



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Transit
Administration**

Region IV Annual Bulletin

**Newsletter of the
FTA Region IV**

Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North
Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virgin Islands

Message from the Regional Administrator

Greetings! As we approach the spring of the year, it reminds me how wonderful it feels to transition from season to season. As we concluded fiscal year 2013, over \$1.0 billion was awarded to support transit throughout our Region. Thank-you for making that happen! As we transitioned into the beginning of FY 2014, we can recall the challenges and uncertainty that existed with the partial government shutdown; only to be followed by intermittent closings of the government due to the harsh winter storms. However, I'm reminded of a quote that "if we had no winter, then spring would not be so pleasant."

We are excited to be forging ahead in FY14 to obligate more funding to our grantees as you continue the great work you do every day for the riding public. We look forward to celebrating several significant milestones this fiscal year as the new SunRail commuter system plans to open in Orlando and the East-West Bus Rapid System at LYNX gears up to start its service; and the Atlanta Streetcar gets ready to be rolling through the downtown streets of the City. It is such a great reward to see the results of the hard work and dedication that goes into building viable transit systems. I commend you!

Our Secretary of Transportation has revealed the top five priorities for the Department and I look forward to your continued partnership in: (1) ensuring that we make safety a number one priority; (2) identifying ways to be more efficient in delivering transportation options; (3) helping to shape a national transportation plan which integrates all modes; (4) investing in projects that provide for "ladders of opportunity" for all; and (5) supporting a long-term sustainable funding source through a surface re-authorization bill.

Please join me in making FY14 our season of great accomplishments!

Sincerely,
Yvette G. Taylor, Ph.D.

FY 2014 Discretionary Grants Selection

Region IV would like to CONGRATULATE the following grantees for their FY 2014 Discretionary Program Award! FY 2014 provided for very competitive discretionary programs for which the many Region IV grantees were selected, which are identified below. To date, the TIGER V and Tribal Transit Program awards have been announced. The Passenger Ferry Awards are expected to be released in the early spring.

As the grantees move toward project implementation, please work with your FTA planner or grants manager for any questions, concerns, or deviations of the selected projects. Again, Region IV congratulates you on being selected for FY 2014 Discretionary Funding! FTA Region IV looks forward to working with you on these projects!



*Discretionary
Awards continued
on Page Two*

FY 2014 Discretionary Grants Selection

FY 2014 Discretionary Grants Awards — Congratulations FTA Region IV Recipients!

TIGER V – \$474 M– Ten projects in Region IV:

Goldsboro, North Carolina — Goldsboro Main Street Revitalization: \$10.0M
Nashville MTA, Tennessee - Nashville Transit Signal Priority System: \$10.0M
Atlanta, GA—SW Atlanta Beltline Trail: \$18M
Lee County, FL MPO—Lee County Complete Streets: \$10.4M
Florida DOT—South Florida Freight & Passenger Rail Enhancement: \$13.75M
Florida International Univ.—University City Prosperity Project: \$11.4M
Foley, AL—Regional Pedestrian Infrastructure System: \$4.7M
Mississippi DOT—Interstate 20 Mississippi River Bridge Rehab: \$4.25M
Jackson County, MS Port Authority—Port of Pascagoula Intermodal Improvement: \$14M
Raleigh, NC—Raleigh Union Station Phase IB: \$10M

Tribal Transit – No projects selected in Region IV.

Passenger Ferry Grant Program—Award recipients not yet announced. Spring announcement expected.



Low or No Emission Vehicle Deployment Program (LoNo Program)

NOFA released on 09 January 2014. FTA announces the availability of \$24.9 million of Fiscal Year 2013 funds for the deployment of low or no emission transit buses. Of that amount, \$21.6 million is available for buses and \$3.3 million is available for supporting facilities and related equipment.

Complete proposals are to be submitted through Grants.gov by 10 April 2014.

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-03-10/pdf/2014-05196.pdf>

Environmental Program Updates

Stan Mitchell (stanley.a.mitchell@dot.gov), the Region IV Environmental Specialist, is available to participate in discussions regarding the approach to NEPA such as the appropriate class of action, environmental scoping, and to provide technical assistance.

Remember to engage our office early to cooperatively determine the appropriate level of environmental action. We encourage grantees to use the beginning of the fiscal year to prepare the required environmental documentation for FTA review. Environmental documentation must be reviewed and approved by FTA in advance of seeking any Federal funds. Please allow 60 days for FTA to respond to all NEPA document submittals.

In conjunction with the MAP-21 legislation, FTA developed transit-specific NEPA Categorical Exclusions. The first 11 of these were effective in February, 2013, and two more are effective February, 2014. Previously, FTA shared CEs with FHWA in 23 CFR 771.117, but now FTA grantees must use the new list in 23 CFR 771.118. The CEs are for use when actions do not involve significant impacts and do not involve substantial controversy on environmental grounds. Please contact Stan Mitchell, 404-865-5473, if you have any questions about the appropriateness of the use of any CE.

The FTA Region IV Grantee NEPA Resources link at the following link

http://www.fta.dot.gov/region4_12134.html

provides updated information on the new Section 106 worksheet, ACHP Section 106 flowchart, documented Categorical Exclusion and NEPA re-evaluation templates. Also, please visit our Headquarters' site at <http://www.fta.dot.gov/> for additional environmental guidance, including recorded webinars and presentations on the new Categorical Exclusions under MAP-21.

Please coordinate with your community planner and Stan Mitchell early in your project planning to ensure the NEPA process follows all federal requirements.

Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21)



On 06 July 2012, President Obama signed MAP-21, reauthorizing surface transportation programs for fiscal years 2013 and 2014. MAP-21 took effect on 01 October 2012.

FTA has maintained a separate section on the website specifically highlighting the changes from SAFETEA-LU to MAP-21, providing answers to FAQs and fact sheets for all programs authorized in MAP-21 and providing several valuable training webinars.

Below are highlights of several major policy changes created by changes within MAP-21.

- **Safety and Transit Asset Management**

MAP-21 gives FTA new duties to regulate safety, establish safety measures and create a new and expanded Office of Safety within FTA. Likewise, MAP-21 provides new safety requirements for transit grantees and states including provision of a Safety Officer and certain duties and certifications to comply.

Recent Related Federal Register Notices:

- * On October 3, 2013, FTA issued a consolidated advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPRM) to request public comments on a wide range of topics pertaining to the new Public Transportation Safety Program (National Safety Program) and the requirements of the new transit asset management provisions (National TAM System).
- * On October 1, 2013, FTA published a \$29 Million Notice of Funding Availability for Research, Development, Demonstration, and Deployment Program funds for innovative safety, resiliency, and all hazards emergency response and recovery research demonstration projects of national significance.

- **Section 5337 State of Good Repair Formula Grants**

Replaces the Fixed Guideway Rail Modernization Program with the State of Good Repair Formula Grants Program. High-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes are no longer part of the definition for fixed-guideway systems. There is a new definition for high-intensity motor buses, which is defined as public transportation that shares lanes with other HOV vehicles. Projects are limited to replacement and rehabilitation or capital projects required to maintain public transportation systems in a state of good repair. Projects must be included in a Transit Asset Management Plan.

- **Emergency Relief Program**

MAP-21 provides for the eligibility of operating and capital costs (including evacuation) for emergency transit services during declared emergencies. The Memorandum of Agreement has been completed with FEMA and the Interim Final Rule has been published in March 2013. \$10.9B has been appropriated in response to Hurricane Sandy.

- **Transit Representation at MPOs**

On September 30, 2013, FTA and FHWA jointly published proposed guidance to assist MPOs and providers of public transportation in complying with this new requirement. The intent of this requirement is to ensure providers of public transportation have equal decision-making rights and authorities as other members of MPO Policy Boards.

- **Section 5339 Bus and Facilities Formula Grants**

At this time, until there is a legislative fix for the text in MAP-21, the only allowable grant award recipients for this program are Section 5307 Designated Recipients. For all areas under 200,000, FTA will only be able to award the grant to the State DOT, who acts as the Designated Recipient for the apportionment to areas under 200,000. The State will be required to apply on behalf of the apportionment for these population areas. For areas over 200,000, FTA will be limited to awarding the grant to the Section 5307 Designated Recipients. Other eligible recipients in the area will have to enter into sub-recipient agreements with the 5307 Designated Recipient.



FTA Program Updates

New Starts Program

FTA's final policy guidance to sponsors of New and Small Starts projects was published on 14 August 2013 and is available at <http://www.fta.dot.gov>. This revised policy guidance accompanies the final rule to explain and provide guidance on the New and Small Starts evaluation criteria and rating process. Below is a summary of the criteria discussed in the guidance:



- Project Justification Criteria (50%)
 - Mobility Improvements
 - Economic Development Effects
 - Environmental Benefits
 - Cost Effectiveness
 - Land Use
- Local Financial Commitment (50%)
 - Current Condition
 - Commitment of Funds
 - Reliability/Capacity

Under MAP-21, the New Starts and Small Starts program has been streamlined through the elimination of various steps in the "pipeline." The final policy guidance also sets forth breakpoints for determining whether a project rates "high," "medium-high," "medium," "low-medium," or "low" on each of the various criteria. Additionally, the final policy guidance addresses the weighting of the criteria and measures to arrive at an overall project rating. The final policy guidance accompanies the final rule for Major Capital Investment projects issued on January 9, 2013, at 78 FR 1992–2037, and codified at 49 CFR Part 611.

A listing of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) are posted on the FTA New Starts website, <http://www.fta.dot.gov/>, and provide a valuable resource for all grantees. In addition, on this website, you will also find a comparison of the New Starts and Small Starts Programs under SAFETEA-LU and MAP-21. Furthermore, the application process for New and Small Starts is also laid out in detail to include detailing which activities need to be completed at the local level prior to the application to the desired program.

Finally, there are several recorded webinars that have been placed on the website for grantee reference. Please contact your local community planner with any questions concerning the New / Small Starts Program.

Civil Rights Program

Happy New Year! Going into 2014, we hope to continue to deliver professional, technical assistance for Civil Rights' core programs. Our website continues to be a source of information and is continually updated. Please bookmark this site and visit it often to obtain Civil Rights programmatic or training updates: http://www.fta.dot.gov/civil_rights.html. Questions or comments, please feel free to contact Carlos Gonzalez, Civil Rights Office at Carlos.Gonzalez3@dot.gov.

Civil Rights Training Materials

The FTA Office of Civil Rights recently developed a training site, which contains training videos, a listing of training opportunities such as webinars and conference calls for FTA's core programs (Title VI, DBE ADA, and EEO), and a link to the National Transit Institute course offerings. Please visit the site often to keep informed of training materials and opportunities:



<http://www.fta.dot.gov/civilrights/12885.html>.

New Civil Rights Staff

Stacie Parkins recently joined the FTA Office of Civil Rights in November 2013. She is based in Region IV and will provide Civil Rights support nationwide. Dr. Parkins comes to FTA by way of the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA), where she focused on state transit research, Title VI policy, DBE policy, Triennial Review, among other Civil Rights policies. From 2004 to 2006, she managed the daily operations of the American State Administrator's Project (ASAP), a national mail survey of state agency executives funded by the Earhart Foundation. In addition, she possesses university teaching experience in the field of political science. In August 2013 she joined the graduate faculty at her alma mater, Kennesaw State University, where she currently teaches in the Masters of Public Administration (MPA) program. Dr. Parkins holds a Doctorate in Public Administration & Public Policy from Auburn University, a Masters in Public Administration from Kennesaw State University, and a Bachelor of Science in Political Science from Georgia Southern University. Her research interests include state and local government, public policy-making, and civil rights. Stacie also enjoys traveling and relaxing with her Rottie-shepherd Kujo.

Planning and Program Development Updates

TEAM and Grant Application Deadlines

Many of the grantees within Region IV will have carryover balances. In addition, some grantees have discretionary funding that have not yet been applied in a grant application. You are encouraged to apply for this funding as soon as possible. As a reminder, all grants containing discretionary funding will be sent to HQ for Congressional Release, which will require additional time when securing federal grant funding.

Designated recipients are responsible for confirming any applicable sub-allocations of these funds to other direct recipients and ensuring that the appropriate documentation is on file with the Regional Office. All grantees are also responsible for coordinating these carryover balances with their local MPO to ensure they are programmed appropriately in the current TIP/STIP.

FTA staff requests that all lapsing grant applications be entered in TEAM and under FTA review no later than **30 April 2014**. Region IV's deadline for all grants is **30 June 2014**. Please ensure that your Civil Rights programs are current, including your Title VI and EEO plans along with your DBE program and goals.

It is imperative that you plan accordingly to have grant submissions to FTA no later than the dates listed in the enclosed table to ensure that your funds will be obligated in the time allotted. Please focus your attention to any grant applications containing lapsing funds first followed by application with your current year apportionments.

FTA Region IV Important Deadlines and Reminders for Grant Applications

30 April 2014	Region IV lapsing grant deadline for all draft grants to be <u>entered</u> in TEAM and under FTA to review. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Following grantee ensuring that the draft application has been entered <u>accurately and completely</u>, please notify the FTA community planner to review the application.
May - June, 2014	Reviewing and processing of all grants, including lapsing, current year and non-lapsing grant applications; discretionary grants in release.
30 June 2014	Region IV deadline for ALL lapsing grants . <ul style="list-style-type: none">• DOL can take up to 30-60 days.• Following DOL certification, discretionary grants will be sent for Congressional Release.
July – September, 2014	Obligations, Awards, and Execution of Grants.
23 September 2014	Anticipated TEAM closing.

Planning and Program Development Updates



Helpful Hints as you plan your Program of Projects and Grant Applications for FY 2014:

Project Eligibility and Requirements: With the implementation of MAP-21 and the conversion of several discretionary programs to formula programs, the eligibility of several programs has changed. Additionally, with several new formula programs, please check the eligibility of a particular program prior to including particular projects in a grant application. Furthermore, the circulars for the MAP-21 formula programs are being revised to reflect the changes within the new surface transportation bill. If you are unsure if the proposed project or service is eligible after reviewing the program circulars, please consult your planner before entering it in a grant application.

New program requirements based on the MAP-21 changes should be strictly adhered. For instance, the JARC and New Freedom programs have both been repealed and elements of those programs have been consolidated with the 5307, 5311 and 5310 programs. Please see the program circulars for complete details. The MAP-21 page on the FTA website contains the latest details concerning the changes. <http://www.fta.dot.gov/map21.html>

Flex Funds and Transfers: If you are requesting funds to be transferred from FHWA to FTA, please contact Marie Lopez at marie.lopez@dot.gov to request a draft grant number before making your request to the MPO. Please be sure and identify the specific highway program from which you will be requesting the transfer. Keep both your planner and Marie Lopez informed on the status of that transfer as it goes from the MPO, to the DOT, to FHWA, and ultimately to FTA. The draft number should be contained on all fund transfer documents.

New Grant Applications vs. Grant Amendments: When possible, FTA recommends that you determine if an amendment to ADD new funding is appropriate. Before entering a new application in TEAM, please discuss this possibility with your planner and/or grant representative.

Use of MAP-21 Funds and SAFETEA-LU funds: Please do not combine MAP-21 and SAFETEA-LU funds within the same grant. Funds from the two programs are to be contained within separate grants. Separate year funding from the same formula program may be combined in a grant so long as the funding is within the same authorization. For example, Section 5307 funding from FY 2013 and FY 2014 may be combined within in the same grant, since these dollars are MAP-21 authorized. FY 2012 funding may not be combined with FY 2013 funding because FY 2012 is SAFETEA-LU funding.

Additionally, funds that were apportioned through formula or awarded through the discretionary process during SAFETEA-LU still follow those federal requirements established under SAFETEA-LU. Similarly, funds apportioned during MAP-21 follow those federal requirements of MAP-21. For instance, FY 2012 funds remaining in the JARC or New Freedom program still follow those federal requirements under SAFETEA-LU specific to those programs.

5310 Designated Recipient Letters: Prior to any MAP-21 Section 5310 funds being entered into applications in large UZAs, a Designated Recipient must be selected and a letter from the Governor along with supporting documentation must be sent to FTA Region IV.

New or Changed ALIs and Scopes

There are new scopes and Activity Line Items (ALIs) that have been added as a result of MAP-21 and some changing program requirements and eligibility. These scopes and ALIs are to be used in grants that contain FY 2013 and later funds. Particularly impacted by this will be grants utilizing Section 5307 funds, Section 5310 funds and Section 5311 funds. Please contact your FTA community planner for more details.



United We Ride

One Vision **1** One Call
Coordinating Human Service Transportation

Launched in April of 2013, the National Center for Mobility Management (NCMM) works to facilitate activities that will help communities to adopt transportation strategies and mobility options that empower people to live independently and support health, economic vitality, self-sufficiency, and community.

A key part of their technical assistance work will be conducted by Regional Liaisons (RLs) drawn from the staff at the NCMM. RLs will work with staff at FTA regional offices, as well as FTA grantees, state DOTs, regional mobility managers and other stakeholders. Additionally, RLs will be responsible for creating a two-way dialogue between these stakeholder groups and the NCMM.

Region IV continues to conduct UWR Quarterly Calls with FTA Headquarter Staff participation. These calls are important to disseminate important FTA updates, United We Ride program updates, as well as an information sharing time for our Region IV grantees.

Dates and the call-in number for the FY 2014 Region IV UWR calls are below:

Tuesday, March 11, 10AM EST
Tuesday, June 10, 10AM EST
Tuesday, September 9, 10AM EST
Tuesday, December 9, 10AM EST

Call-in Number: 877.873.8017
Access Code 9726240

New Grantee Information

Robert Buckley is the Grantee Coordinator in Region IV. If your agency is interested in becoming a new FTA grantee, please contact Robert Buckley, 404-865-5618.

Our New Grantee Handbook is also available on our Region IV website: http://www.fta.dot.gov/region4_7507.html



TrAMS Implementation and Demonstration

FTA is continuing to work on the next generation of TEAM, which will be deployed in October, 2014. When deployed, Transit Award and Management System (TrAMS) will offer a more efficient, user-friendly and flexible tool to award and manage grants and cooperative agreements, will provide more useful information and will strengthen the integrity and consistency of our grants award and management process. In the past 12 months, FTA has developed significant functionality for the new system. Many training modules will be implemented prior to the official release of TrAMS. Much more information will be forthcoming concerning TrAMS. The primary goals of TrAMS are as follows:

Efficiency: FTA and its grantees will be able to consolidate redundant activities and streamline grant-making and grant management processes.

Transparency: Stakeholders inside and outside FTA will be better able to understand how taxpayer dollars are awarded and disbursed for specific transit projects and services.

Integrity: Improved internal controls will help ensure that grants are awarded and managed consistent with Federal requirements.

Consistency: Data and information in TrAMS will match information found in related government IT systems.

Flexibility: The new system can be modified more quickly, easily and cost-effectively to make improvements and respond to new directives.

Environmental Coordination and Approval

If you are planning to pursue any facility-related projects (e.g. shelters, administrative and/or maintenance facilities) to include rehabilitation, engineering and design, construction, or land acquisition, please make sure you contact your community planner as soon as possible to determine the appropriate level of environmental documentation that will be required. This requirement must be met PRIOR to applying for a grant application to support these activities.

Program Management

The Office of Operations and Program Management (OOPM) staff would like to thank everyone for their responsiveness to our inquiries on a vast array of elements. The annual newsletter provides a good opportunity to offer a brief overview of the upcoming activities in FY 2014.

TEAM Federal Financial Report (FFR) and (MPR)

As a reminder, Quarterly FFRs and MPRs are due 30 days after the end of the quarter for ALL:

- 1) Active grants made to grantees in areas over 200,000;
- 2) ARRA grants; and,
- 3) Section 5309 grants (regardless of UZA size). Please be sure to update expired milestones and provide narrative progress reports. For more information on these reports and what they contain, please visit FTA Circular 5010.1D or contact your program manager.



For areas under 200,000, annual FFRs and MPRs are due for all of your other grants (non-ARRA, non-5309) no later than October 30.

ARRA Reporting and Oversight

Now that all of the ARRA dollars have been obligated, grantees are reminded to implement projects on schedule and continue reporting per the statutory deadlines. We continue to provide ARRA oversight and our ARRA engineers will be working with you throughout the year on the implementation and oversight of your projects. We would like to see these projects completed and grants closed by the **end of September 2014**. For more on ARRA reporting, please visit:

http://www.fta.dot.gov/index_9440_10542.html

Program Oversight Reviews

Oversight Reviews

In FY 2014, we are anticipating having:

- 41 triennial reviews
- 13 financial reviews
- 1 procurement system review

FTA has revised its Triennial Review Process. The Triennial Workshops have not yet been scheduled. There will be one workshop in Atlanta and one held in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Focus Areas for Oversight Reviews

- Financial,
- Procurement,
- Buy America,
- NTD, and;
- Preventive Maintenance



Lessons Learned

We are still seeing review findings with FTA funded contracts with no (or missing) FTA federal clauses. Please inform your procurement department that in these cases, there is a strong possibility that FTA will not participate in these type of contacts. Furthermore, this will also generate an Enhanced Review Module under the new triennial review process. It is extremely important that you follow the guidance in the FTA Circular 4220.1F and contact your Program Manager for guidance early in the solicitation process.

Oversight Workshops

The State Management Review Workshop has not been scheduled yet. Please stay tuned for future scheduling of the workshop.

Inactive Grants Guidance

Reminder: FTA's threshold for defining inactive grants has recently changed. Grants will be considered inactive if no disbursement has occurred within the last 12 months and the grant is older than three years.

NTI Oversight Training:

National Transit Institute (NTI) will be hosting a number of courses this year in the region. Please check the website for the current class schedule. There are a number classes in 2014 that you may be interested in attending. Also, the site is updated with new courses throughout the year.

You can register for any NTI class by going to the NTI website (www.ntionline.com).

FY 2014 Certifications and Assurances

The FY 2014 Certifications and Assurances were published in the Federal Register on 31 January 2014. Grantees are expected to pin these in TEAM within 90 days from the date they are published. The Federal Register notification containing the FY 2014 Certifications and Assurances may be found at: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-01-31/pdf/2014-01888.pdf>



Please note that grantees will notice two required signatures when completing their FY 2014 Certifications and Assurances submissions, one for an “official” representative and one for an “attorney”. It is common for only one of the grantee’s employees to have TEAM access, with that employee typically signing the Certification and Assurances both as “attorney” and “official”.

The preferred signature method is two-fold. First, the party verifying the completion of the Certifications and Assurances as the grantee’s official representative should sign the document in TEAM as the “official”. The “attorney” signature should normally be executed by the attorney for the grantee who has reviewed the Certifications and Assurances on behalf of the grantee and verified legal compliance. If the “official” and “attorney” signatures are signed by the same person, FTA requests that the grantee provide a brief letter verifying that an attorney reviewed the Certifications and Assurances submitted by the grantee and apprised the grantee of FTA’s regulatory requirements as described in the Certifications and Assurances. This letter should be added in TEAM by the grantee.

Legal Updates

Buy America Update

On July 1, 2013, FTA determined that minivan modifiers, Braun Corporation and Eldorado National-Kansas, do comply with FTA’s Buy America regulations. Specifically, FTA concluded that the activities that take place during Braun’s conversion processes and Eldorado’s conversion processes constitute final assembly for minivans converted for wheelchair access and are sufficient to satisfy the final assembly requirements under 49 C.F.R. § 661.11. The respective decisions are limited solely to minivans that have been converted for wheelchair accessibility by Bruan and El Dorado. The decisions are located at:

http://www.fta.dot.gov/legislation_law/about_FTA_598.html.

In addition, in August 2013, FTA determined that its Buy America requirements apply to materials obtained for installation on FTA-funded AT&T utility relocation projects. One of the decisions relates to the City of Charlotte’s Blue Line Extension Project. Specifically, FTA determined that the AT&T communications system is an end product, and the material for which the City of Charlotte sought a waiver, the Alcatel-Lucent 7330 VRAD Cabinet, is a component. Thus, FTA is required by law to publish a notice in the Federal Register and provide the public with a reasonable period of time for notice and comment prior to issuing a Buy America waiver. FTA’s guidance related to utility relocation projects is located at:

http://www.fta.dot.gov/legislation_law/about_FTA_598.html.

FTA Program Circular Updates

FTA is continuing to update its program circulars to reflect program changes as a result of MAP-21. Here is a listing of active or planned circular updates:

- *Section 5307 (Urbanized Area Formula)*—Finalized on 16 January 2014 and posted to FTA website.
- *Section 5310 (Enh. Mobility with Senior and Individuals with Disabilities)*—In proposed format. Being finalized by FTA HQ. Closed for public comment.
- *Section 5311 (Rural Area Formula Program)*—In proposed format. Closed for public comment.
- *Section 5337 (State of Good Repair Formula)*—Draft under FTA internal review. To be released for public comment next.
- *Section 5339 (Bus and Bus Facilities Formula)*—Draft under FTA internal review. To be release for public comment next.

Reflection and Final Thoughts

Below are few items of interest from the Region IV FTA staff. Please feel free to contact us with any questions concerning the following or visit the appropriate webpage for each listed below. We look forward to working with you in the coming year!

FY 2013 Funding and Grants

FTA Region IV processed 368 grants in FY 2013, totaling approximately \$1.06 billion. Thank you for your continued partnership in obligating these dollars by the required deadlines. Below is a breakdown by state of the FY 2013 grant awards.

FY 13 Grant Awards FTA Region IV					
<u>State</u>	<u>Total Grants</u>	<u>Total Amount</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Total Grants</u>	<u>Total Amount</u>
Alabama	27	\$43,723,754	North Carolina	62	\$128,543,723
Florida	107	\$371,131,086	Puerto Rico	16	\$42,261,039
Georgia	36	\$251,374,343	South Carolina	26	\$31,863,918
Kentucky	25	\$86,858,454	Tennessee	63	\$95,436,527
Mississippi	5	\$8,874,002	Virgin Islands	1	\$2,000,000
Totals		368 Grants Awarded		\$1,062,066,846 Awarded	

State Safety Oversight

The Governor of SSO States will receive a letter from FTA outlining the process that FTA will use to certify the state's eligibility to receive Federal funds for its SSO program. SSO must complete the Pre-Certification Self-Assessment, Gap Analysis and complementary documentation. Once FTA has reviewed and accepted the State's initial certification submittal, the State will be able to receive funding from FTA's SSO grant program. Please refer to the email sent to SSO contacts. For more detailed information, please consult the FTA SSO website: <http://www.fta.dot.gov/tso.html>.

Annual 2014 State Programs Team Meeting

The annual 2014 State Programs Team Meeting was held in Atlanta, Georgia from 12-14 March 2014. All Region IV State Departments of Transportation were in attendance. Topics covered in the meeting included MAP-21, FTA program updates, state best practices and a D.O.T. roundtable discussion.

New Staff and Geographic Assignments

There have been several changes over the past year in Region IV with new hires and departures of staff. An updated organization chart and Region IV geographic assignment has been posted to the Region IV website at: <http://www.fta.dot.gov/about/region4.html>. Choose "Organizational Chart" on the right-side menu bar.

TEAM Grantee Tip

Please contact the appropriate planner for your particular geographic area to resolve any outstanding issues to ensure timely and prompt grant submission and award. For a current listing of planners and their geographic assignments, visit the FTA Region IV website.

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Website: www.fta.dot.org