

or services for individuals with disabilities or to request special assistance at the meeting, contact Eran Segev at (617) 494-3174, [eran.segev@dot.gov](mailto:eran.segev@dot.gov), by Wednesday, November 30.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Background

The U.S. Secretary of Transportation established the PAR Working Group as a discretionary committee under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA, 5 U.S.C. App 2) on October 13, 2016, making it effective through October 13, 2018. The PAR Working Group provides advice and recommendations to the FMCSA Administrator on post-accident reporting requirements, specifically those in section 5306, operating in accordance with FACA.

##### II. Meeting Participation

Oral comments from the public will be heard throughout the meeting, at the discretion of the PAR chairman. Members of the public may submit written comments on the topics to be considered during the meeting by Wednesday, November 30, to Federal Docket Management System (FDMC) Docket Number FMCSA-2016-0412 using any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- *Fax:* 202-493-2251.
- *Mail:* Docket Management Facility; U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., West Building, Room W12-140, Washington, DC 20590.
- *Hand Delivery:* U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Room W12-140, Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., E.T. Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Issued on: November 16, 2016.

Larry W. Minor,

Associate Administrator for Policy.

[FR Doc. 2016-28015 Filed 11-21-16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-EX-P

#### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

##### Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[Docket No. FMCSA-2015-0012]

##### Hours of Service of Drivers: American Trucking Associations, Inc. (ATA) Exemption; FAST Act Extension of Compliance Date

**AGENCY:** Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice; extension of exemption.

**SUMMARY:** FMCSA announces the extension of the exemption from the 30-minute rest break requirement granted to the American Trucking Associations, Inc. (ATA) on August 21, 2015, on behalf of motor carriers whose drivers transport security-sensitive hazardous materials (HM) requiring constant attendance on the vehicle. The Agency extends the expiration date from August 21, 2015 to August 20, 2020, in response to section 5206(b)(2)(A) of the “Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act” (FAST Act), which extends hours-of-service (HOS) exemptions in effect on the date of enactment to 5 years from their date of issuance. The ATA rest break exemption is limited to drivers transporting HM loads requiring placarding under the HM regulations or select agents and toxins identified in the HM regulations that do not require placarding, and who have filed security plans requiring constant attendance of HM. The Agency previously determined that the CMV operations of drivers under this exemption would likely achieve a level of safety equivalent to or greater than the level of safety that would be obtained in the absence of the exemption.

**DATES:** This limited exemption is effective from August 21, 2015, through August 20, 2020.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Thomas Yager, Chief, FMCSA Driver and Carrier Operations Division; Office of Carrier, Driver and Vehicle Safety Standards; Telephone: 614-942-6477. Email: [MCPSD@dot.gov](mailto:MCPSD@dot.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Legal Basis

FMCSA has authority under 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315 to grant exemptions from certain parts of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations. FMCSA must publish a notice of each exemption request in the **Federal Register** [49 CFR 381.315(a)].

Section 5206(b)(2)(A) of the FAST Act requires FMCSA to extend any exemption from any provision of the HOS regulations under 49 CFR part 395 that was in effect on the date of enactment of the Act to a period of 5 years from the date the exemption was granted. The exemption may be renewed. Because this action merely implements a statutory mandate that took effect on the date of enactment of the FAST Act, notice and comment are not required.

##### ATA Exemption

ATA, a trade association, applied for a limited exemption from the mandatory

rest break requirement of 49 CFR 395.3(a)(3)(ii) on behalf of all motor carriers whose drivers transport HM loads subject to the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration’s security plan requirement.

FMCSA reviewed ATA’s application and the public comments and concluded that motor carriers may only use this exemption when their drivers are actually transporting HM that requires placarding or includes a select agent or toxin identified in § 172.800(b)(13), and for which a security plan has been filed under § 172.800-804. A Notice of Final Determination granting this ATA exemption was published on August 21, 2015 [80 FR 50912].

The substance of the exemption is not affected by this extension. The exemption covers only the 30-minute rest break requirement [49 CFR 395.3(a)(3)(ii)]. The exemption is restricted to drivers transporting HM loads requiring placarding under 49 CFR part 172, subpart F, or select agents and toxins identified in § 172.800(b)(13) that do not require placarding, and who have filed security plans requiring constant attendance of HM in accordance with §§ 172.800-804. On each trip, the drivers will be allowed to use 30 minutes or more of “attendance time” to meet the requirements for a rest break in the manner provided in 49 CFR 395.1(g) provided they perform no other on-duty activities during the rest break.

The FMCSA does not believe the safety record of any driver operating under this exemption will deteriorate. However, should deterioration in safety occur, FMCSA will take all steps necessary to protect the public interest, including revocation of the exemption. The FMCSA has the authority to terminate the exemption at any time the Agency has the data/information to conclude that safety is being compromised.

Issued on: November 9, 2016.

T.F. Scott Darling, III,  
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2016-28014 Filed 11-21-16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-EX-P

#### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

##### Federal Transit Administration

##### Discretionary Funding Opportunity: Zero Emission Research Opportunity

**AGENCY:** Federal Transit Administration (FTA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and Request for Proposals (RFP).

**SUMMARY:** This competitive solicitation is for the Zero Emission Research Opportunity (ZERO), administered by the Federal Transit Administration. Available funding is \$2.75 million in FTA research funds and this solicitation also will establish eligibility for possible future funding, subject to Congressional appropriations and FTA funding approval, for ZERO. The purpose of the program is to facilitate the advancement, production, and deployment of zero emission public transportation vehicle technology and related infrastructure. FTA intends to select, and enter into cooperative agreements with, multiple (up to 3) nonprofit consortia to continue building on past research innovation and development efforts to facilitate the deployment of zero emission vehicles and associated advanced technology. Eligibility for future ZERO funding opportunities in fiscal years 2017–2020 will be limited to those nonprofit consortia selected under this fiscal year 2017 notice. Potential research partners such as transit agencies, other nonprofits, vendors, suppliers and systems integrators may work with multiple consortia. The Federal cost share of a project carried out under ZERO shall not exceed 80 percent.

**DATES:** Complete proposals must be submitted electronically through the *GRANTS.GOV* “APPLY” function by 11:59 EST on February 21, 2017. Prospective applicants should initiate the process by registering on the *GRANTS.GOV* Web site promptly to ensure completion of the application process before the submission deadline. This announcement is also available at FTA’s Web site at: <https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/notices> and in the “FIND” module of *GRANTS.GOV*. The funding opportunity ID is FTA–2016–009–TRI–ZERO and the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number for Section 5312 is 20.514. Mail and fax submissions will not be accepted.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sean Ricketson, FTA Office of Research Demonstration and Innovation, (202) 366–6678 or [ZERO.FTA@dot.gov](mailto:ZERO.FTA@dot.gov). A TDD is available for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing at 1–800–877–8339.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

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#### **A. Program Description**

##### *1. Background*

Advances in technology are enabling substantial changes in vehicle propulsion, transportation operations, and transportation service delivery. These changes are creating opportunities for our nation’s transportation system to deliver higher levels of service at lower cost and with fewer externalities, benefitting all Americans. Opportunity for change also carries risk, however. Through the Zero Emission Research Opportunity (ZERO), FTA seeks to work with the public transportation industry to solve challenges, increase efficiency, and reduce the costs and risks of deploying zero emission vehicles in transit service.

In implementing ZERO, FTA intends to use a cooperative research model similar to FTA’s successful National Fuel Cell Bus Program. Under this model, research and demonstration projects are defined and conducted by pre-selected non-profit third parties (non-profit consortia as defined in 49 U.S.C. 5312(e)(2)(B)) that, under FTA direction, assemble and manage teams of departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of the Federal Government, including federal laboratories; state and local governmental entities; providers of public transportation; private or non-profit organizations; institutions of higher education; and technical and community colleges. The model introduces an enhanced level of research management, program continuity, and flexibility to federally-funded transit research. It also provides a higher degree of innovation and resiliency, resulting in more successful projects. Through ZERO, FTA seeks to refine this research model with the goal of creating a research environment which results in greater industry involvement and more innovative and successful projects.

##### *2. Scope*

The purpose of ZERO is to work with U.S. industry to remove obstacles on the critical path to the wider adoption of zero emission technology in public transportation. Examples include improving charging standards for battery-electric transit vehicles, improved passenger compartment heating systems, or expanding hydrogen infrastructure. For purposes of this program, zero emission technology

refers to any technology that provides a pathway to the immediate or eventual adoption of transit vehicles that produce no harmful emissions in any, and all, operating modes. Battery-electric and hydrogen fuel cell technology are typical examples. Not all pathways to zero emission vehicles have to be zero emission, but they have to be shown to be on an evolutionary pathway to zero emission. For example, hybrid technology is considered zero emission technology for the purposes of this program if it can be shown to advance the pathway to improved vehicle electrification.

This program focuses on one aspect of transportation emissions—those of systems under the control of a typical domestic transit agency, such as vehicles and fueling or charging systems. With the exception of applications such as solar panels on a maintenance garage roof, emissions from energy production are not targeted in this program. Programs addressing the emissions of energy production are carried out by the Department of Energy (DoE) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). FTA coordinates with the DoE and EPA to eliminate duplication of effort and to ensure strategic consistency.

The projects under ZERO may address aspects of the following subject areas:

a. *Technology Research and Development*—improving the efficiency, reducing costs, and improving the performance of vehicles, vehicle systems, and subsystems.

b. *Transit Fleet Operations*—improving the efficiency, reducing costs, and improving the performance of vehicle fleets including maintenance and operations practices.

c. *Energy Infrastructure*—addressing challenges of supporting zero emission technology including hydrogen fueling, electric charging, and relationships with suppliers and electric utilities.

d. *Standards and Policy*—research to support standards development and testing protocols and to identify policies and policy changes to reduce costs and risks of adopting zero emission vehicle technology.

e. *Other*—FTA is open to considering other research subjects or combinations of subjects to advance zero emission technology.

#### **B. Federal Award Information**

Section 5312 of title 49, United States Code (Section 5312), authorizes FTA’s Public Transportation Innovation program. Through this program, FTA may make grants, or enter into contracts, cooperative agreements and other agreements for research, development,

demonstration and deployment projects, and evaluation of research and technology of national significance to public transportation that the Secretary of Transportation determines will improve public transportation.

ZERO is funded under Section 5312 program authority. A total of \$2.75 million in funds from FY 2014 and 2015 appropriations are available for awards under this announcement. FTA intends to award multiple projects under this announcement.

FTA may, at its discretion, provide additional funds for selections made under this announcement or for additional meritorious proposals from funds made available for 49 U.S.C. Section 5312.

### C. Eligibility Information

#### 1. Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants and recipients under this program are limited to non-profit organizations leading a consortium of entities as listed below. All consortia must include at least one provider of public transportation. As defined in Section 5312, the following entities may be part of a consortium:

- a. Departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of the Federal Government, including Federal laboratories;
- b. State and local governmental entities;
- c. Providers of public transportation;
- d. Private or non-profit organizations;
- e. Institutions of higher education; and
- f. Technical and community colleges.

#### 2. Cost Sharing or Matching

The federal share of project costs under this program is limited to 80 percent. Applicants may seek a lower Federal contribution. The applicant must provide the required local share in cash or in-kind, and must document in its application the source of the local share. Eligible sources of local share are detailed in FTA Research Circular 6100.1E. (available at [http://www.fta.dot.gov/legislation\\_law/12349\\_16434.html](http://www.fta.dot.gov/legislation_law/12349_16434.html)).

#### 3. Eligible Projects

Eligible projects include those defined under 49 U.S.C. 5312(c), (d), and (e) that will build on successful research, innovation, and development efforts to facilitate the deployment of low or no emission vehicles, zero emission vehicles, or associated advanced technology.

Each consortium may propose up to three projects in its application. These are projects the consortium proposes for

the first iteration of Federal funding under ZERO. For projects requesting more than \$500,000, proposals should include one or more alternative funding schedules allowing the project to be funded incrementally in anticipation of additional future funding. However, given that future funding is not guaranteed, project proposals must provide meaningful deliverables for this first iteration of funding. The proposed projects must advance zero emission technology in public transportation by addressing one or more of the following subject areas:

a. *Technology Research and Development*—improving the efficiency, reducing costs, and improving the performance of vehicles, vehicle systems, and subsystems.

b. *Transit Fleet Operations*—improving the efficiency, reducing costs, and improving the performance of vehicle fleets including maintenance and operations practices.

c. *Energy Infrastructure*—addressing challenges of supporting zero emission technology including hydrogen fueling, electric charging, and relationships with suppliers and electric utilities.

d. *Standards and Policy*—research to support standards development and testing protocols and to identify policies and policy changes to reduce costs and risks of adopting zero emission vehicle technology.

e. *Other*—FTA is open to considering other research subjects or combinations of subjects to advance zero emission technology.

### D. Application and Submission Information

#### 1. Address and Form of Application Submission

Project proposals must be submitted electronically through *GRANTS.GOV* ([www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)) by February 21, 2017. Mail and fax submissions will not be accepted. A complete proposal submission will consist of at least two files: (1) The SF-424 Mandatory form (downloaded from *GRANTS.GOV*) and (2) the Applicant and Proposal Profile for the “Zero Emission Research Opportunity” (ZERO Supplemental Form) found on *GRANTS.GOV* and the FTA Web site by clicking (or copying and pasting) the ZERO Program link at [www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/grant-programs/zero-emission-research-opportunity-ZERO](http://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/grant-programs/zero-emission-research-opportunity-ZERO). The Supplemental Form provides guidance and a consistent format for proposers to respond to the criteria outlined in this NOFO.

#### 2. Content and Form of Application Submission

##### a. Proposal Submission

A complete proposal submission consists of two forms: The SF-424 Mandatory Form, and the ZERO Supplemental Form. FTA will evaluate only complete applications.

The Supplemental Form must be placed in the attachments section of the SF-424 Mandatory Form. Proposers must use the Supplemental Form designated for ZERO and attach it to the submission in *GRANTS.GOV* to successfully complete the application process.

A proposal submission may contain additional supporting documentation as attachments. If an applicant elects to attach an additional narrative, it must not exceed 10 numbered pages. Submissions must be presentable and use standard fonts, font sizing, and at least one-inch margins so reviewers can easily read the information.

Within 48 hours after submitting an electronic application, the applicant should receive three email messages from *GRANTS.GOV*: (1) Confirmation of successful transmission to *GRANTS.GOV*, (2) confirmation of successful validation by *GRANTS.GOV*, and (3) confirmation of successful validation by FTA. If confirmations of successful validation are not received or a notice of failed validation or incomplete materials is received, the applicant must address the reason for the failed validation, as described in the email notice, and resubmit before the submission deadline. If making a resubmission for any reason, include all original attachments regardless of which attachments were updated and check the box on the Supplemental Form indicating this is a resubmission.

FTA urges proposers to submit applications at least 72 hours prior to the due date to allow time to receive the validation messages and to correct any problems that may have caused a rejection notification. FTA will not accept submissions after the stated deadline. *GRANTS.GOV* scheduled maintenance and outage times are announced on the *GRANTS.GOV* Web site. Deadlines will not be extended due to scheduled Web site maintenance.

Proposers are encouraged to begin the process of registration on the *GRANTS.GOV* site well in advance of the submission deadline. Registration is a multi-step process, which may take several weeks to complete before an application can be submitted. Registered proposers may be required to take steps to keep their registration up to date before submissions can be made

successfully: (1) Registration in the System for Award Management (SAM) is renewed annually; and, (2) persons making submissions on behalf of the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) must be authorized in *GRANTS.GOV* by the AOR to make submissions. Instructions on the *GRANTS.GOV* registration process are provided in the Appendix.

Information such as the proposer's name, Federal amount requested, local match amount, description of areas served, etc. may be requested in varying degrees of detail on both the SF-424 form and Supplemental Form. Proposers must fill in all fields unless stated otherwise on the forms. The Supplemental Form template supports pasting copied text with limited formatting from other documents; applicants should verify that pasted text is fully captured on the Supplemental Form and has not been truncated by the character limits built into the form. Proposers should use both the "Check Package for Errors" and the "Validate Form" validation buttons on both forms to check all required fields on the forms, and ensure that the Federal and local amounts specified are consistent.

#### b. Application Content

The SF-424 Mandatory Form and the Supplemental Form will prompt applicants for the required information, including the:

- (i) Applicant name;
- (ii) Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number if available. (**Note:** If selected, the applicant will be required to provide its DUNS number prior to award);
- (iii) Key contact information including contact name, address, email address, and phone number;
- (iv) Congressional district(s) of the applicant;
- (v) A list of consortium organizational members, by organization name and address;
- (vi) Documentation of membership of each organizational member of the consortium (e.g., memorandum of understanding, letter of commitment, or other documentation);
- (vii) A schedule outlining steps and milestones for each project;
- (viii) A detailed description of the consortium's project experience, providing details of the projects the consortium has led and how those details support the evaluation criteria;
- (ix) A detailed description of the consortium's experience working with zero emission technology and any related technology;

(x) A detailed description of the consortium's public transportation experience;

(xi) A detailed description of the consortium's experience working with the Federal research programs;

(xii) A detailed description of the consortium's experience functioning as a research organization;

(xiii) Descriptions of up to three proposed projects, including project deliverables, schedule and budget; and

(xiv) A detailed description of technical, financial and legal capacity to administer the proposed projects.

Applicants may also support their applications by including an example of a statement of work, budget, or project plan from an existing or previously funded research project.

#### c. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)

Registration can take as little as 3–5 business days, but since there could be unexpected steps or delays (for example, if the applicant needs to obtain an Employer Identification Number), FTA recommends allowing ample time, up to several weeks, for completion of all steps.

##### Step 1: Obtain DUNS Number

If requested by phone (1-866-705-5711) DUNS is provided immediately.

If your organization does not have one, you will need to go to the Dun & Bradstreet Web site at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform> to obtain the number. \* Information for Foreign Registrants. \* Webform requests take 1–2 business days.

##### Step 2: Register with SAM

If you already have an Employer Identification Number, your SAM registration will take 3 to 5 business days to process. If you are applying for an Employer Identification Number please allow up to two weeks. Ensure that your organization is registered with the System for Award Management (SAM). If your organization is not registered, an authorizing official of your organization must register at [www.sam.gov](http://www.sam.gov).

##### Step 3: Username & Password

Complete your AOR (Authorized Organization Representative) profile on *GRANTS.GOV* and create your username and password. You will need to use your organization's DUNS Number to complete this step. <https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/OrcRegister>.

##### Step 4: AOR Authorization

The E-Business Point of Contact (E-Biz POC) at your organization must login to *GRANTS.GOV* to confirm you as an Authorized Organization

Representative (AOR). Please note that there can be more than one AOR for your organization. In some cases the E-Biz POC is also the AOR for an organization. \* Time to complete this step depends on the responsiveness of your E-Biz POC.

##### Step 5: Track AOR Status

At any time, you can track your AOR status by logging in with your username and password. Login as an Applicant (enter your username & password you obtained in Step 3) using the following link: [applicant\\_profile.jsp](#).

#### d. Submission Dates and Times

Project proposals must be submitted electronically through *GRANTS.GOV* by February 21, 2017. Mail and fax submissions will not be accepted.

#### e. Funding Restriction

FTA will issue specific guidance to recipients regarding pre-award authority at the time of selection. FTA does not provide pre-award authority for competitive funds until projects are selected and even then there are Federal requirements that must be met before costs are incurred. Preparation of proposals is not an eligible pre-award expense.

### E. Application Review

#### 1. Evaluation Criteria

FTA will use the following criteria when evaluating applications:

a. *Project Experience*—Consortia will be evaluated based on their experience and track record in designing, leading and executing transportation research or demonstration projects. The applicant must demonstrate the experience and ability to bring together both private and public industry partners to design and execute research or demonstration projects with multi-million dollar budgets.

b. *Technology experience*—Consortia will be evaluated based on their knowledge and experience working with zero emission technology, including in various public transportation modes.

c. *Public transportation experience*—Consortia will be evaluated based on their experience and ability working with U.S. public transportation agencies, and in the field of public transportation. Applicants should name the public transportation agencies they have worked with in their applications.

d. *Federal Research or Demonstration Experience*—Consortia will be evaluated based on their experience and ability managing Federal research or demonstration projects, and

understanding and meeting Federal requirements.

*e. Organizational Experience—* Consortia will be evaluated based on their experience operating as a team with regard to the above areas. Where some consortia may have member organizations with experience and expertise, the expertise and experience of the consortium as a team working together is also important. This criterion addresses this issue.

*f. Proposed Projects (A consortium may submit up to three proposed projects)* Applications will be evaluated based on the following:

(i) The extent to which the proposed projects will advance zero emission technology in public transportation applications, and

(ii) The effectiveness of the proposed project in advancing zero emission technology relative to the amount of FTA investment.

## 2. Review and Selection Process

FTA staff will comprise the technical evaluation committee and will review applications against the described evaluation criteria. The technical evaluation committee reserves the right to evaluate proposals it receives and to seek clarification from any proposer about any statement that is made in a proposal that FTA finds ambiguous. FTA may also request additional documentation or information to be considered during the evaluation process. After the evaluation of all eligible proposals, the technical evaluation committee will provide recommendations to the FTA Administrator or designee. The FTA Administrator or designee will determine the final list of consortia and the amount of funding for each consortium's proposed projects. FTA may choose to fund some, all, part, or none of a selected consortium's proposed projects. To better evaluate technologies in a variety of conditions and locales, FTA may select a portfolio of geographically diverse projects.

## F. Federal Award Administration

### 1. Federal Award Notice

Subsequent to an announcement by the FTA Administrator or designee of the final project selections posted on FTA's Web site, FTA will publish a list of the selected projects, including Federal dollar amounts and recipients.

All information submitted as part of or in support of a ZERO application shall use publicly available data or data that can be made public and methodologies that are accepted by industry practice and standards, to the

extent possible. If the submission includes information the applicant considers to be trade secret or confidential commercial or financial information, the applicant should do the following: (1) On the Supplemental Form, on every relevant page, select the button to affirm that the submission "Contains Confidential Business Information (CBI);" (2) On any other documentation, mark each affected page "CBI;" and (3) highlight or otherwise denote the CBI portions. FTA protects such information from disclosure to the extent allowed under applicable law. In the event FTA receives a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for the information, FTA will follow the procedures described in the U.S. DOT FOIA regulations at 49 CFR part 7. Only information that ultimately is determined to be confidential under the regulations will be exempt from disclosure under FOIA. Should FTA receive an order from a court of competent jurisdiction ordering the release of the information, FTA will provide the applicant timely notice of such order to allow the applicant the opportunity to challenge such an order. FTA will not challenge a court order on behalf of an applicant.

### 2. Award Administration

Successful proposals will be awarded funding through FTA's Transit Award Management System (TrAMS) as Cooperative Agreements. The FTA Research Office will manage those Cooperative Agreements. Apart from the specific terms and conditions within the Scope of Work, general terms and conditions for Grant Agreements and Cooperative Agreements are found at [www.transit.dot.gov](http://www.transit.dot.gov).

Applicants must sign and submit current Certifications and Assurances before FTA may award funding under a Cooperative Agreement for a competitively selected project. If the applicant has already submitted its annual Certifications and Assurances for the fiscal year in which the award will be made in TrAMS, it does not need to be resubmitted.

To enhance the value of the portfolio of the projects to be implemented, FTA reserves the right to request an adjustment of the project scope and budget of any proposal selected for funding. Such adjustments shall not constitute a material alteration of any aspect of the proposal that influenced the proposal evaluation or decision to fund the project.

### 3. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Except as otherwise provided in this NOFO, cooperative agreements are subject to the requirements of 49 U.S.C. 5312 as described in the latest FTA Research Circular, currently 6100.1E, "Research, Technical Assistance and Training Program: Application Instructions and Program Management Guidelines." In particular, the recipient(s) of a ZERO award must submit quarterly Federal Financial Reports and Milestone Progress Reports in TrAMS.

### 4. Reporting, Data and Information Exchange, and Data Requirements

In order to achieve a comprehensive understanding of the impacts and implications of ZERO, FTA, or its designated independent evaluator, will require direct access to project data. Projects should include a data capture component that allows for the reliable and consistent collection of information relevant to gauging the impact and outcomes of the project.

At any time during the period of performance, the project team may be requested to coordinate data collection activities in order to provide interim information under the requirements of this award. A project team may be asked to provide the data directly to FTA or to a designated independent evaluator. This information, if requested, will be used to conduct program evaluations during the execution of the project and after it has been completed.

## G. Federal Awarding Agency Contacts

For further information concerning this NOFO please contact the ZERO staff via email at [ZERO.FTA@dot.gov](mailto:ZERO.FTA@dot.gov), or call Sean Ricketson at 202-366-6678. A TDD is available for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing at 1-800-877-8339. In addition, FTA will post answers to questions and requests for clarifications on FTA's Web site at <https://www.transit.dot.gov/about/research-innovation/ZERO>. To ensure applicants receive accurate information about eligibility or the program, the applicant is encouraged to contact DOT directly with questions, rather than through intermediaries or third parties. DOT staff may also conduct briefings on the ZERO selection and award process upon request.

## H. Other Information

The applicant must assure that it will comply with all applicable Federal statutes, regulations, executive orders, FTA Circulars, and other Federal administrative requirements in carrying out any project supported by the FTA

agreement. The applicant must acknowledge that it is under a continuing obligation to comply with the terms and conditions of the Cooperative Agreement it executes with FTA for its project. The applicant must acknowledge that it understands that Federal laws, regulations, policies, and administrative practices might be modified from time to time and may affect the implementation of the project. The applicant must agree that the most recent Federal requirements will apply to the project, unless FTA issues a written determination otherwise.

Issued in Washington, DC, this sixteenth day of November 2016.

**Matthew Welbes,**  
Executive Director.

[FR Doc. 2016-28069 Filed 11-21-16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-57-P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Transit Administration

[Docket Number: FTA-2016-0044]

#### Notice of Availability of Programmatic Assessment of Greenhouse Gas Emissions From Transit Projects

**AGENCIES:** Federal Transit Administration (FTA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability; Request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announces the availability of a draft Programmatic Assessment of Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Transit Projects (Programmatic Assessment) and an accompanying Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) Estimator Tool (Estimator Tool). The purpose of the draft Programmatic Assessment is to: (1) Report on whether certain types of proposed transit projects merit detailed analysis of their GHG emissions at the project-level; and (2) provide a source of data and analysis for FTA and its grantees to reference in future environmental documents for projects where detailed, project-level GHG analysis would provide limited information beyond what is collected and considered in the assessment. The draft Programmatic Assessment presents estimates of GHG emissions generated from the construction, operations, and maintenance phases of projects across select transit modes, as well as an estimate of personal vehicle emissions displaced due to transit's "ridership effect." The associated Estimator Tool is a spreadsheet tool that allows users to calculate partial lifecycle GHG emissions estimates by transit mode

based on limited data inputs. FTA's draft Programmatic Assessment or Estimator Tool is not a requirement; agencies and states may use other methods for reporting GHG emissions related to state GHG reporting regulations, as needed and as appropriate. Use of FTA's draft Programmatic Assessment or Estimator Tool is not a requirement, if agencies and states are utilizing other methods for reporting GHG emissions related to state GHG reporting regulations. The FTA requests public comments on the Programmatic Assessment and the Estimator Tool.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by January 6, 2017. Late filed comments will be considered to the extent practicable.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments to Docket No. FTA-2016-0044 by any of the following methods:

*Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) and follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

*Mail:* Docket Management Facility: U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, Washington, DC 20590-0001.

*Hand Delivery or Courier:* West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

*Fax:* (202) 493-2251.

*Instructions:* You must include the agency name (Federal Transit Administration) and the Docket Number of this notice at the beginning of your comments. Note that all comments received will be posted without change to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), including any personal information provided. You may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement published in the **Federal Register** on April 11, 2000 (65 FR 19477).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Maya Sarna, Office of Environmental Programs, (202) 366-5811, or Christopher Van Wyk, Office of Environmental Programs, (202) 366-1733; Helen Serassio, Office of Chief Counsel, (202) 366-1974. FTA is located at 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590. Office hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

In August 2016, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) released its *Final Guidance for Federal*

*Departments and Agencies on Consideration of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and the Effects of Climate Change in National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Reviews*. The guidance provides a framework for agencies to consider the effects of a proposed action on climate change, as indicated by its estimated GHG emissions. The CEQ guidance notes that an agency may decide, rather than analyze GHG emissions project-by-project, that it would be useful and efficient to provide an aggregate analysis of GHG emissions or climate change effects through programmatic analysis and then incorporate that analysis by reference into future NEPA reviews. FTA currently considers it practicable to assess the effects of GHG emissions and climate change for a variety of transit projects at a programmatic level.

The purpose of the *Programmatic Assessment of Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Transit Projects* is to: (1) Report on whether certain types of proposed transit projects merit detailed analysis of their GHG emissions at the project-level; and (2) provide a source of data and analysis for FTA and its grantees to reference in future environmental documents for projects where detailed, project-level GHG analysis would provide only limited information beyond what is collected and considered in the assessment. The Programmatic Assessment presents results from an analysis to estimate direct and indirect GHG emissions generated from the construction, operations, and maintenance phases of projects across select transit modes. The findings provide a reference for FTA and its grantees to use in future NEPA documents to describe the potential effects of proposed transit investments on partial lifecycle GHG emissions. This assessment's results can inform transit project sponsors who are considering the implications of GHG emissions of future transit investments or who might independently want to evaluate the greenhouse gas emissions benefits and cost of such investments. As part of the draft Programmatic Assessment, FTA developed the Estimator Tool. The Estimator Tool is a spreadsheet based tool that allows users to calculate partial lifecycle GHG emissions estimates by transit mode for the construction, maintenance, and operations phases of transit project development, as well as an estimate of personal vehicle emissions displaced due to transit's "ridership effect."

FTA requests comments on the draft Programmatic Assessment and the accompanying Estimator Tool, which are available on the docket. Comments