



**Sustainable Communities  
Workshop  
Louisville, KY  
February 22, 2010**



## **DOT/HUD/EPA InterAgency Partnership for Sustainable Communities**

### **Background**

On June 16, 2009, U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) joined with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to help improve access to affordable housing, more transportation options, and lower transportation costs while protecting the environment in communities nationwide. Through a set of guiding livability principles and a partnership agreement that will guide the agencies' efforts, this partnership will coordinate federal housing, transportation, and other infrastructure investments to protect the environment, promote equitable development, and help to address the challenges of climate change.



## **DOT/HUD/EPA Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities**

**The DOT/HUD/EPA Interagency Partnership established these six Livability Principles**

- Provide more transportation choices.
- Promote equitable, affordable housing.
- Enhance economic competitiveness.
- Support existing communities.
- Coordinate and leverage federal policies and investment.
- Value communities and neighborhoods.



## **DOT/HUD/EPA Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities**

### **The Partnership Agreement**

The DOT/HUD/EPA Interagency Partnership Agreement will:

1. Enhance integrated planning and investment.
2. Provide a vision for sustainable growth.
3. Redefine housing affordability and make it transparent.
4. Redevelop underutilized sites.
5. Develop livability measures and tools.
6. Align DOT, HUD, and EPA programs.
7. Undertake joint research, data collection, and outreach.



## **DOT/HUD/EPA InterAgency Partnership for Sustainable Communities**

- In August of 2009, FTA (Region IV) initiated a Regional-Level Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities Working Group.
- Taking advantage of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) location in Atlanta, FTA expanded the Regional-Level Working Group to include representatives from FTA, HUD, EPA, FHWA, and the CDC.
- Working Group members are.....



## DOT/HUD/EPA Regional-Level Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities

### Region IV Working Group Membership

- Tom Thomson Deputy Regional Administrator FTA
- Cory Berish Deputy Assist. Regional Administrator EPA
- Emma Newsome Operations Specialist HUD
- K. Lynn Berry Metropolitan Planning Specialist FHWA
- Dr. Arthur Wendel Medical Officer CDC

❑ These five members are committed to ensuring that each of the six principles of the Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities is followed and that the seven Partnership Agreement objectives are achieved.

❑ CDC\* was invited to be a working group member because of their location in Atlanta and their interest in promoting healthy and sustainable communities.

- ❖ \* The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is **not** a signatory member of the National-Level DOT/HUD/EPA Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities. The CDC reports to HHS.



## **DOT/HUD/EPA InterAgency Partnership for Sustainable Communities**

- In December, 2009 the FTA published in the Federal Register two Notices of Funding Availability (NOFAs)
  - Discretionary Bus Livability
  - Urban Circulator Livability



## DOT/HUD/EPA Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities FTA Resources

- **Discretionary Bus and Urban Circulator Livability Programs**
  - **Two Programs - \$280 million**
    - ❑ \$150 million – Bus Livability Program
    - ❑ \$130 million – Urban Circulator Program

**Note:** FTA reserves the right to allocate additional discretionary resources that may become available under the Agency's Livability Programs.



# DOT/HUD/EPA Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities

## FTA Bus Livability Program

### Who is eligible to apply?

- Direct Recipients under the Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Program
  - States
  - Indian Tribes

**Note:** Projects in nonurbanized (rural) areas must be submitted as a part of a statewide consolidated application. However, to the extent practicable, each project will be independently evaluated.



# DOT/HUD/EPA Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities

## FTA Bus Livability Program

### What projects are eligible?

- Statutory Language: Capital projects to replace, rehabilitate, and purchase buses and bus-related facilities:
  - Examples:
    - ❑ Purchase and rehabilitation of buses and vans.
    - ❑ Bus-related equipment including ITS, fare equipment and communications devices.
    - ❑ Construction and rehabilitation of bus-related facilities including administrative, maintenance, transfer, and intermodal facilities.
    - ❑ Facilities consistent with FTA's Joint Development policy and transit oriented development.



# DOT/HUD/EPA Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities

## FTA Bus Livability Program

### **What projects expenses are ineligible?**

- Operating expenses
- Preventive maintenance
- Other expanded capital eligibility items such as security drills, debt service reserve, and mobility management.

### **What other limitations apply to the funds?**

- Funds may not be used to reimburse projects that have incurred previous expenses absent evidence that FTA had issued a Letter of No Prejudice (LONP).
- Funds cannot supplant other FTA funds obligated in grants.

### **When is the application deadline?**

- Applications must be submitted by **February 10, 2010**.

### **How can proposals be submitted?**

- Proposals must be submitted electronically through the GRANTS.GOV Web site or via e-mail to: [buslivability@dot.gov](mailto:buslivability@dot.gov) .



# DOT/HUD/EPA InterAgency Partnership for Sustainable Communities

## Bus Livability Program

Six Evaluation Criteria:

1. Demonstrated need for resources
2. Planning and prioritization at local/regional level
3. Livability
4. Sustainability
5. Leveraging of public and private investments
6. Project readiness



# DOT/HUD/EPA Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities

## Urban Circulator Livability Program

- Approximately \$130 million in unallocated Section 5309 New Starts/Small Starts funds are available
- Funds for “exempt” discretionary grants
  - ❑ Up to 80% of the net project capital cost
  - ❑ Grants cannot exceed \$25 million
    - Projects receiving less than \$25 million are exempt from evaluation and rating under New Starts/Small Starts criteria.
    - **Note:** FTA’s New Starts/Small Starts criteria were recently revised to give transit-supportive land use greater value than simple cost per passenger-mile.
    - The policy shift resulted directly from the desire by the Obama administration’s senior policy-makers to better support the competitiveness of Sustainable Communities projects.



# DOT/HUD/EPA Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities

## Urban Circulator Livability Program

### What projects are eligible?

A project must meet one of the following guideway criteria:

1. Be a fixed guideway for at least 50% of the project length in peak period – **AND/OR**
2. Be a corridor-based bus project with the following minimum elements:
  - a. Substantial Transit Stations.
  - b. Signal Priority/Pre-emption (for bus/LRT).
  - c. Low Floor/Level Boarding Vehicles.
  - d. Special Branding of Service.
  - e. Frequent Service – 10min peak/15 min off peak.
  - f. Service offered at least 14 hours per day.

**Note:** A project must be based on the results of an alternatives analysis and preliminary engineering.



# DOT/HUD/EPA Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities

## Urban Circulator Livability Program

### Who is eligible to apply?

- Public bodies and agencies (transit authorities and other state and local public bodies and agencies thereof) including states, municipalities, other political subdivisions of states; and certain public corporations, boards, and commissions established under state law, who are authorized to engage in public transportation.



# DOT/HUD/EPA Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities

## Urban Circulator Livability Program

### **What projects are eligible?**

- New fixed guideway capital projects, including the acquisition of real property, the initial acquisition of rolling stock for the systems, the acquisition of rights-of-ways, and relocation.

### **What projects are ineligible?**

- Fixed guideway corridor redevelopment for projects in the advanced stages of alternatives analysis or preliminary engineering.

### **What other limitations apply to funds?**

- Funds cannot be used to reimburse grantees that have incurred prior expenses for the project absent evidence that FTA had issued a Letter of No Prejudice (LONP).



# DOT/HUD/EPA Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities

## Urban Circulator Livability Program

### **When is the application deadline?**

- Applications must be submitted by **February 10, 2010**

### **How can proposals be submitted?**

- Proposals must be submitted electronically through the GRANTS.GOV Web site or via e-mail to:  
[Urbancirculator@dot.gov](mailto:Urbancirculator@dot.gov) .



# **DOT/HUD/EPA Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities**

## **Urban Circulator Livability Program**

### **Four Evaluation Criteria**

1. Livability
2. Sustainability
3. Economic Development
4. Leveraging of Public Investments



## DOT/HUD/EPA Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities

- Urban Circulator Livability Program
  - ❑ For proposal specific information, contact the appropriate Regional Office.
    - Region 4 (404) 865-5600
    - ✓ Robert Buckley (404) 865-5618
  - ❑ For general program information, contact Elizabeth Day.
    - Office of Planning and Environment, (202) 366-5159



## **DOT/HUD/EPA Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities**

- I know what you are thinking – The deadline for applying for the Discretionary Bus and Urban Circulator Livability Programs has passed!
- What do I do now?



## DOT/HUD/EPA Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities

- ❖ The good news is that in the FY11 President's Budget, \$690M has been requested for the Sustainable Communities Program. Of that amount, FTA has requested \$307M for a dedicated Livable Communities Program.
  - ❑ Urge your Congressional Delegation to support funding for this dedicated funding program.
- ❖ There are also several "standard" FTA funding programs that are potential funding sources. These programs include:
  - ❑ Metropolitan and Statewide Planning (Sections 5305, 5304, and 5305)
  - ❑ Urbanized Areas (Section 5307)
  - ❑ Rail and Fixed Guideway Modernization (Section 5309)
  - ❑ Bus and Bus Facilities (Section 5309) – equivalent to the discretionary Bus NOFA
  - ❑ Urban Circulator(Section 5309) –equivalent to the Urban Circulator NOFA
  - ❑ Transit Rural and Small Urban Areas ( Section 5311)
  - ❑ Rural Transit Assistance Program (Section 5311(c))
  - ❖ Applications for "standard" programs funding must be submitted using FTA's TEAM-Web online grant application program at:  
<http://ftateamweb.fta.dot.gov/fta-flash2b.html>
    - ❑ A TEAM-Web User Account is required to apply for funding.
    - ❑ Contact the Region 4 Office to establish an account.



## DOT/HUD/EPA Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities

- ❖ FTA has also recently learned that another source of FY funds might become available in FY 2011.
- ❖ As part of the Transportation Infrastructure Improvements grant program (the second round of TIGER grants) additional dedicated funds for the Sustainable Communities program might become available:
  - ❑ The overall funding is \$600 million.
  - ❑ With \$35 million for planning.
- ❖ With the coming of the new fiscal year, and assuming DOT's and FTA's budget portion of the President's FY 2011 budget request to Congress is approved, FTA will announce the details for applying for the funds in a 2011 Federal Register notification