

**ADDENDUM TO
THE JOB ACCESS AND REVERSE COMMUTE
AND
NEW FREEDOM GRANT PROGRAMS**

**CALL FOR PROJECTS
APPLICATION PACKAGE FOR THE
HOUSTON, TEXAS URBANIZED AREA**

FEBRUARY 2011

CONTENTS:

- 1. Goals of the Gulf Coast Regional Transit Coordination Plan.**
- 2. Goals, Program Measures and Eligible Activities for the JARC and New Freedom Grant Programs.**
- 3. Listing of FTA Certifications and Assurances**

Chapter 1 – Introduction¹

Public Transportation Coordination

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the Houston-Galveston region is home to 5.4 million people, including many persons that do not have access to an automobile. For the most part, these people depend on public transportation to meet their transportation needs to employment, shopping, and medical trips. Certain parts of the region are served by public transportation providers, such as the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO) whose service area includes two-thirds of Harris County; however, many other parts of the 13-county Gulf Coast Planning Region have limited or no public transportation services. In some instances, basic transportation service is provided by social service agencies for clients that meet financial and/or medical eligibility criteria. In other cases, churches and private companies offer limited services. Even with the various transportation providers throughout the region, there are still unmet transit needs in the region. The leadership of the State of Texas realized that there were inadequacies in the area of public transportation and took action to rectify the issue during the 78th Legislature (2003).

House Bill 3588, passed during the 78th Texas Legislature, is a statewide mandate to coordinate public transportation services and funding among Health and Human Service agencies, Texas Workforce Commission, and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). Although this is a statewide mandate, planning and coordination will take place at the regional and local levels. As such, the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) was designated the Lead Agency for coordination efforts in the 13-county Gulf Coast Region, which includes the following counties: Harris, Montgomery, Liberty, Chambers, Galveston, Brazoria, Fort Bend, Waller, Matagorda, Wharton, Austin, Colorado, and Walker.

The intent of H.B. 3588 is to facilitate the following:

- **Eliminate waste in the provision of public transportation services;**
- **Generate efficiencies that will permit increased levels of service; and**
- **Further the state’s efforts to reduce air pollution.**

¹ Gulf Coast Region Coordinated Regional Public Transportation Plan, H-GAC, the Goodman Corp. et al, 2006, page 1.1.

JOB ACCESS AND REVERSE COMMUTE (JARC)

PROGRAM GOAL, MEASURES and ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES²

JARC PROGRAM GOAL.

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 non-urbanized areas to suburban employment opportunities. Toward this goal, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) provides financial assistance for transportation services planned, designed, and carried out to meet the transportation needs of eligible low-income individuals, and of reverse commuters regardless of income. The program requires coordination of Federally-assisted programs and services in order to make the most efficient use of Federal resources.

JARC PROGRAM MEASURES.

Under the Government Performance Results Act (GPRA), FTA is required by law to “establish performance goals to define the level of performance” and to also “establish performance indicators to be used in measuring relevant outputs, service levels, and outcomes” for each of its programs. The performance measures described here are designed to fulfill FTA’s obligations under this Act. These measures will be used at a program level, and will not be used to assess individual grants. FTA will be capturing overall program measures to be used with the GPRA and the Performance Assessment Rating Tool process for the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB). FTA will conduct independent evaluations of the program focused on specific data elements in order to better understand the implementation strategies and related outcomes associated with the program. The following indicators are targeted to capture overarching program information as part of the Annual Report that each grantee submits to FTA. Specific reporting requirements for recipients can be found in Chapter VI.

The two measures established for the JARC Program are:

- a. Actual or estimated number of jobs that can be accessed as a result of geographic or temporal coverage of JARC projects implemented in the current reporting year.

- b. Actual or estimated number of rides (as measured by one-way trips) provided as a result of the JARC projects implemented in the current reporting year.

JARC ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Funds from the JARC program are available for capital, planning, and operating expenses that support the development and maintenance of transportation services designed to transport low-income individuals to and from jobs and activities related to their employment and to support reverse commute projects. In the conference report accompanying SAFETEA-LU, the conferees stated an expectation that FTA would “continue its practice of providing maximum flexibility to

²U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Transit Administration Circular (FTA C 9050.1) page II-1-2 (May 2007).

job access projects that are designed to meet the needs of individuals who are not effectively served by public transportation, consistent with the use of funds described in the *Federal Register*, Volume 67 (April 8, 2002)” (H.R. Report 109–203, at Section 3018 (July 28, 2005)). Therefore, eligible projects may include, but are not limited to capital, planning, and operating assistance to support activities such as:

- a. Late-night and weekend service;
- b. Guaranteed ride home service;
- c. Shuttle service;
- d. Expanding fixed-route public transit routes;
- e. Demand-responsive van service;
- f. Ridesharing and carpooling activities;
- g. Transit-related aspects of bicycling (such as adding bicycle racks to vehicles to support individuals that bicycle a portion of their commute or providing bicycle storage at transit stations);
- h. Local car loan programs that assist individuals in purchasing and maintaining vehicles for shared rides;
- i. Promotion, through marketing efforts, of the:
 - (1) use of transit by workers with non-traditional work schedules;
 - (2) use of transit voucher programs by appropriate agencies for welfare recipients and other low-income individuals;
 - (3) development of employer-provided transportation such as shuttles, ridesharing, carpooling; or
 - (4) use of transit pass programs and benefits under Section 132 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;
- j. Supporting the administration and expenses related to voucher programs. This activity is intended to supplement existing transportation services by expanding the number of providers available or the number of passengers receiving transportation services. Vouchers can be used as an administrative mechanism for payment to providers of alternative transportation services. The JARC program can provide vouchers to low-income individuals to purchase rides, including (1) mileage reimbursement as part of a volunteer driver program, (2) a taxi trip, or (3) trips provided by a human service agency. Providers of transportation can then submit the voucher to the JARC project administering agency for payment based on pre-determined rates or contractual arrangements. Transit passes for use on fixed route or Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) complementary paratransit service are not eligible. Vouchers are an operational expense which requires a 50/50 (Federal/local) match;
- k. Acquiring Geographic Information System (GIS) tools;
- l. Implementing Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), including customer trip information technology;
- m. Integrating automated regional public transit and human service transportation information, scheduling and dispatch functions;
- n. Deploying vehicle position-monitoring systems;
- o. Subsidizing the costs associated with adding reverse commute bus, train, carpool van routes or service from urbanized areas and nonurbanized areas to suburban work places;
- p. Subsidizing the purchase or lease by a non-profit organization or public agency of a van or bus dedicated to shuttling employees from their residences to a suburban workplace;

q. Otherwise facilitating the provision of public transportation services to suburban employment opportunities;

r. Supporting new mobility management and coordination programs among public transportation providers and other human service agencies providing transportation. Mobility management is an eligible capital cost. Mobility management techniques may enhance transportation access for populations beyond those served by one agency or organization within a community. For example, a non-profit agency could receive JARC funding to support the administrative costs of sharing services it provides to its own clientele with other low-income individuals and coordinate usage of vehicles with other non-profits, but not the operating costs of the service. Mobility management is intended to build coordination among existing public transportation providers and other transportation service providers with the result of expanding the availability of service. Mobility management activities may include:

(1) The promotion, enhancement, and facilitation of access to transportation services, including the integration and coordination of services for individuals with disabilities, older adults, and low-income individuals;

(2) Support for short term management activities to plan and implement coordinated services;

(3) The support of State and local coordination policy bodies and councils;

(4) The operation of transportation brokerages to coordinate providers, funding agencies and customers;

(5) The provision of coordination services, including employer-oriented Transportation Management Organizations' and Human Service Organizations' customer-oriented travel navigator systems and neighborhood travel coordination activities such as coordinating individualized travel training and trip planning activities for customers;

(6) The development and operation of one-stop transportation traveler call centers to coordinate transportation information on all travel modes and to manage eligibility requirements and arrangements for customers among supporting programs; and

(7) Operational planning for the acquisition of intelligent transportation technologies to help plan and operate coordinated systems inclusive of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping, Global Positioning System technology, coordinated vehicle scheduling, dispatching and monitoring technologies as well as technologies to track costs and billing in a coordinated system and single smart customer payment systems (acquisition of technology is also eligible as a stand alone capital expense).

NEW FREEDOM PROGRAM

GOAL, MEASURES, ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES ³

NEW FREEDOM PROGRAM GOAL.

The New Freedom formula grant program aims to provide additional tools to overcome existing barriers facing Americans with disabilities seeking integration into the work force and full participation in society. Lack of adequate transportation is a primary barrier to work for individuals with disabilities. The 2000 Census showed that only 60 percent of people between the ages of 16 and 64 with disabilities are employed. The New Freedom formula grant program seeks to reduce barriers to transportation services and expand the transportation mobility options available to people with disabilities beyond the requirements of the ADA of 1990.

NEW FREEDOM PROGRAM MEASURES.

Under the Government Performance Results Act (GPRA), The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is required by law to “establish performance goals to define the level of performance” and to also “establish performance indicators to be used in measuring relevant outputs, service levels, and outcomes” for each of its programs. The performance measures described here are designed to fulfill FTA’s obligations under this Act. These measures will be used at a program level, and will not be used by FTA to assess individual grants.

FTA will be capturing overall program measures to be used with the GPRA and the Performance Assessment Rating Tool process for the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB). FTA will conduct independent evaluations of the program focused on specific data elements in order to better understand the implementation strategies and related outcomes associated with the program. The following indicators are targeted to capture overarching program information as part of the Annual Report that each grantee submits to FTA. Specific reporting requirements for recipients can be found in Chapter 6.

The three measures established for the New Freedom Program are:

- a. Increases or enhancements related to geographic coverage, service quality and/or service times that impact availability of transportation services for individuals with disabilities as a result of the New Freedom projects implemented in the current reporting year.
- b. Additions or changes to environmental infrastructure (e.g., transportation facilities, side walks, etc), technology, and vehicles that impact availability of transportation services as a result of the New Freedom projects implemented in the current reporting year.
- c. Actual or estimated number of rides (as measured by one-way trips) provided for individuals with disabilities as a result of the New Freedom projects implemented in the current reporting year.

³ U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Transit Administration Circular (FTA C 9045.1 page II-1-2 (May 2007)).

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.

New Freedom Program funds are available for capital and operating expenses that support new public transportation services beyond those required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and new public transportation alternatives beyond those required by the ADA designed to assist individuals with disabilities with accessing transportation services, including transportation to and from jobs and employment support services. For the purpose of the New Freedom Program, “new” service is any service or activity that was not operational on August 10, 2005, and did not have an identified funding source as of August 10, 2005, as evidenced by inclusion in the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) or the STIP. In other words, if not for the New Freedom Program, these projects would not have consideration for funding and proposed service enhancements would not be available for individuals with disabilities.

Maintenance of Effort: Recipients or subrecipients may not terminate ADA paratransit enhancements or other services funded as of August 10, 2005, in an effort to reintroduce the services as “new” and then receive New Freedom funds for those services.

Eligible projects funded with New Freedom funds may continue to be eligible for New Freedom funding indefinitely as long as the project(s) continue to be part of the coordinated plan.

Both new public transportation services and new public transportation alternatives are required to go beyond the requirements of the ADA and must (1) be targeted toward individuals with disabilities; and (2) meet the intent of the program by removing barriers to transportation and assisting persons with disabilities with transportation, including transportation to and from jobs and employment services.

The list of eligible activities is intended to be illustrative, not exhaustive. Recipients are encouraged to develop innovative solutions to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities in their communities.

a. New Public Transportation Services Beyond the ADA. The following activities are examples of eligible projects meeting the definition of new public transportation.

(1) Enhancing paratransit beyond minimum requirements of the ADA. ADA complementary paratransit services can be eligible under New Freedom in several ways as long as the services provided meet the definition of “new:”

(a) Expansion of paratransit service parameters beyond the three-fourths mile required by the ADA;

(b) Expansion of current hours of operation for ADA paratransit services that are beyond those provided on the fixed-route services;

- (c) The incremental cost of providing same day service;
 - (d) The incremental cost of making door-to-door service available to all eligible ADA paratransit riders, but not as a reasonable modification for individual riders in an otherwise curb-to-curb system;
 - (e) Enhancement of the level of service by providing escorts or assisting riders through the door of their destination;
 - (f) Acquisition of vehicles and equipment designed to accommodate mobility aids that exceed the dimensions and weight ratings established for common wheelchairs under the ADA and labor costs of aides to help drivers assist passengers with over-sized wheelchairs. This would permit the acquisition of lifts with a larger capacity, as well as modifications to lifts with a 600 lb design load, and the acquisition of heavier-duty vehicles for paratransit and/or demand-response service; and
 - (g) Installation of additional securement locations in public buses beyond what is required by the ADA.
- (2) Feeder services. New “feeder” service (transit service that provides access) to commuter rail, commuter bus, intercity rail, and intercity bus stations, for which complementary paratransit service is not required under the ADA.
- (3) Making accessibility improvements to transit and intermodal stations not designated as key stations. Improvements for accessibility at existing transportation facilities that are not designated as key stations established under 49 CFR 37.47, 37.51, or 37.53, and that are not required under 49 CFR 37.43 as part of an alteration or renovation to an existing station, so long as the projects are clearly intended to remove barriers that would otherwise have remained. New Freedom funds are eligible to be used for new accessibility enhancements that remove barriers to individuals with disabilities so they may access greater portions of public transportation systems, such as fixed-route bus service, commuter rail, light rail and rapid rail. This may include:
- (a) Building an accessible path to a bus stop that is currently inaccessible, including curbcuts, sidewalks, accessible pedestrian signals or other accessible features,
 - (b) Adding an elevator or ramps, detectable warnings, or other accessibility improvements to a non-key station that are not otherwise required under the ADA,
 - (c) Improving signage, or wayfinding technology, or
 - (d) Implementation of other technology improvements that enhance accessibility for people with disabilities including Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS).

(4) Travel training. New training programs for individual users on awareness, knowledge, and skills of public and alternative transportation options available in their communities. This includes travel instruction and travel training services.

b. New Public Transportation Alternatives Beyond the ADA. The following activities are examples of projects that are eligible as new public transportation alternatives beyond the ADA under the New Freedom Program:

(1) Purchasing vehicles to support new accessible taxi, ride sharing, and/or vanpooling programs. New Freedom funds can be used to purchase and operate accessible vehicles for use in taxi, ridesharing and/or van pool programs provided that the vehicle has the capacity to accommodate a passenger who uses a “common wheelchair” as defined under 49 CFR 37.3, at a minimum, while remaining in his/her personal mobility device inside the vehicle, and meeting the same requirements for lifts, ramps and securement systems specified in 49 CFR part 38, subpart B.

(2) Supporting the administration and expenses related to new voucher programs for transportation services offered by human service providers. This activity is intended to support and supplement existing transportation services by expanding the number of providers available or the number of passengers receiving transportation services. Only new voucher programs or expansion of existing programs are eligible under the New Freedom Program. Vouchers can be used as an administrative mechanism for payment of alternative transportation services to supplement available public transportation. The New Freedom Program can provide vouchers to individuals with disabilities to purchase rides, including: (a) mileage reimbursement as part of a volunteer driver program; (b) a taxi trip; or (c) trips provided by a human service agency. Providers of transportation can then submit the voucher for reimbursement to the recipient for payment based on pre-determined rates or contractual arrangements. Transit passes for use on existing fixed route or ADA complementary paratransit service are not eligible. Vouchers are an operational expense which requires a 50/50 (Federal/local) match.

(3) Supporting new volunteer driver and aide programs. New volunteer driver programs are eligible and include support for costs associated with the administration, management of driver recruitment, safety, background checks, scheduling, coordination with passengers, and other related support functions, mileage reimbursement, and insurance associated with volunteer driver programs. The costs of new enhancements to increase capacity of existing volunteer driver programs are also eligible. FTA notes that any volunteer program supported by New Freedom must meet the requirements of both “new” and “beyond the ADA.” FTA encourages communities to offer consideration for utilizing all available funding resources as an integrated part of the design and delivery of any volunteer driver/aide program.

(4) Supporting new mobility management and coordination programs among public transportation providers and other human service agencies providing transportation. Mobility management is an eligible capital cost. Mobility management techniques may enhance

transportation access for populations beyond those served by one agency or organization within a community. For example, a non-profit agency could receive New Freedom funding to support the administrative costs of sharing services it provides to its own clientele with other individuals with disabilities and coordinate usage of vehicles with other non-profits, but not the operating costs of the service. Mobility management is intended to build coordination among existing public transportation providers and other transportation service providers with the result of expanding the availability of service. Mobility management activities may include:

- (a) The promotion, enhancement, and facilitation of access to transportation services, including the integration and coordination of services for individuals with disabilities, older adults, and low-income individuals;
- (b) Support for short term management activities to plan and implement coordinated services;
- (c) The support of State and local coordination policy bodies and councils;
- (d) The operation of transportation brokerages to coordinate providers, funding agencies and customers;
- (e) The provision of coordination services, including employer-oriented Transportation Management Organizations' and Human Service Organizations' customer-oriented travel navigator systems and neighborhood travel coordination activities such as coordinating individualized travel training and trip planning activities for customers;
- (f) The development and operation of one-stop transportation traveler call centers to coordinate transportation information on all travel modes and to manage eligibility requirements and arrangements for customers among supporting programs; and
- (g) Operational planning for the acquisition of intelligent transportation technologies to help plan and operate coordinated systems inclusive of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping, Global Positioning System Technology, coordinated vehicle scheduling, dispatching and monitoring technologies as well as technologies to track costs and billing in a coordinated system and single smart customer payment systems (acquisition of technology is also eligible as a stand alone capital expense).

**FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2009 CERTIFICATIONS AND ASSURANCES FOR FEDERAL TRANSIT
ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

(Signature page alternative to providing Certifications and Assurances in TEAM-Web)

Name of Applicant: _____

The Applicant agrees to comply with applicable provisions of Categories 01 – 24. _____

OR

The Applicant agrees to comply with applicable provisions of the Categories it has selected:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Description</u>	
01.	Assurances Required For Each Applicant.	_____
02.	Lobbying.	_____
03.	Procurement Compliance.	_____
04.	Protections for Private Providers of Public Transportation.	_____
05.	Public Hearing.	_____
06.	Acquisition of Rolling Stock for Use in Revenue Service.	_____
07.	Acquisition of Capital Assets by Lease.	_____
08.	Bus Testing.	_____
09.	Charter Service Agreement.	_____
10.	School Transportation Agreement.	_____
11.	Demand Responsive Service.	_____
12.	Alcohol Misuse and Prohibited Drug Use.	_____
13.	Interest and Other Financing Costs.	_____
14.	Intelligent Transportation Systems.	_____
15.	Urbanized Area Formula Program.	_____
16.	Clean Fuels Grant Program.	_____
17.	Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities Formula Program and Pilot Program.	_____
18.	Nonurbanized Area Formula Program for States.	_____
19.	Job Access and Reverse Commute Program.	_____
20.	New Freedom Program.	_____
21.	Paul S. Sarbanes Transit in Parks Program.	_____
22.	Tribal Transit Program.	_____
23.	Infrastructure Finance Projects.	_____
24.	Deposits of Federal Financial Assistance to a State Infrastructure Banks.	_____

NOTE: More detailed information about the Certifications and Assurances listed above is available from the Federal Transit Administration at www.dot.gov.