



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



FTA-REGION IV General Managers Webinar

Yvette Taylor, Regional Administrator

August 25, 2011



Agenda

- Organizational Updates
- Discretionary Programs Update
- Planning & Program Development Updates
- Program Management & Oversight Updates
- ARRA Updates
- Legal Updates
- Civil Rights Updates
- Emergency Preparedness and Response Reminders
- 2010 FTA Stakeholders Survey Results and Proposed Initiatives for FY 2012





Organizational Updates

- Regional Departures
 - Jamie Pfister
 - Dale Youngkin
 - Scott Allen
- Recruitments
 - Engineering Co-Op
 - Office Assistant Intern
 - Director of Planning





Organizational Updates

- Re-Assignments
 - Valencia Williams – Acting Director, OPPD
 - Janice Abaray – GA-FL Team, SC, & TN
 - Jessica Granell – KY, VI Program Manager
 - Guanying Lei – MS Program Manager
 - David Mucher – Program Manager Back-up
 - Frank Billue – FAA Detail
 - Abigail Rivera – GA, FL, PR, VI Civil Rights
 - Jimmy Moore – All Remaining States Civil Rights
 - Francis Alomia – Discretionary Programs Contact

- See Geographic Assignments

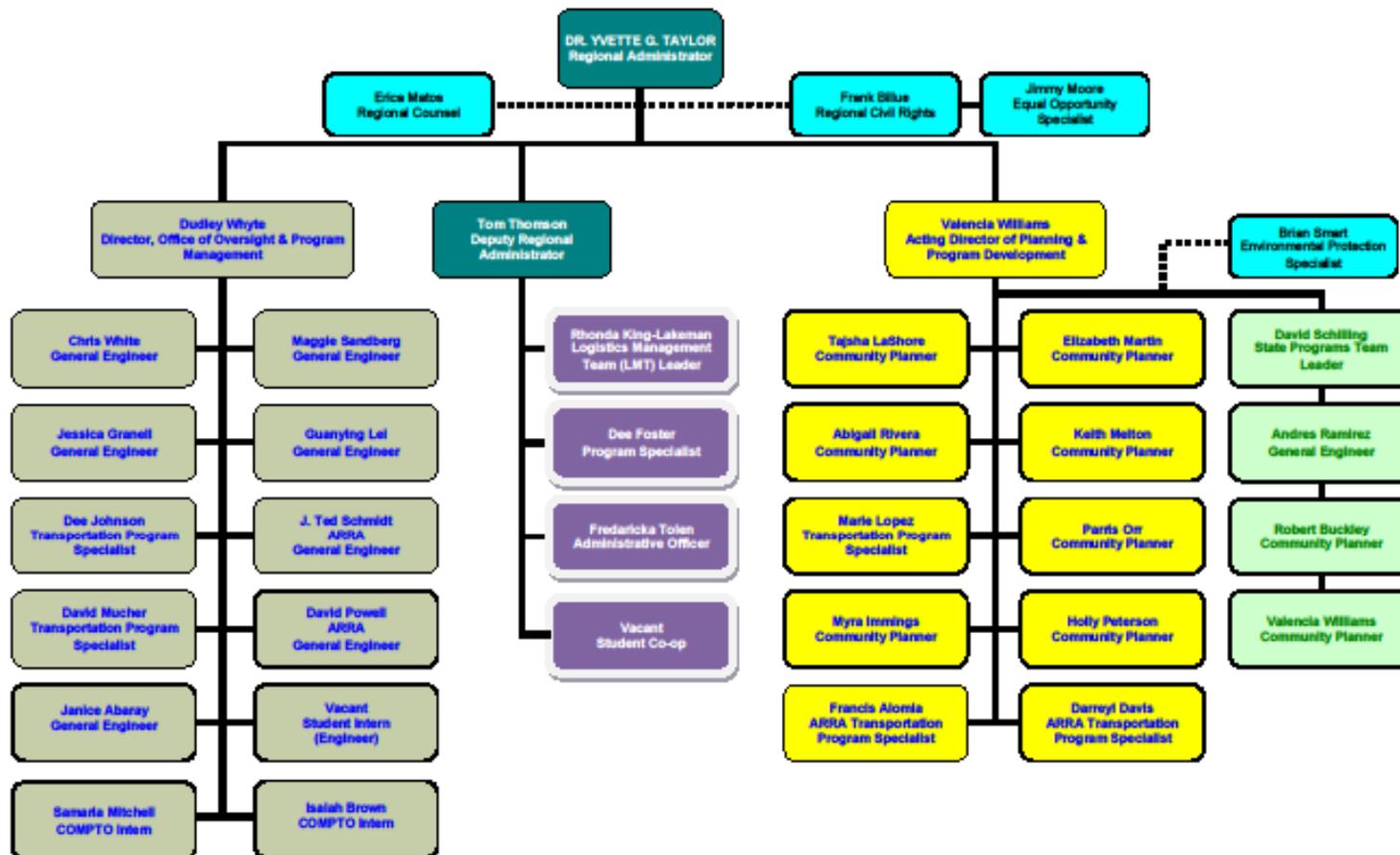
http://www.fta.dot.gov/documents/Geographic_Assignments_2011-07_R1.pdf





Organizational Updates

Federal Transit Administration – Region IV Organizational Chart





Discretionary Programs

- Currently, approximately **\$1.1B** in available discretionary funding.
- These programs are funded through unallocated discretionary funding and targeted at FTA's priorities
- Quick turnaround for these competitive programs
- Refer to FRN's for specifics:
http://www.fta.dot.gov/laws/leg_reg_86.html





Discretionary Programs

Discretionary Program	Available Amount (in millions)	NOFA Publication Date	Due Date	Expected Announcement
<i>State of Good Repair</i>	\$750	6/24/2011	7/29/2011	9/30/2011
<i>Bus and Bus Facilities Livability</i>	\$150	6/27/2011	7/29/2011	9/30/2011
<i>Alternatives Analysis</i>	\$25	6/27/2011	7/29/2011	9/30/2011
<i>TIGGER</i>	\$49.9	6/24/2011	8/23/2011	10/25/2011
<i>Clean Fuels</i>	\$51.5	6/24/2011	8/23/2011	10/25/2011
Veteran's Initiative	\$30	7/27/2011	9/16/2011	November 2011
Tribal Transit	\$15.075	7/25/2011	9/26/2011	Not scheduled
Over-the-Road-Bus	\$8.8	7/13/2011	9/12/2011	Not scheduled
TIGER		7/1/2011 (interim)	Pre: 10/3/2011 Post: 10/31/2011	Not Scheduled





Discretionary Programs

- Recently closed and currently under review:
 - Announcement Expected September 30
 - State of Good Repair
 - Alternative Analysis
 - Bus Livability
 - Announcement Expected October 25
 - TIGGER
 - Clean Fuels





Discretionary Programs

Veteran's Initiative

- **Eligible applicants:**
 - Direct Recipients under FTA's Section 5307
 - Local governments, States, and Indian Tribes.
- **Eligible subrecipients include:**
 - Public agencies, private non-profit organizations, including VSOs and MSOs, and private providers engaged in public transportation.
- **Application Deadline:** Due September 16th
- **Cost Sharing or Matching:**
 - 80/20, unless the grantee requests a lower Federal share.





Discretionary Programs

Veteran's Initiative

- **Eligible Projects:**
 - Finance capital costs of implementing, expanding, or increasing access to local One-Call/One-Click Transportation Resource Centers
- **Eligible Expenses Include:**
 - hardware purchases (e.g. computers, servers)
 - in-vehicle technology (e.g. AVL systems)
 - software (e.g. scheduling & dispatching)
 - facility-related capital (rehab/construction, design, project admin)
- **Ineligible Expenses**
 - Vehicles
 - Preventive Maintenance
 - Mobility Management
 - Operating





Discretionary Programs

Tribal Transit

- **Eligible applicants:**
 - Federally-recognized Indian tribes or Alaska Native villages, groups, or communities as identified by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) in the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI).
- **Application Deadline:** Due September 26th
- **Cost Sharing or Matching:**
 - Up to 100 percent federal share of project costs





Discretionary Programs

Tribal Transit

- **Eligible projects:**
 - Capital projects
 - Operating costs of equipment and facilities for use in public transportation
 - Planning
 - Acquisition of public transportation services, including service agreements with private providers of public transportation services.





Discretionary Programs

Over-The-Road-Bus (OTRB)

- **Eligible applicants:**
 - Intercity fixed-route providers
 - OTRB providers
 - Private for-profit operators of over-the-road buses are eligible to be direct applicants for this program.
- Public entities not eligible under OTRB.
- **Application Deadline:** Due September 12th
- **Cost Sharing or Matching:**
 - 10% local match is required.





Discretionary Programs

Over-The-Road-Bus (OTRB)

- **Eligible projects such as:**
 - Adding lifts, Tie-downs, Moveable seats, Doors.
 - Training costs associated with using the accessibility features and serving persons with disabilities.
 - Retrofitting vehicles with such accessibility components is also an eligible expense.
- **Ineligible projects such as:**
 - FTA will not fund the incremental costs of acquiring used accessible OTRBs that were previously owned.





Discretionary Programs

TIGER

- **Eligible applicants:** State, local, and tribal governments, tribal governments, transit agencies, port authorities, metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), other political subdivisions of State or local governments, and multi-State or multijurisdictional groups applying through a single lead applicant
- **Cost Sharing or Matching:**
 - Up to 80% federal
 - \$10M-\$200M (Rural Minimum: \$1M)





Discretionary Programs

TIGER

- **Purpose:**
 - Investments in surface transportation infrastructure
 - Projects that will have a significant impact on the Nation, a metropolitan area, or a region.
- **Eligible projects:**
 - Highway or bridge projects
 - Public transportation projects
 - Passenger and freight rail transportation projects
 - Port infrastructure investments.





Discretionary Programs

Lessons Learned:

- Ensure project is “ready to go” – programmed in TIP/STIP/UPWP or letter documenting rapid inclusion should project be selected.
- Ensure project has regional support
 - Attach letters of support from MPO, State, etc.
 - Attachments do not count toward page limits
- Notify and work with FTA region when applying
- Specifically answer each evaluation criterion
- Ensure application is complete
- Submit to Grants.gov **EARLY**
- Take advantage of FTA feedback/debriefs
 - Coordinated through the Regional Office





Office of Planning and Program Development Updates

- Environmental Updates/NEPA Flow Chart
- Remaining Grant Application Deadlines and Reminders
- Team Training



Office of Planning and Program Development Updates

Environmental Updates & Reminders

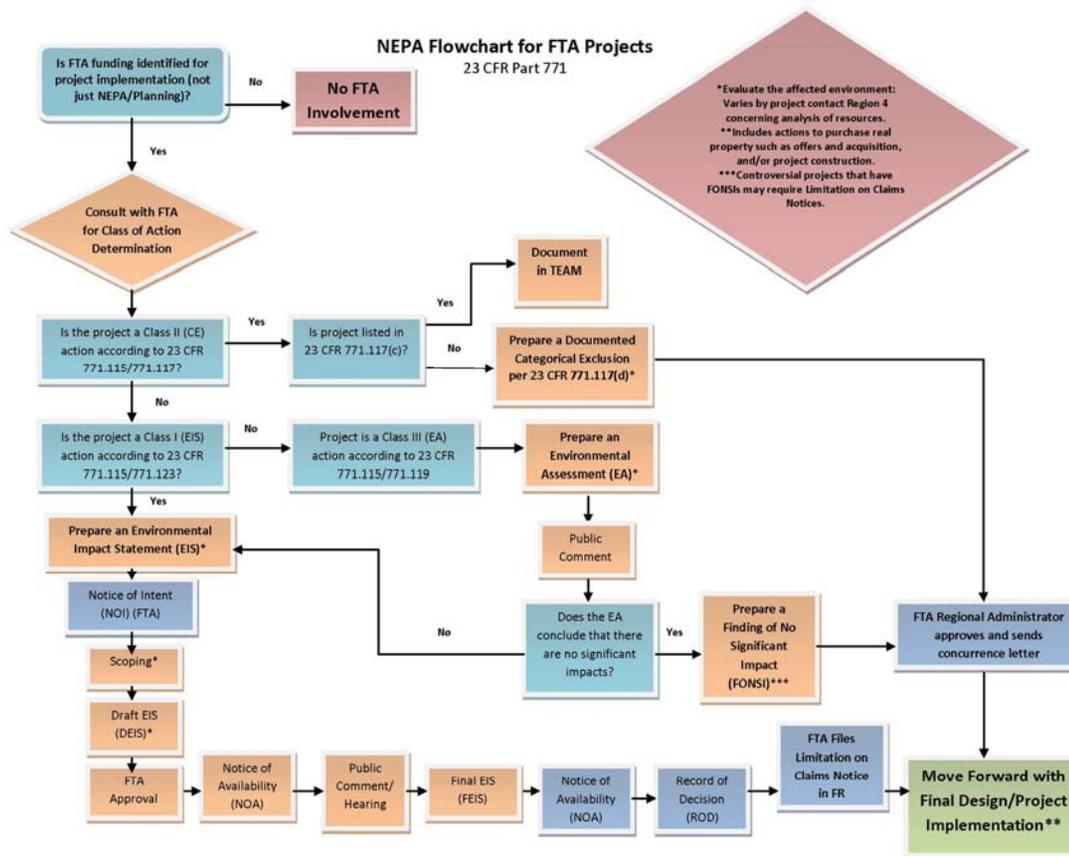
- NEPA Flowchart
- Section 106 Consultation
- Project Mitigation Plan and Environmental Commitments Sheet





Office of Planning and Program Development Updates

Environmental Updates & Reminders





Office of Planning and Program Development Updates

Environmental Updates & Reminders

- Section 106 consultation is required for all projects regardless of the scope
- Region IV's new Section 106 Checklist
- FTA initiates Section 106 consultation (36 CFR 800.3)
- Items to be sent to FTA Grant Representative:
 - Project Location Map
 - Project Description
 - Need and Purpose





Office of Planning and Program Development Updates

Environmental Updates & Reminders

- Project mitigation may include: remediation activities required as a result of Phase II ESA, steps to protect cultural resources as a result of Section 106 consultation—anything that lessens the impact the project may have on existing environmental conditions.
- FTA will develop project mitigation/environmental commitments sheet to be signed by the grantee and FTA and will be included with NEPA approval letter.



Office of Planning and Program Development Updates

Remaining Grant Application Deadlines

- Region IV grant deadlines have passed
- Discretionary grants
- September 23, 8PM – TEAM closes
- October 28 – TEAM re-opens





Office of Planning and Program Development Updates

Reminder: TEAM Training

- Next Training is Thursday, September 1st , 1-3PM, Grant Development
- Still Accepting RSVPs until August 30th
- Robert Buckley, Community Planner, robert.buckley@dot.gov, 404-865-5618 (Grant Development Webinar in Subject Line)





Office of Oversight and Program Management Updates

- 2012 Scheduled Oversight Reviews
- General Oversight Reminders





Office of Oversight and Program Management Updates

2012 Scheduled Oversight Reviews

- 41 Triennial Reviews in 2012
 - Workshops: December 1-2, 2011 PR and January 10-11, 2012, Atlanta, GA
- 7 Procurement System Reviews
- 9 Financial Management Oversight Reviews
 - Workshop: November 7-8, 2011, Atlanta, GA
- State Management Review Workshop (TBD)
- Additional FMO/PSR Reviews Will Occur As Needed.



Office of Oversight and Program Management Updates

Oversight Reminders

- (2010) A-133 Reports and/or SAC Forms.
- Procurement – Communicate with your Procurement Department.
- Verify Buy America requirements.



Office of Oversight and Program Management Updates

Oversight Reminders

- Federal Financial and Milestone Progress Reports
 - FFRs/MPRs are improving. Please remember to provide the details when developing your MPR updates and explanations as well as timely in your FFR/MPR submissions.





Office of Oversight and Program Management Updates

Oversight Reminders

Provide to Region IV:

- A list of all outstanding claims exceeding \$100,000, and all claims settled during the reporting period. This list should be accompanied by a brief description, estimated costs, and the reasons for the claims.
- A list of all potential and executed change orders and amounts exceeding \$100,000, pending or settled, during the reporting period. This list should be accompanied by a brief description.





Office of Oversight and Program Management Updates

Oversight Reminders

- Continue timely corrective actions on all oversight review findings.
- Help to reduce the closeout of grants that have 95-100% expenditures, (more than 250 grants are in this range).
- Advance projects or closeout inactive grants (more than 150 grants in this range).

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Office of Oversight and Program Management Updates

Oversight Reminders

- ECHO will close at 3:00 pm, Tuesday, **September 27, 2011** for year-end processing and reopen at 3:00 pm EDT on Monday, October 3, 2011 for FY 2012 business.





ARRA Updates

- 1201c reports have been submitted. One round to go in 2012.
- Continue submitting timely 1512 reports quarterly until grant is closed. Only 1 grantee was late.
- No change in budget revision policy. If you are not sure, call us first.
- ARRA OIG Audits Underway.





Legal Updates

Project Labor Agreements (PLA):

- Recent decision letter issued by the Chief Counsel to San Francisco Municipal Transportation Authority (SRTA) addressing local hiring (and preference) and PLAs





Legal Updates

Procurement Updates:

- Discussion of grantees use of Houston-Galveston purchase cooperative
- Review of regulatory requirements for FTA review of bid protests





Civil Rights Updates

- Dialogue with your Civil Rights personnel on new changes in Title VI, DBE, EEO, ADA program requirements to ensure compliance.
- Civil Rights program critical elements must be met to ensure compliance.
- Late Report Submissions are considered Non-compliance.
- Service and fare equity analysis must be conducted during the planning process.





Emergency Preparedness and Response Reminders

- Tennessee Floods (2010)
- Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and North Carolina Tornadoes (2011)
- Mississippi and Tennessee Floods (2011)





Emergency Preparedness and Response Reminders

Lessons Learned

- Provide FTA the following daily information before, during and after events:
 - Preparations for upcoming event, if applicable
 - Operational information (transit services and administrative updates)
 - Transit Assets (destroyed or damaged)
- Ensure a communication framework/process is in place to provide this information
- Coordinate with your state and local Emergency Management Agencies and State DOTs
 - Take and active role in your local/state emergency planning efforts
- Provide contact information to your FTA Planner/Program Manager, including personal cell phones





Emergency Preparedness and Response Reminders

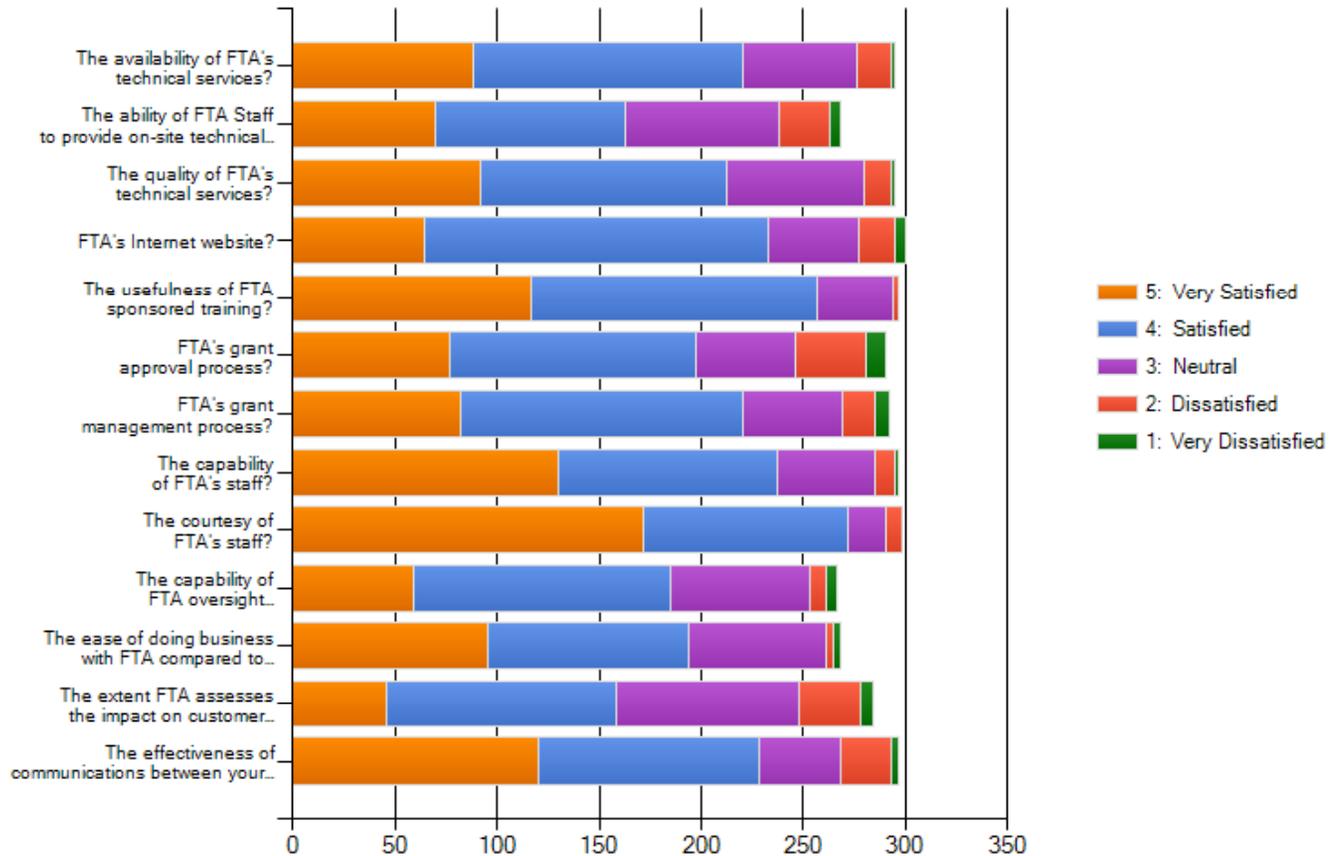
- Region IV Emergency POCs
 - Chris White, christopher.white@dot.gov, 404-865-5619 (Primary)
 - David Schilling, david.schilling@dot.gov, 404-865-5645 (Back-up)
 - Planner or Program Manager
- Cadre of FTA Personnel trained to assist and deploy as necessary



FTA Stakeholder Survey Results

Opportunities of Improvement

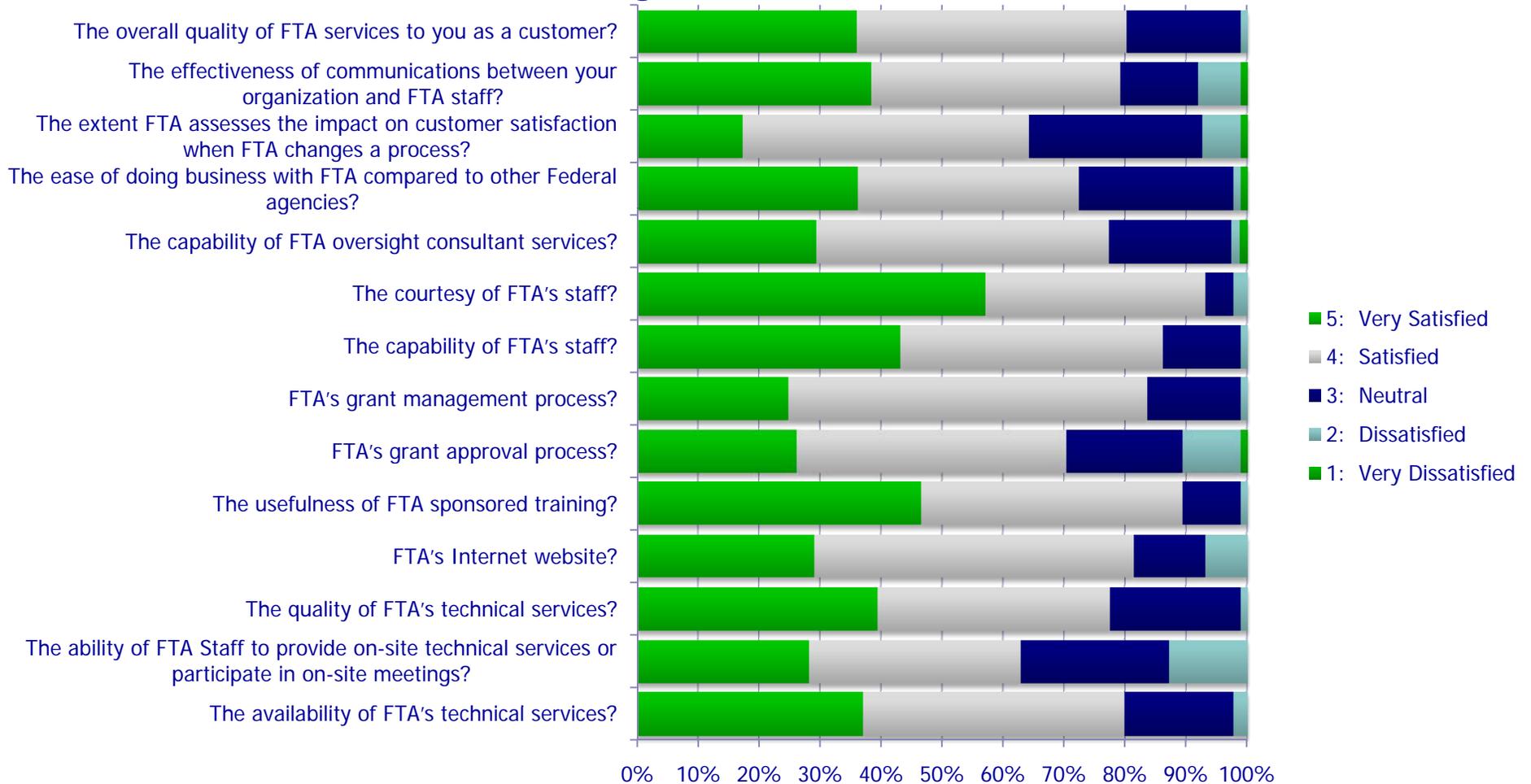
Please use the following questions to report on your experiences in the last 12 months with your FTA Regional Office. On a scale of Very Satisfied to Very Dissatisfied, how would you rate your satisfaction level with . . .





FTA Stakeholder Survey Results

Region IV





Proposed FY 2012 Initiatives (*DRAFT*)

For discussion purposes:

- Regularly scheduled FTA training and webinars
 - FTA 101 (for new staff)
 - NEPA
 - Civil Rights
 - Procurement
 - On-site training
 - Mini-Summits (topic specific)
- Ideas??





Questions and Answers



Region IV General Manager's Webinar Questions and Answers August 25, 2011

1. What is the local match on the Veterans Initiative?

FTA Response: The local match is 80/20 federal local. More information on the Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative can be found at: http://www.fta.dot.gov/funding/grants/grants_financing_12809.html.

2. Are grantees required to notify FTA on all change orders exceeding \$100,000, or all outstanding claims exceeding \$100,000 or both?

FTA Response: Both. Grantees must notify FTA of a) all outstanding claims exceeding \$100,000, and all claims settled during the reporting period and b) all potential and executed change orders and amounts exceeding \$100,000, pending or settled, during the reporting period.

3. Are costs related to the hiring of third-party consultants or local personnel responsible for Buy America compliance eligible for reimbursement through the FTA grant program?

FTA Response: Yes. However, the costs must be reasonable (not in excess of the normal expenditure for that item), allowable (specifically authorized under OMB Circular A-87, and not specifically prohibited by the circular), and allocable (directly related to the grant in question). Each situation stands on its own so please work with your Region IV program manager.

4. Can a prime contractor who is in charge of Davis Bacon Reporting charge these elements to the reimbursable invoice?

FTA Response: Yes. However, the costs must be reasonable (not in excess of the normal expenditure for that item), allowable (specifically authorized under OMB Circular A-87, and not specifically prohibited by the circular), and allocable (directly related to the grant in question). Each situation stands on its own so please work with your Region IV program manager.

5. Is the Title VI service and fare equity analysis required for a service increase?

FTA Response: Yes, please refer to FTA Circular 4702.1A, page V-5, (4). Once your agency's major service change threshold percentage is activated, this service analysis is required to be done and submitted to FTA for approval during the planning stage. FTA will be looking to determine if these changes have a discriminatory impact on minority and low-income riders of your transit system.

6. NCDOT was contacted by TMS, a private transportation firm out of MD, that they are now working closely with FEMA and several of the "risk States" during Hurricane season, for Evacuation Management Execution. Do you have information on this arrangement?

FTA Response: While FTA Region IV is not familiar with this particular arrangement, we encourage all grantees to get involved in emergency preparedness planning.

7. Will the proposed future FTA-101 training session have a strong focus on grant Project Manager's actions / responsibilities?

FTA Response: Yes, the actions/responsibilities for grant managers will be included in future FTA 101 Training.