November 12, 2019

Dear Prospective Applicants

SUBJECT: Availability of Formula Grant Funds for Federal Fiscal Year 2020-2021

The Mississippi Department of Transportation is pleased to announce the availability of funds for the following formula grant programs for the period of October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021:

Section 5311 Rural Areas Program (including intercity bus projects)
Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities
   (Rural, Small and Large Urban)

Federal funds are available on a competitive basis for projects proposing to serve the general public and special needs populations as a part of a local or regional coordinated transportation project. Applicants are reminded that approval of applications is contingent upon the project being included in an approved local Coordinated Human Services-Public Transportation Plan. Grants will be provided by approximately $17.8 million in federal funds that we anticipate receiving from the Federal Transit Administration and will require local matching funds.

The enclosed public notice describes the eligible recipients and types of allowable services. Instructions for completing the grant applications for the 2020-21 program year will be provided during the December 16, 2019 application workshops for ALL applicants (8:30 am-2:00 pm). Applications will be accepted as indicated below:

**Grant Programs**

Section 5311 Rural Areas Program
   (including intercity bus projects)
Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility
   of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities

**Application Due Dates**

Section 5311 Rural Areas Program
   February 7, 2020 by 3:00 p.m.
Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility
   of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities
   February 7, 2020 by 3:00 p.m.

If there are any questions, please contact Mrs. Shirley Wilson, Director, Public Transit Division, by telephone at (601) 359-7800, by fax at (601) 359-7777, or by e-mail at swilson@mdot.ms.gov.

Sincerely,

Ms. Melinda L. McGrath, P. E.
Executive Director
The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) is soliciting applications for the following Federal Transit Administration (FTA) formula grant transportation programs through the Public Transit Division:

Section 5311 Rural Areas program

Eligible applicants include State and local governmental authorities, Indian Tribes, private non-profit organizations, and private operators of public transportation services under special contractual arrangements. Although an applicant's proposal may target specific client groups, services for the general public must be included. Applicants are reminded that participation in a local coordinated planning process must also be clearly documented. Consequently, projects must be derived from an approved local Human Service Public Transportation Coordination Plan.

This program funds general public, job access and reverse commute and certain intercity bus transportation services in areas with less than 50,000 in population. Approximately $16,000,000 in FTA funds are expected to be available for capital, operating, planning and administration expenses that may support general public, job access and reverse commute and intercity transportation services. These funds will be made available based upon Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act federal appropriations. MDOT will also, to the greatest extent utilize any available older 5311 Safe Affordable Flexible Transportation Equity Act-A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) and Moving Ahead for Progress in 21st Century (MAP-21) funds to fund projects.

A job access and reverse commute project is defined as a transportation project that may provide planning, capital and/or operating costs of services designed to transport welfare recipients and eligible low-income individuals to and from jobs and activities related to their employment. This may include projects that involve trips to and from urbanized areas or rural areas to suburban employment locations.

Intercity transportation services may include rural and small urban areas. Eligible intercity bus activities include planning and marketing for intercity bus transportation, capital, some operating cost and coordination of rural connections between rural transit projects and intercity carriers.

5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program (Rural, Small and Large Urbanized Area)

This program provides funds for private non-profit organizations to implement services that:

1) Serve the special needs of transit-dependent populations beyond traditional public transportation service, where public transportation is insufficient, inappropriate, or unavailable;

2) Exceed the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA);
3) Improve access to fixed route service and decrease reliance on complementary paratransit;

4) or provide alternatives to public transportation

Capital and operating awards will be provided from approximately $1,800,000 in federal funds made available for rural (Less than 50,000 in population) and small urban areas (50,000 – 199,999 in population), City of Jackson Urbanized Area (Over 200,000 in population) by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). These funds will be made available from FAST Act funding appropriations. MDOT will also, to the greatest extent utilize any available older 5310 SAFETEA-LU and MAP-21 to fund projects.

Eligible applicants include private non-profit organizations or public bodies that coordinate services for seniors and individuals with disabilities. Applicants must document that they can provide the local match required for all capital and operating costs. Local match funds may be derived from state, local or certain other federal funds. Projects must be included in a locally developed coordinated plan.

Applicants wishing to apply for funding via this announcement must register in the grant application software portal on the MDOT website at http://mdot.ms.gov/gms/default.aspx. All grant applications for funding must be received in our office on or before 3:00 p.m. on February 7, 2020.

It is the policy of the MDOT and the FTA that no persons or groups shall, on the grounds of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

For more information about these programs and the respective application process, please contact Shirley Wilson, Director, Public Transit Division, Mississippi Department of Transportation at P. O. Box 1850, Mail Code 61-01, Jackson, MS 39215-1850 or by telephone at (601) 359-7800, FAX at (601) 359-7777, or by email at swilson@mdot.ms.gov.

The Public Transit Division has scheduled a 5310 and 5311 Application Workshop on Monday, December 16, 2019 for all perspective applicants at the Jackson Medical Mall in the Community Center Room, located at 350 W. Woodrow Wilson Drive, Jackson, MS 39213. All attendees are requested to register for the workshop on or before Friday, December 6, 2019.

The registration form is located on the MDOT website at http://mdot.ms.gov/portal/Public_Transit.aspx#. Registration forms may be submitted via email to devans@mdot.ms.gov, faxed or mailed to the above address and number. The workshops will begin at 8:30 a.m. for all applicants. The workshops will include discussions of each formula grant program as well as the local coordinated planning requirements.