



# Oregon

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**DATE:** May 2, 2006  
**TO:** Public Transit Technical Advisory Committee

**FROM:** Martin W. Loring Administrator  
Public Transit Division

File Code:

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item D: SATETEA-Lu Implementation; Implementing  
SAFETEA-LU Planning Provisions

At the March 2006 meeting the PTAC supported an implementation design for meeting the new SAFTEA-Lu requirements for planning, and program design required to be eligible for FTA resources. The requirements for local area planning must be met for the “Elderly and Individuals with Disabilities Capital” and “Pilot” Programs (Sec. 5310), “New Freedom” Program (Sec. 5315), “Jobs Access and Reverse Commute” Program (JARC Sec. 5317) so that ODOT can bring these program resources to Oregon.

**Challenge.** The first version of the local plan must be completed no later than spring 2007 so that projects can be selected and applied for in 2007 FTA applications. Getting funds to the participants quickly to help them complete the plans is imperative.

The division has identified funds for the work, developed a timely funding process, and a technical assistance and outreach program designed to ensure that the locally coordinated plans are completed as required so that funds can be distributed for the 2007 federal program cycle.

**Financial Support.** The divisions’ challenge was to offer financial assistance targeted to meeting the SAFETEA-LU “public transit/human service coordinated plan” requirements as soon as possible. The following outlines how the division can quickly provide planning funds using existing authorities and funds:

- a) STF agencies and MPO’s will be those designated to administer the local plans and eligible to request the funds. They are already established by state statute and Governor designations to conduct transit planning on behalf of communities.
- b) Planning Projects will be offered at 80% percent participation with a 20% percent local match in accord with existing FTA requirements.
- c) The Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) has authority to award STF discretionary funds for planning projects that benefit the development of services for seniors and individuals with disabilities.
- d) ODOT PTD has the authority to use current FTA administrative funds for statewide or local planning activities that benefit program participants.

**“Fast Track” local distribution plan.** The division does not currently have a policy for a direct distribution of funds on an “as needed” basis. We are asking that the OTC approve a policy that the division may distribute funds for the required activities based on documented agency requests. If the policy is approved the division wishes to use the following distribution plan:

- a) Five STF Agencies with current planning grant agreements can immediately be offered the opportunity to add scope and budget to accomplish the required new tasks as part of their work. This will quickly allow them to start. (see Attachment A)
- b) Eleven STF Agencies can immediately be offered funds to update recently developed plans with the required activities which will give them an opportunity to accomplish the new tasks. They will complete an outline of scope and budget for the tasks. Staff will review and write an agreement for those tasks necessary to meet the requirements.
- c) The remaining twenty six STF Agencies may apply for scope and budget to do the required planning as part of their ongoing eligibility in the program. Staff will review and write an agreement for those tasks necessary to meet the requirements.
- d) Six MPO’s will be offered funds to conduct tasks that integrate the new local plans into the MPO Comprehensive Plan.

The amount to be awarded to each agency will be commensurate with the tasks needed to complete an acceptable “initial” plan.

**Division’s Estimate of Funds Needed:**

Staff used the following logic to estimate an amount needed to accomplish the local plans. This budget is within the means of the division, if more is needed we will need to revisit the plan.

- i. Award \$88,000 additional funds to current planning grants – see chart below.
- ii. Update currently adopted plans (~11 @ \$6,000 ea)
- iii. Budget for New plans (~32 @ \$20,000 ea). Division is encouraging STF Agencies to collaborate or combine their efforts. These numbers represent the maximum number of plans.

Estimated amount of funding required: **\$800,000.**

**Source of funds** is currently available from the administrative and planning portion of the following programs:

<b>Source</b>	<b>Amounts Available</b>
FTA - New Freedom	\$60,000
FTA - JARC	120,000
FTA - § 5311 Rural Program	150,000
FTA - § 5313 Planning Program	270,000
State Special Transportation Fund	200,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$800,000</b>

**2. Technical assistance for the various steps to the planning process:**

- a. Provide on-site consultation and technical assistance.
  - i. ODOT will partner with Department of Human Services through their Competitive Employment Project. DHS is the lead agency.
  - ii. The goal is to ensure that Coordinated and MPO Plans will lead to the development of specific transit services supporting the employment needs of people with disabilities, services for the elderly and people with low-income.
  - iii. Project period is estimated to be 18 months, and will include the planning and preliminary implementation phases of at least three projects. Additional technical assistance will be provided to any of STF Agencies and MPOs requesting input.
- b. Provide scheduled workshops:
  - i. Public Transit Division will provide at least two workshops focused on transportation coordination and planning issues. Workshops are scheduled for June 29-30, and July 21, 2006.
  - ii. The division will offer at least four workshops focused on the Public Transportation Discretionary Grant Program requirements including planning, eligibility, and grant writing techniques. The workshops will be schedule during August through October 2006.
  - iii. Estimated amount of funding required for technical assistance: **\$150,000.**

**Funds available for Technical Assistance.** Funds are available and already programmed for this work:

<b>Source</b>	<b>Amounts Available</b>
FTA Coordination Grant	\$35,000
Rural Transit Assistance Program	40,000
Special Transportation Fund	75,000
Total	<b>\$150,000</b>

At the May 2006 Meeting PTAC is asked to comment on the proposed policy and the estimated budget to meet the planning challenge for Oregon Communities.