5310 Program Grant Solicitation Information

**Background:** NYSDOT announced the 2016 solicitation for the FTA Section 5310 - Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program on May 31, 2016. Nearly $10 million in funding is available statewide. 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 July 1, 2016.**

**Available Funding:** After a competitive selection process, selected projects will need to be programmed by September 30, 2016 to ensure the federal fiscal year (FFY) 2014 funds do not lapse.

Updated information provided by NYSDOT indicates available amounts are as follows:

1) **For the Albany-Schenectady-Troy urbanized area:**
   a) $633,407 (which includes the remaining FFY 2014 funds which will lapse if not programmed by September 30, 2016 and FFY 2015 funds)

2) **For the Saratoga Springs urbanized area:**
   a) $98,995 (FFY 2015 funds)

This results in $732,402 in available 5310 funds for the two urbanized areas.

**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 developed the MS Excel based application for 2016 which is available on their website: [https://www.dot.ny.gov/divisions/policy-and-strategy/public-transportation/specialized-transportation/5310/section%205310-application-material](https://www.dot.ny.gov/divisions/policy-and-strategy/public-transportation/specialized-transportation/5310/section%205310-application-material)

NYSDOT offers technical assistance webinars for grant application development during the open solicitation period for available Section 5310 program funding. The final webinar details are as follows:

**Webinar #3:**
Date: Wednesday, June 15, 2016  
Time: 10:00 am, Eastern Daylight Time (New York, GMT-04:00)  
Meeting Number: 640 507 987  
Meeting Password: j7FB5z5W

Link to Join Webinar:  
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. Once selected, these projects will be added to MPO TIPs through the normal process (i.e. Planning Committee/Policy Board approvals as required).

CDTC will put together the rating and ranking committee for applications submitted in our planning area (Albany-Schenectady-Troy Urbanized Area and Saratoga Springs Urbanized Area). For the last solicitation (2015) this committee included representatives from the Regional Transportation Coordination Committee (RTCC), NYSDOH and NYS Office for Aging, and CDTC staff. As always, we will ensure that reviewers recuse themselves from reviewing proposals in which they may have an interest.

Application Process and Timeline: NYSDOT sent out a “Dear Interested Party” letter on June 1, 2016, with web links and other information, 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 July 1, 2016.**


The 2016 application instructions and the application itself are available at: [https://www.dot.ny.gov/divisions/policy-and-strategy/public-transportation/specialized-transportation/5310/section%205310-application-material](https://www.dot.ny.gov/divisions/policy-and-strategy/public-transportation/specialized-transportation/5310/section%205310-application-material)

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.**

MPO Project Evaluation, Selection Process and Timeline: CDTC’s rating and ranking committee members will immediately begin reviewing completed applications after the July 1st deadline when they become available from NYSDOT. NYSDOT intends to include MPO selected projects in a required NYSDOT-FTA Master Agreement/FTA Grant before September 2016 to avoid lapsing of the 2014 funds. Selected projects must be included in the TIP/STIP.