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Metropolitan Transportation Authority

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**Job Access and Reverse Commute and New Freedom Programs
FY 2012 Solicitation for Proposals
Notice of Funding Availability**

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) has begun its Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 Solicitation for Proposals for the Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom (NF) programs. This is a competitive selection process that will result in the award of grants by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) after the evaluation of proposals by an external panel and the approval of the LACMTA Board of Directors of the funding recommendations.

JARC and NF Program Goals

The goal of the JARC Program is to improve access to transportation services to employment and employment-related activities for welfare recipients and eligible low income individuals and to transport residents of urbanized areas and nonurbanized areas to suburban employment opportunities. The goal of the NF Program is to provide additional tools beyond those that the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 requires to overcome existing barriers facing people with disabilities seeking integration into the work force and full participation in society.

Funding Availability, Funding Requests, and Eligible Applicants

As the Designated Recipient for JARC and NF funds, LACMTA is responsible for the planning, programming, distribution, and management of these funds. To fulfill one of our obligations as the Designated Recipient of JARC and NF funds, we are conducting the FY 2012 Solicitation for Proposals and making available about \$21.6 million in JARC funds and \$9.3 million in NF funds. Of these totals, about \$0.6 million in JARC funds and \$0.2 million in NF funds must be awarded for projects that serve the Urbanized Area of Lancaster-Palmdale (UZA 123). All other funding must be awarded for projects within other areas of Los Angeles County from our share of federal apportionments to the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana Urbanized Area (UZA 2). The proposed funding marks include monies estimated to be allocated to our region from federal FY 2012 apportionments, which FTA has only released for six months by the time of this announcement.

Funding requests can be for up to three years and for one or more eligible proposals (capital and/or operating) under each program. Eligible Applicants can apply for funding under both the JARC and NF programs, but the proposals must be for separate projects. Also, there is no funding request ceiling or floor. Eligible Applicants can request "toll credits" (as explained below and in the Evaluation Criteria for the FY 2012 Solicitation for Proposals) in lieu of the minimum required local match set by federal guidelines.

Local Match Requirements and Toll Credits

The minimum required local match set by federal guidelines for projects funded with JARC and NF funds is 20% of total capital costs and 50% of total operating costs. Transportation Development Credits (toll credits) can be used in the FY 2012 Solicitation for Proposals to meet a proposed project's local funding share for capital and/or operating expenditures. Toll credits are earned by a state based on revenues generated by toll authorities within its boundaries. Under the provisions of 23 U.S.C. 120(j), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) oversees the determination of toll credits within each state. The State of California has a large balance of toll credits. In 2010, the FHWA granted the California Department of Transportation conditional approval for project sponsors in California to participate in a demonstration program. During the same year, the FTA extended the program for transit projects.

Accordingly, the effect of utilizing toll credits means that FTA, in essence, can provide up to 100% of the total net project cost. For example, if the total cost of a capital project is \$500,000, FTA's share of JARC or NF funds, at 80% of the total capital cost, equals \$400,000. The remaining \$100,000 is the required local match, which can be met by Eligible Applicants by requesting toll credits in their proposals to LACMTA. With a request of \$100,000 in toll credits, Eligible Applicants can request that the entire project's net cost of \$500,000 (or 100% of the net project cost) be funded with JARC or NF funds. Retroactive applications for toll credits for projects funded under existing FTA grants are not allowed. Also, no additional toll credits would be allowed to be added to a grant after it is executed. Toll credit requests cannot exceed the minimum local share of a project's total cost (20% of capital expenses and 50% of operating expenses).

Eligible Applicants

Eligible Applicants are restricted to private non-profit organizations, operators of public transportation services (including private operators of public transportation services), and state or local governmental authorities, including Metropolitan Planning Organizations, Regional Transportation Planning Agencies, social services agencies, and tribal governments. Private sector participation is encouraged, but only Eligible Applicants described above can apply for or be the recipients of JARC and/or NF funds. Proposals must address a gap identified in Los Angeles County's Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan, available at <http://www.metro.net/projects/jarc/coordinated-public-transit/>. Coordination with transportation and human service providers is also required.

Application Package and Evaluation Criteria

The Application Package consists of four parts: General Information, Project Narrative, Budget, and Certifications. The Application Package and Evaluation Criteria are available at http://www.metro.net/projects/jarc/jarc_proposals/. This link also provides access to supporting information.

Eligible Applicants are required to download each part of the Application Package, complete it, and return to LACMTA as instructed. An overview of the JARC and NF programs, prior project awards, and links to federal guidelines can be accessed at <http://www.metro.net/projects/jarc/>.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with LACMTA

Eligible Applicants recommended by the LACMTA Board of Directors for a grant award by FTA will be required to execute an MOU (boilerplates available online at <http://www.metro.net/projects/jarc/>) with LACMTA by December 31, 2012.

Workshops

More detailed information regarding the proposal and project selection process will be provided by LACMTA staff at two workshops that are scheduled as follows:

Date: February 8, 2012
Time: 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Location: Metro Gateway Headquarters Building
One Gateway Plaza, Union Station Conference Room (3rd floor)

Date: February 9, 2012
Time: 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Location: Metro Gateway Headquarters Building
One Gateway Plaza, Union Station Conference Room (3rd floor)

For workshop registration, please RSVP by sending an email to jarc@metro.net, or by calling Ms. Linda Tam at (213) 922-2407, no later than February 6, 2012. Please indicate your agency's name, your title, and the date of the workshop that you are interested in attending. We also need to know if you need special accommodations for the workshop or to download the proposal package and other relevant information from our website. Potential proposers are required to attend one of the workshops. We will consider additional workshops as needed and upon request, including possible workshops at locations facilitated by potential proposers.

Schedule

Other anticipated activities for the FY 2012 Solicitation for Proposals include:

Proposals Due (postmarked no later than):	April 27, 2012
Funding Recommendations to LACMTA Board:	June 28, 2012
FTA Grant Application Submitted:	July 13, 2012
FTA Grant Award:	September 30, 2012

For additional information, please contact Mr. Ashad Hamideh at (213) 922-4299 or by email at jarc@metro.net.