



South Carolina
 Department of Transportation
 Division of Intermodal and Freight Programs

MEMORANDUM

TO: Operators of Local Public Transportation Systems
 Councils of Governments
 Metropolitan Planning Organizations
 South Carolina Association of Counties
 Municipal Association of South Carolina
 State Human Service Agencies
 Transportation Association of South Carolina

FROM: Johnny Mmanuiké
 Director Office of Public Transit

DATE: January 20, 2016

SUBJECT: Announcement of State Fiscal Year 2016 – 2017 Sections 5310, 5311, and State Mass Transit Funds (SMTF) Assistance Information (Update)

FTA’s new authorization, Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act is a five-year legislation that includes reforms and provisions to improve and consolidate public transportation programs. While we wait on funding authorization and the deployment of FTA’s new grant making software, the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) is preparing for the new fiscal year of funding by providing the information below:

Section 5310 - Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities Program

The goal of the Section 5310 Program is to improve mobility for elderly individuals and individuals with disabilities throughout the country. Funds for the Section 5310 Program are available for capital expenses to support the provision of transportation services to meet the special needs of elderly individuals and individuals with disabilities. SCDOT will provide assistance for capital needs to include **\$48,000** for vehicle purchase and up to **\$60,000** for purchase of transportation services.

Any subrecipient with the intent to apply for funding under Section 5310 is asked to provide a letter stating the amount requested, scope of service and vehicle replacement form to Lavern Glover by **February 22, 2016**. A hard copy should be mailed to SCDOT/Office of Public Transit, PO Box 191, Columbia, SC 29202 with copies sent to the regional COGs. **Councils of Government should begin the prioritization of regional Section 5310 projects.**

Section 5311 - Rural Transportation Formula Program

SCDOT’s Office of Public Transit, in an effort to assist agencies in maintaining operations, is allocating federal funds at the same level as SFY2015-2016. The goal of the Section 5311 Program is to improve mobility for rural transportation throughout the country. Formula funds for the



Announcement of SFY 2016-2017
Sections 5310, 5311, and SMTF Program Funding
January 20, 2016
Page 2 of 3

Section 5311 Program are available for net administrative, operating and capital expenses, and/or planning and technical assistance.

In the absence of an FTA appropriation of FFY2016 (SFY2016-2017) Section 5311 funding, and upon recommendation from FTA Region IV staff, federal funding allocations to continuing projects will remain at the SFY2015-2016 level. SCDOT will inform each existing subrecipient, in writing, of its allocation of federal Section 5311 funds. This information will be used by each existing applicant to prepare the application and budget for submission. In anticipation of the new surface transportation reauthorization bill (FAST Act), SCDOT will continue to review and further refine the Section 5311 Allocation Formula as may be appropriate.

State Mass Transit Funds for Urbanized Area (5307) and Other Projects

State Mass Transit Funds (SMTF) are made available to small and large urbanized area transit agencies to match the FTA Urbanized Area Formula Grant (Section 5307), as well as other programs not otherwise funded with FTA program funds. Applicants are required to show how SMTF will be used to accomplish the goals and objectives of transit within its area. SMTF serves as a mechanism for the coordination of federal, state and local agency programs, which expend public, other funds for general public, and other forms of transportation services. Statewide support is given to local projects for the maintenance and development of public transportation systems. These projects should support SCDOT public transportation goals and objectives to develop a comprehensive coordination plan statewide for public transportation services.

In the absence of a FTA appropriation of FFY2016 (SFY2016-2017) Section 5307 funding, and upon recommendation from FTA Region IV staff, federal fiscal year 2016 funding appropriations to Urbanized Areas will be utilized to determine allocation of available SMTF. SCDOT will inform each Urbanized Area, in writing, of its allocation of SMTF. This information will be used by each existing applicant to prepare the application and budget for submission.

Timeline

It is anticipated that the Federal Register will be published in late February or March. At that time, applications will be published with a 30 day turnaround. Only applications received by the stated due date will be reviewed and considered for funding by SCDOT's Office of Public Transit. Recommendations will be presented to the SCDOT Commission in April 2016 and appropriate public comment solicited. Upon approval by the SCDOT Commission, successful applicants will be informed of funding awards. The project period of performance is SFY2016 – 2017 (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017).

If there are any further questions, please contact Lavern Glover (5310) at gloverrlp@scdot.org or Michelle Rayford (5311) at rayfordmd@scdot.org.

/mdr

cc: Office of Public Transit Staff, SCDOT

