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**Proposed Response
FTA Call for Projects
United We Ride (UWR) Mobility Management Grants**

Background

On November 14, 2008 the Federal Transit Administration issued a call for projects for mobility management grants. The grants seek to address individual customer needs for mobility; and proposals may include development of educational programs, training and technical assistance. Applications are due on February 12, 2009. FTA anticipates allocating \$1.5M to the UWR grants with individual awards not to exceed \$300K.

Proposed UWR Project

History: The facilitated regional forums in the Spring-Summer of 2008 began laying the foundation for improved interaction between client service managers and transit agencies. A frequently heard response was, "I didn't know you existed". More than one transit agency found previously closed doors opened after the local forum.

An outreach project in the Beaumont-Port Arthur area uses a specialized transit service schedule in one-on-one discussions with case managers to aid in their understanding of transit services and how to access rides for clients.

Agencies moving forward with local coordination efforts are finding they lack a comprehensive list of agencies and programs in their area that could benefit from public transportation services.

Proposal: To develop tools to assist case managers to access transit resources in their community with assistance from transportation mobility managers. This will be a pilot project in selected areas. Transferability to other locations and development of best practices are additional goals of the project. Target audiences for project will be:

- ◆ Health and Human Service caseworkers
- ◆ Employment counselors
- ◆ Veterans transition coordinators
- ◆ Foster youth program exit counselors (state support ends at 18 years of age)
- ◆ ADA education program exit counselors (state support ends at 21 years of age)
- ◆ Transportation mobility managers

Application Development: TxDOT will develop a working committee to flesh out the concept in sufficient detail to fulfill the requirement of the FTA UWR call for proposals. Ideally the committee will consist of a representative from:

Health services
Human services
Workforce
Veterans affairs
Education
Coordination lead agency
A mobility manager
A PTAC member representing the general public
A stakeholder

There will likely be two face-to-face meetings, a kick off the week of January 5 and a final application review the week of February 2. Teleconferencing and email communications will occur in between.

The Organizational Plan:

Step 1 – PTN staff identify contacts in the above groups and offer an invitation to participate

Timeline – to be accomplished by December 31.

Step 2 - Senior level TxDOT personnel make contact with agencies where we don't have contacts and request they appoint a representative (s) to a working group to flesh out the proposal.

Timeline – to be accomplished by December 31.

Step 2 – Send a letter to the Governor's Office asking for designation of TxDOT as the Texas respondent to this call for projects. May not be necessary if FTA accepts the general delegation of FTA activities to TxDOT.

Timeline – letter sent to Governor by December 22.

Step 3 – Form an advisory group to develop the grant application.

Timeline – to be accomplished in time to hold a first meeting by January 8.

Group continues work via email and telephone conference to meet February 12 submission deadline.

Grant Application Contents

Outline of the concept

Contents

Who prepares

Timelink

Performance/progress measures

Budget