5310 Program Grant Solicitation Information

**Background:** NYSDOT announced the solicitation for the MAP-21 Section 5310 - Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program on Tuesday April 28, 2015. $47.5 million in funding is available statewide. Funds are no longer distributed directly to the State and administered exclusively by NYSDOT. Pursuant to MAP-21, large and small urbanized area funding is now sub-allocated to those areas. Rural area funding is still distributed directly to the state. The 5310 Program provides funds for projects that serve the special needs of transit-dependent populations beyond traditional public transportation services and Americans with Disabilities Act complementary paratransit services. Basically this program funds capital projects such as human service agency vehicles, related equipment and mobility management, and other non-capital or operating projects such as development of a regional driver training curriculum. **Applications are due June 8, 2015.**

**Available Funding:** As per MAP 21, 5310 funding is allocated to the two urbanized areas in the CDTC planning area as follows: $1,617,238* for Albany-Schenectady-Troy and $384,215* for the Saratoga Springs urbanized area. (* FFY 13, 14 and the amount estimated for FFY 2015). (See attached table).

**Roles and Responsibilities:** As with all other MPOs in New York State, CDTC requested that NYSDOT serve as the Designated Recipient for the FTA Section 5310 program which means NYSDOT set up the application process, in consultation with the NYS MPOs, and will administer the program both on the FTA procedures and requirements side and with sponsors of funded projects. NYSDOT established an electronic grant application and project tracking process that all applicants and rating and ranking committee members will use.

Each MPO in New York State, including CDTC, will establish rating and ranking committees that will evaluate and select projects based on priorities and requirements set in their region’s Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plans. Each MPOs rating and ranking committee will also use the electronic system established by NYSDOT to review submitted applications and complete their ratings and rankings. Once selected, these projects will be added to MPO TIPs through the normal process (i.e. Planning Committee/Policy Board approvals as required).

CDTC is currently putting together the rating and ranking committee for applications submitted in our planning area (Albany-Schenectady-Troy Urbanized Area and Saratoga Springs Urbanized Area). This committee will include representatives from the Regional Transportation Coordination Committee (RTCC), NYSDOH Disability and Health Program, and CDTC staff. We are also reaching out to request participation from the NYS Office for the Aging and area County Offices for the Aging. We will ensure that reviewers recuse themselves from reviewing proposals in which they may have an interest.
Application Process and Timeline: Pre-registration of applicants is required; the pre-registration period opened April 28th. NYSDOT sent out a “Dear Interested Party” letter and registration instructions to previous 5310 project sponsors and the MPOs for distribution. CDTC immediately forwarded this information to the RTCC. NYSDOT also advertised the grant opportunity in the NYS Contract Reporter, the NYSDOT Public Transportation Bureau webpage and the NYS Grants Gateway website.

The deadline for applications is June 8th, 2015.


Workshops/Webinar for Applicants: NYSDOT will host a workshop on May 19, 2015 from 10am-12 pm at the NYSDOT Main Office, 50 Wolf Road, Colonie, 1st Floor Hearing Room A (Photo ID required for entry). Attendees must register for the workshop by calling Jennifer Murdza at (518) 457-8335 or email at Jennifer.Murdza@dot.ny.gov with “Section 5310 Workshop Registration” in the subject line.

In addition a Workshop that’s available for webinar participation is available on May 13, 2015 at 11:00 am. To register for the webinar click on the link: [https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/j.php?MTID=m900af0207124037ca29bd8060a3b32](https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/j.php?MTID=m900af0207124037ca29bd8060a3b32)

Eligible Projects, Required Project Type Percentages and Match Requirements: It is important to note that federal law requires that at least 55% of an urbanized area’s allocated 5310 funds must be spent on traditional Section 5310 projects (i.e. capital projects planned, designed and carried out (by eligible sub-recipients) to meet the specific needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities when public transportation is insufficient, unavailable, or inappropriate). For example, this category includes purchase of human service agency vehicles and related activities (i.e. communication equipment and wheelchair lifts, etc). Capital projects and mobility management projects require a 20% local match.

In addition, up to 45% of Section 5310 funds allocated to an urbanized area may be spent on New Freedom type projects, including other types of capital and operating (i.e. public transportation projects that (1) exceed the requirements of the ADA; (2) improve access to fixed-route service; (3) decrease reliance by individuals with disabilities on complementary paratransit; or (4) provide alternatives to public transportation that assist seniors and individuals with disabilities.). Operating projects require a 50% local match.

For more information on Eligible Sub-recipients and Eligible Activities see the FTA Circular [http://www.fta.dot.gov/legislation_law/12349_16011.html](http://www.fta.dot.gov/legislation_law/12349_16011.html)

MPO Project Evaluation, Selection Process and Timeline: As mentioned above, the MAP 21 5310 program sub-allocates funds to urbanized areas. While NYSDOT is the Designated Recipient and administrator for the program at CDTC’s and other NYS MPOs request, each MPO is responsible for rating and ranking proposed projects in their urbanized areas and ensuring that proposals are consistent with the region’s Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan (CDTC’s current plan was adopted in 2011).
CDTC’s rating and ranking committee members will immediately begin reviewing completed applications after June 8th via the Sharepoint site. Ratings and rankings will be documented electronically. Rating and ranking committee members will also be required to register on the Sharepoint site. More information on this aspect including detailed instructions from NYSDOT will be coming soon.

NYSDOT intends to include MPO selected projects in a required NYSDOT-FTA Master Agreement/FTA Grant during the summer (June/July 2015) to avoid lapsing of the 2013 funds. This timeline may present issues for MPO Planning Committee and Policy Board approvals prior to inclusion in the FTA grant. Selected projects must be included in the TIP/STIP.