



**Metro**

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Metropolitan Transportation Authority

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**April 21, 2016**

**TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**THROUGH: PHILLIP A. WASHINGTON** *PAW*  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**FROM: THERESE MCMILLAN** *Tme*  
**CHIEF PLANNING OFFICER**

**SUBJECT: FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2016 FTA PILOT PROGRAM  
FOR TOD PLANNING GRANT OPPORTUNITY**

### **ISSUE**

On Thursday, April 14, 2016, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) released a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) indicating that \$20.49 million is available nationwide for the Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Planning grants. FTA anticipates minimum grant awards of \$250,000 and maximum grant awards of \$2,000,000. *FTA's deadline to submit applications is Monday, June 13, 2016.* We are identifying potentially eligible projects that can best compete for Pilot Program TOD Planning Grant funds.

### **DISCUSSION**

The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act authorizes FTA to make grants for eligible projects under the Pilot Program for TOD Planning on a competitive basis. Through this program, FTA intends to fund comprehensive planning work, including for TOD, that would otherwise not occur without Federal support. FTA is seeking comprehensive planning projects covering an entire transit capital project corridor, rather than proposals that involve planning for individual station areas or only a small section of the corridor. To be eligible, the proposed project must be associated with an eligible transit capital project that is a New Starts, Core Capacity or fixed-guideway Small Starts project as defined under the FTA Capital Investment Grant (CIG) Program (e.g., in Section 5309(a) of title 49, United States Code). The FTA is also requiring that transit project sponsors partner with entities with land use planning authority in the transit project corridor to conduct the planning work.

Eligible applicants under this program must be FTA grantees (i.e., existing direct and designated recipients as of the publication date of the NOFO). In addition, an applicant must either be the project sponsor of an eligible transit capital project or an entity with

land use planning authority in an eligible transit capital project corridor. Except in cases where an applicant is both the sponsor of an eligible transit project and has land use authority in at least a portion of the transit project corridor, the applicant must include sufficient evidence of a partnership between the transit project sponsor and at least one entity in the project corridor with land use planning authority. Sufficient evidence may include a memorandum of agreement or letter of intent signed by all parties describing parties' roles and responsibilities in the proposed comprehensive planning project. Additionally, only one application per transit capital project corridor may be submitted to the FTA.

Pilot Program for TOD Planning funds may cover up to 80% of project costs. Local funds must be committed and grants awarded within eight months of funding announcements, which are expected in the fall of 2016. Additionally, the maximum period of performance allowed for the work covered by the award is 24 months.

### **Internal Process for Requesting, Evaluating, and Selecting Projects**

We have requested input from all Metro departments to identify projects that could be eligible and competitive for the grant opportunity. In reviewing each candidate project, we will assess the extent to which each project meets the requirements of the NOFO. After follow-up meetings with Department staff who have proposed projects, and with any input received from the Board of Directors, we will identify those projects that are the most competitive and that can best meet the FTA selection criteria.

### **NEXT STEPS**

We will be fielding recommended candidate projects through Friday, May 6, 2016. We will assess the input received and inform the Board of our assessment results. We also will submit grant applications by the June 13, 2016 deadline for those proposed projects that can best compete for the federal Pilot Program for TOD Planning funds.