DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

[Docket No. 2011–0786]

Notice of FAA Intent To Carry Over Airport Improvement Program (AIP) Entitlement Funds

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: By 12 p.m. prevailing local time on Friday, August 12, 2011, airport sponsors eligible to receive entitlement funds under the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) must notify, in writing, the designated representative in the appropriate FAA Regional or Airports District Office if they intend to submit a final grant application in support of eligible projects with their fiscal year 2011 and/or prior-year entitlement funds. This notice must address all entitlement funds apportioned for fiscal year 2011, regardless of whether the FAA has authority to obligate those funds. After that deadline, the FAA will carry over all remaining entitlement funds, and the funds will not be available again until at least the beginning of fiscal year 2012.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Frank J. San Martin, Manager, Airports Financial Assistance Division, APP–500, on (202) 267–3831.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Availability of Documents

You can get an electronic copy of this policy and all other documents in this docket using the Internet by:

(1) Searching the Federal eRulemaking portal (http://www.regulations.gov/search);
(2) Visiting the FAA’s Regulations and Policies Web page at http://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies; or

You can also get a copy by sending a request to the Federal Aviation Administration, Airports Financial Assistance Division, Office of Airport Planning and Programming, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591, or by calling (202) 267–3831. Make sure to identify the docket number, notice number, or amendment number of this proceeding.

Title 49 of the United States Code, Chapter 471, allows the FAA to grant apportioned or entitlement funds to eligible airport sponsors in support of eligible projects. Chapter 471 also allows the FAA to defer or carry over such grants to the following year. In such cases, the FAA converts the current-year funds to AIP discretionary funds, and then protects an equal amount of funding to be available to the sponsors in the following year, subject to legislative action to give the FAA both legal authority to issue grants and an appropriation of funds.

Over the five fiscal years from 2003 through 2007, the FAA converted entitlements averaging just over $450 million annually, representing approximately 13 percent of the overall amount appropriated for AIP. Beginning in fiscal year 2008, that percentage increased sharply, to an annual average closer to $600 million, representing approximately 18 percent of the amount appropriated for AIP.

Chapter 471 requires the FAA to establish a deadline for sponsors to notify the FAA of their intention to request a grant using their available entitlement funds. The FAA has historically established May 1 as the deadline for sponsor notification. By the end of July in each of the fiscal years from 2006 through 2010, the FAA has historically been able to convert at least $400 million in entitlement funds based on sponsor requests.

On February 3, 2011, the FAA published a notice in the Federal Register (23 FR 6178), establishing May 1, 2011 as the notification deadline. However, as of July 20, 2011 (with about 10 weeks remaining in the fiscal year), the FAA has been able to convert only about $120 million in carryover based on sponsor notifications. This represents a significantly slower rate of carryover conversion.
As the end of the fiscal year approaches, it will quickly become difficult to convert further carryover funds to discretionary in sufficient time to obligate the funds. The FAA recognizes the unique circumstances that many sponsors face due to the series of short-term extensions of the FAA’s authorizing legislation, which has prevented the FAA from making apportioned AIP funds fully available during FY 2011. The FAA also recognizes that in many cases, sponsors have been awaiting access to the full amount of entitlement funds. In other cases, sponsors have been waiting in the hope of securing AIP discretionary or state apportionment funds.

Therefore, the FAA is hereby notifying sponsors about steps required to ensure that the FAA has sufficient time to carryover and convert remaining entitlement funds, due to processes required under federal and local laws. The FAA is hereby notifying all sponsors that by 12 p.m. prevailing local time on Friday, August 12, 2011, they must submit written notice to the appropriate FAA office if they intend to submit a final grant application in support of eligible projects with its fiscal year 2011 or prior-year entitlement funds. This notice must address the asportioned for fiscal year 2011, regardless of whether the FAA has authority to obligate those funds. After that deadline, the FAA will carry over all remaining entitlement funds, and the funds will not be available again until at least the beginning of fiscal year 2012. This notification requirement does not apply to non-primary airports covered by the block-grant program.

In addition, the FAA is also reminding sponsors that the February 3, 2011 Federal Register notice established August 1, 2011 as the deadline to submit a grant application. In light of the protracted uncertainty about the program, the FAA is hereby revising that deadline to Friday, August 12, 2011. The FAA urges sponsors who cannot meet this deadline for grant applications to contact the designated representative in the appropriate Airports Regional or District Office.

The FAA is also notifying sponsors who have requested but not received AIP discretionary funding in fiscal year 2011 that they must contact the designated representative in the appropriate Airports District Office or Regional Office. The FAA will advise such sponsors if it is unlikely that the FAA can fulfill those funding requests in fiscal year 2011, enabling such sponsors to make timely decisions about their fiscal year 2011 entitlement funds.

In the absence of either a final grant application or written notification from the sponsor stating their intent to use fiscal year 2011 entitlement funds, the FAA will carry over all remaining entitlement funds, and the funds will not be available again until at least the beginning of fiscal year 2012.

Issued in Washington, DC on July 22, 2011.

Frank J. San Martin,
Manager, Airports Financial Assistance Division, Office of Airport Planning and Programming.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Transit Administration
Section 5309 Discretionary Bus and Bus Facilities Program

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration (FTA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of FTA Bus and Bus Facilities Program Funds: Solicitation of Project Proposals for Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative grants.

SUMMARY: The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announces the availability of discretionary Section 5309 Bus and Bus Facilities grant funds in support of the Federal Interagency Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility’s (CCAM or Coordinating Council) Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative (VTCLI or Initiative). This grant opportunity will be funded using $30 million in unallocated Discretionary Bus and Bus Facilities Program funds, authorized by 49 U.S.C. 5309(b) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy For Users (SAFETEA–LU), Public Law 109–59, August 10, 2005.

This VTCLI grant opportunity makes funds available to local government agencies to finance capital costs of implementing, expanding, or increasing access to local One-Call/One-Click Transportation Resource Centers. These Centers simplify access to transportation for the public by connecting customers in one place to rides and transportation options provided in their locality by a variety of transportation providers and programs. This notice includes priorities established by the Coordinating Council’s partnership for these discretionary funds, the criteria the interagency review panel will use to identify meritorious projects for funding, and describes how to apply. Additionally, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will make mobility management training assistance and support available to Veteran’s Affairs networks in communities selected for award. The Department of Labor (DOL) will make social communication technologies and training available to selected grantees in order to actively engage veterans, military service personnel and families as well as others in the community in the development of plans to better respond to the transportation needs of veterans and military service families.

This announcement is available on the FTA’s Web site, on the Veterans Transportation and Community Living initiative Web page at: http://www.fta.dot.gov/veterans. FTA will announce final selections on its Web site and in the Federal Register. A synopsis of this announcement will be posted in the FIND module of the government-wide electronic grants Web site at http://www.grants.gov. Proposals must be submitted to FTA, electronically, through the GRANTS.GOV “APPLY” function.

DATES: Complete proposals for the discretionary Veterans Transportation and Community Living grants must be submitted by September 16, 2011. The proposals must be submitted electronically through the GRANTS.GOV Web site. Applicants who have not already done so should initiate the process of registering on the GRANTS.GOV site immediately to ensure completion of registration before the deadline for submission.


FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general program information, as well as proposal-specific questions, please send an e-mail to VeteransTransportation@dot.gov or contact Doug Birnie, (202) 366–1666, or, Pamela Brown, (202) 493–2503. A TDD is available at 1–800–877–8339 (TDD/ FIRQS).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
Table of Contents
I. Funding Opportunity Description
II. FTA and Other Partnership Award Information
III. Eligibility Information
IV. Proposal Submission Information
V. Proposal Review, Selection and Notification
VI. Award Administration
VII. Agency Contacts