers. Taxpayers who elect to pay excise taxes by electronic fund transfer must furnish a written notice upon election and discontinuance. The tax revenue will be protected. The record retention requirement for this information collection is 3 years.

Current Actions: There are no changes to this information collection and it is being submitted for extension purposes only.

Type of Review: Extension.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 10.

Estimated Time Per Respondent: 6 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 1 hour.

Request for Comments: Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on:

(a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility;
(b) The accuracy of the agency’s estimate of the burden of the collection of information;
(c) Ways to enhance the