



# Coordinated Call for Projects

Rural Discretionary and Intercity Bus Programs



November 21, 2023



- Purpose
- Phones
- Questions and Answers
- Recording and Presentation

# Table of contents



<b>1</b>	Programs	4
<b>2</b>	Schedule and Milestones	5-6
<b>3</b>	Application Instructions	7-9
<b>4</b>	Important Notices	10-11
<b>5</b>	Points of Emphasis	12
<b>5</b>	Intercity Bus Program	13-17
<b>6</b>	Budget and Milestones	18
<b>7</b>	Questions and Answers	19



Name	Description
<b>Rural Discretionary (RD)</b>	Assist public transportation providers in rural areas to provide passenger transportation services to the public using the most efficient combination of knowledge, materials, resources and technology. Rural Discretionary (RD) funds are available through this call for projects which <b>cannot reasonably be funded through FTA and State program formula allocations or local resources and are consistent with identified objectives.</b>
<b>Intercity Bus (ICB)</b>	Support connections, services, and infrastructure to <b>meet the intercity mobility needs of residents in rural areas</b> , consistent with identified objectives.



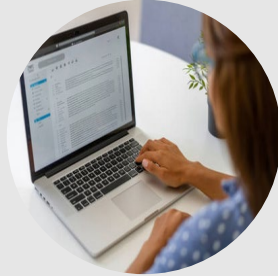
Activity / Milestone	Target Due Date
<b>Submission and Training</b>	
Notice of Opportunity available	Friday, October 27, 2023
Instructions Overview Webinar	Tuesday, October 31, 2023
Program Specific Webinar (PLN and RTAP)	Wednesday, November 1, 2023
→ Program Specific Webinar (RD and ICB)	Thursday, November 2, 2023
Deadline for submitting written questions	Friday, December 15, 2023
Deadline for application submission	Friday, January 19, 2024
<b>Scoring and Negotiations</b>	
Applications Scored	Wednesday, February 21, 2024
Application Negotiations Completed	Friday, March 22, 2024
<b>PGA Development</b>	
Texas Transportation Commission approval	Thursday, June 27, 2024
Project Grant Agreements distributed for Year 1 projects	Thursday, August 1, 2024
<b>Award Grants</b>	
Project Grant Agreements executed and activated in IGX for Year 1.	Sunday, September 1, 2024

# Milestones



Program Specific Webinar

11/2/23



Questions Due via E-Mail

12/15/23



Applications Due in IGX

1/19/24



Commission Meeting

6/27/24



PGAs Distributed

8/1/24



PGAs Executed

9/1/24



## ■ RD Scope

- TxDOT requests projects which assist public transportation providers in **rural areas to provide passenger transportation services to the general public** using the most efficient combination of knowledge, materials, resources and technology.

## ■ RD Objectives

- Project development for new capital infrastructure projects that **support regional multi-use, shared facilities, or multi-modal opportunities** including but not limited to **maintenance, training, communication, and other infrastructure** improving the movement of people and goods.
- Protect the investment in transit facilities by supporting major projects involving the **maintenance and rehabilitation of existing facilities** and advancing facility projects currently under way.
- Support collaborative efforts of governments, communities, and service providers to **implement a locally based, regionally linked network of public transportation services** and facilities addressing regional, intercity, and local service needs including but not limited to partnerships among different public and/or private providers **expanding mobility options** in rural areas of the state.



## ■ ICB Scope

- This section of the call for projects requests projects which support connections, services, and infrastructure designed to address the intercity mobility needs of residents in rural areas, consistent with identified objectives.

## ■ ICB Objectives

- Support connections between rural areas and the larger regional or national system of ICB service.
- Support services responding to the intercity travel needs of residents in rural areas.
- Support the infrastructure needs of the ICB network through planning and marketing assistance and capital investments.





## ■ Scope and Objectives Summary

- Applications **must meet** the scope and objectives for RD ([page 42](#)) and/or ICB ([page 58](#)).

## ■ Evaluation Criteria

- Demonstrated Need and Project Description
  - Questions 1 – 2 for RD and ICB have been updated with clarification and expanded guidance.

## ■ Project Evaluation – ICB

- Successful ICB applicants will be expected to submit [performance and ridership data](#) to TxDOT-PTN monthly.

## ■ Operating Assistance – ICB

- **An Operating Assistance form is required for EACH route. No combining routes into a single form.**



- The Coordinated Call for Projects funding opportunity is opened biennially.
  - Next request for proposals will be published Fall of 2025.
- **Only ONE PROJECT per each grant application is allowed for RD and ICB. 5 app limit.**
- Proposed projects can be for a maximum of two years starting in either FY25 or FY26.
- Applications must be submitted in IGX, and the status changed to “*Application Submitted for Review*” **no later than 5:00 PM CST January 19, 2024.**
- Master Grant Agreement (MGA) and current FTA and TxDOT Certification and Assurances (C&A) must be on file.



## ■ Transit Technical Services Program (TTSP)

- TTSP assistance is short-term in duration, expected to take between one and four months. Applications are accepted on a continuous basis.
- TxDOT PTN reviews requests several times a year for coordination and scheduling purposes (generally in April, August and December).

## ■ Eligibility

- If a project is eligible for Transit Technical Services Program (TTSP) it may be moved to the TTSP program.
  - Financial management and analysis
  - Capital project development
  - Operational and service analysis

## ■ Criteria

- If you have a proposed project that falls into one of the categories above, we suggest exploring the option with the TTSP program, sooner than later.



## ■ Priorities

- TxDOT priorities for this call for projects include the following:
  - Sustain **historically subsidized intercity bus routes** with continued **demonstration of need** and **performance** and identified as a **priority connection** to be sustained in the ICB Study. Provide funding for capital needs in support of these services.
  - Support new and/or previously unsubsidized routes with **sufficient justification** of need and **proposed performance** (eligible routes identified by the ICB Study will be prioritized over other new routes). Provide funding for capital needs in support of these services.

## ■ Service Routes

- As part of the 2021 Texas ICB Study TxDOT identified several **priority rural area connections** across the state. The updated connections for this call for projects can be located on page 60 of the application instructions.



- Applications for capital projects to address documented ICB vehicle inventory needs may include, but not limited to:
  - Purchase of lift-equipped vehicles with provisions for passenger luggage.
  - Eligible vehicle types:
    - Conversion vans
    - Cutaway vehicles
    - Medium-duty buses
  
- **Funding Availability**
  - Due to funding constraints, applications for the purchase of over-the-road coaches **may not be considered a priority** and will only be funded up to a reasonably sized rural area fleet equivalent, based on Texas-based rural area ridership numbers.



## ■ Replacement Vehicles – Criteria

- Must be an existing route with a **minimum three (3) year history of being subsidized**.
  - With sufficient ridership to qualify for continued subsidy.
- Need to justify size and type of vehicle and must meet ICB criteria.
- Must already meet useful life standards.
- Only a **proportional share** of the vehicle related to rural area service in Texas will be considered for funding.
- Only **one (1) vehicle per route** per Coordinated Call cycle.



## ■ Expansion/New Vehicles – Criteria

- Will only be considered in support of a successful application for a **new route** or **expansion of a currently subsidized route**.
- Need to justify **size and type of vehicle** and must meet ICB criteria.
- Only a **proportional share of the vehicle** related to rural area service in Texas will be considered for funding.
- Only **one (1) vehicle per route** per Coordinated Call cycle.



- Applications for capital projects to maintain current facilities, and plan and construct new, or modified, facilities shall be limited to the **documented rural area service share** of publicly owned and operated multi-modal passenger facilities. The project applicant will propose, and TxDOT will confirm, **the documented share** calculation.
- Project applicants are **highly encouraged** to **apply for funding** under the **Rural Discretionary** portion of the call for projects, if eligible, as this is **a more flexible source of funding**, without restrictions specific to the use of ICB program funds.





## ■ Criteria

- Must demonstrate the benefit to the rural areas of Texas.
- Must demonstrate a **documented need and readiness** (needs assessment and feasibility study, etc.)
- Must have **land or funding to purchase land**, as a **prerequisite** for application acceptance.
- Will award only a **proportional share** of the proposed project - applicant should present their **best assessment** of what the proportional share is, (miles, ridership, cost per mile) but must demonstrate what is a **substantial benefit** to the rural areas of Texas.
- Applicant must include a statement that, on receipt of funding, commits the applicant to **sustained intercity service use of the facility** or risk of repayment of remaining interest in the intercity grant program share of the overall project funding.



- Indirect Costs will not be considered or allowed if not indicated at time of application submission. **Indirect Costs are NOT allowed for ICB.**
- If In-Kind match will be used, the project total cost should be inflated by the In-Kind amount and the federal column should be the amount requested. Support documentation must be included as an attachment for In-Kind match.
- Applicants requesting funding for more than one year:
  - Enter only the **FIRST YEAR** of funds requested.
  - Must upload the Multiyear Budget Worksheet.
- TDCs will be available upon request
  - TDCs must be requested by clicking on the “*TDC Requested?*” radio button for the appropriate Activity Line Item (ALI).





- Open Call for Projects E-mail
  - [ptn\\_programmgmt@txdot.gov](mailto:ptn_programmgmt@txdot.gov)
- Help Desk E-mail
  - [ptn\\_igxhelp@txdot.gov](mailto:ptn_igxhelp@txdot.gov)
- Help Desk Phone
  - 512.486.5957 (**Monday – Friday 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM CST. Closed on federal holidays**)
- Coordinated Call for Projects Link
  - <https://www.txdot.gov/business/grants-and-funding/public-transportation-grants.html>
- Transit Technical Services Program (TTSP)
  - [TTSP@txdot.gov](mailto:TTSP@txdot.gov)