



Public Transportation Division

**CONTINUATION FUNDING FOR
REGIONAL PUBLIC
TRANSPORTATION COORDINATION
PLANS**

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SECTION ONE – OVERVIEW

Introduction

This document contains instructions on how to fill out the application for Federal Transit Administration, 49 U.S.C. §5304 funds, a program that provides funding to eligible recipients for the purpose of supporting regionally coordinated transportation planning. Eligible applicants must comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is a recipient of 49 U.S.C. §5304 funds, which are passed through to eligible subrecipients. The Federal Section 5304 Grant application is the process to apply for the Section 5304 federal funds.

Purpose

The purpose of this application is to assist planning regions in Texas in implementing and updating a five-year public transit-human services transportation plan.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants are designated lead agencies responsible for regional public transit-human services transportation planning during the period of the grant.

Project Period

These funding awards will support regional transportation planning continuation activities from March 1, 2022-August 31, 2023 (FY 2022-2023). This application is for the second period, September 1, 2022, to August 31, 2023 (FY 2023). Grants for the first period cover March 1 – August 31, 2022 (FY 22) and must be executed by July 31, 2022.

Availability of Funds

The division awarded a total of \$52,500 to each designated lead agency to maintain coordination activities begun in the creation of the five-year, coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan. The second period, for FY 2023, is in the amount of \$35,000. These funds shall be administered through PGAs between the TxDOT and grantees.

Funds administered by TxDOT will be awarded in the form of grants made for allowable eligible expenses and defined activities/deliverables. A successful applicant will become a subrecipient of TxDOT. Final award of grant funds administered by TxDOT will be made by the commission. Project grant agreements (PGA's) will be administered by a TxDOT Public Transportation Coordinator (PTC), with the option of the involvement and advice of additional parties.

Any eligible activities carried out after the execution of the PGA or September 1, 2022, whichever is later, may be reimbursed by the grant. **The application must be submitted with the Workplan and Quarterly Progress Index to be approved and executed.** TxDOT reserves the right to ask for further clarification.

Funding Percentages and Reimbursement Cap

Projects will be reimbursed with FTA grant funds in accordance with Title 49 U.S.C. § 5304, with a percentage of local match.

- TxDOT may provide up to 80% in federal funds for eligible project costs.
- TxDOT may provide up to 20% in state funds or transportation development credits (TDC) as match.

Eligible Work or Activities

Eligible work activities include, but are not limited to:

- Stakeholder/Coordination committee meetings;
- Stakeholder outreach and recruiting;
- Reviewing and updating the plan;
- Workshops
- Public involvement
- Performance metrics collection and reporting

Deliverables

Grant reimbursement is dependent on submission and acceptance of deliverables. A deliverable is a product developed as part of this project such as a report, plan, manual, or some other document or product. This includes documentation of events related to the continuation activities conducted by the lead agency. There is no limit to the number of deliverables.

At a minimum, two specific deliverables shall be included:

- Documentation of regular stakeholder meetings in the form of meeting minutes that contain detail on who was present, what topics were discussed, and any decisions made
- Performance metrics collected and reported to the Texas Transportation Institute, for which \$5,000 of the award for this period is designated.

Subrecipient Obligations

Once a project is selected for funding, the applicant has certain obligations to TxDOT to provide for proper and adequate project monitoring and supervision. Failure to fulfill these obligations is grounds for cancellation of the PGA at the sole discretion of TxDOT.

Specific tasks to fulfill these obligations are detailed below as follows:

1. **Compliance** – Compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, including requirements found in the Master Grant Agreement and the FTA Certifications and Assurances. The applicant must meet all requirements pertaining to PGA's, project monitoring, safety, environment, accessibility, inclusion in the appropriate planning documents, and the specific requirements for each project type.
 - a. If, at the conclusion of a project, the subrecipient elects to continue to utilize an asset purchased with grant funds, in accordance with 43 TAC § 31.57, the following responsibilities continue:
 - i. All Federal and state requirements remain.
 - ii. The subrecipient must provide data on ridership, vehicle use, and operating costs.

- iii. The subrecipient is subject to on-going annual monitoring by TxDOT.
 - b. If a project includes the purchase of real property, all environmental analyses, such as the finding of a Categorical Exclusion, must be completed prior to the purchase.
2. **Project Management** – Assure work is carried out as defined in the detailed scope of work and calendar of work.
- a. All activities and/or deliverables will be approved according to the specifications of the scope of work. The calendar of work/timeline shall provide a minimum two-week evaluation period for each activity/deliverable.
 - b. If the project is divided into several activities/deliverables in accordance with the terms of the payment schedule, billable amounts for each activity/deliverable shall be specified.
3. **Reporting** – Participate in continuous, comprehensive dialogue with TxDOT throughout the life of the project. The TxDOT PTC shall be the applicant's primary point of contact with TxDOT.
- a. The required dialogue shall include reasonable access to data for project monitoring and, as appropriate, to the physical sites of projects.
 - b. A status report reflecting progress and milestones accomplished shall be sent to the TxDOT PTC at least quarterly, or more frequently as negotiated, for the duration of the PGA. Projects for Construction/Reconstruction/Acquisition of Real Property require monthly status reports. Formal progress meetings may be required at the discretion of the TxDOT PTC.
 - c. Each project will be reviewed routinely by the local TxDOT PTC. No changes to processes or products shall be made without the prior knowledge and written approval of TxDOT.

Additional information regarding Section 5304 funds can be found in section 43 TAC and FTA circular 9070.1G

TxDOT reserves the right to ask for further clarification and conduct negotiations pertaining to an applicant's responses including but not limited to expenses and activities. Requests for negotiations, additional meetings, and information will be at the option of and by the initiative of TxDOT.

SECTION TWO – APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Schedule

The application process schedule includes major milestones and target due dates culminating in a fully executed project grant agreement (PGA). The application submission due date is set; all other dates are subject to change. Any updates to the schedule will be posted at: <http://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/public-transportation/local-assistance.html>.

Funds have already been approved by the Texas Transportation Commission.

The following table outlines the call for projects schedule with target dates:

Activity / Milestone	Target Due Date
Submission and Training	
Application available	7/25/2022
Instructions Overview Webinar	7/26/2022
Deadline for application submission	8/24/2022
PGA Development	
Project Grant Agreements executed and activated in eGrants for Year 2 (FY 2023).	9/1/2022

Development

eGrants

- Applications must be submitted via eGrants by changing the status in eGrants to “*Application Submitted for Review.*”
- Ensure you save often when creating your application as eGrants will timeout after 15 minutes of inactivity.
- For help and resources regarding the eGrants system, contact the eGrants help desk Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. (closed federal holidays) at (512) 486-5957 or by email at PTN-eGrantshelp@txdot.gov. An eGrants Subgrantee User Manual can be found under the “Training Materials” section in eGrants.

Training and Guidance

- TxDOT will host a webinar which discusses the application process
- Webinar information can be found at <http://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/public-transportation/local-assistance.html>. Recorded webinars will be posted to this site as well.

Questions

- Please contact TxDOT PTN Public Transportation Coordinators regarding questions for this application.

Submission

- Applications must be submitted by the responsible entity in eGrants.
- Separate documents with information pertaining to the applicant qualifications, commitment, availability of external resources, or previous public transportation or related experience may also be included (or required) with the application as attachments. **Do not mail hard copies of applications or support letters to TxDOT.**

SECTION THREE – APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

eGrants

All items with a red asterisk* indicate a mandatory field and require a response. All responses need to be clear and concise and communicate how the agency will allocate and apply the funds. Also, all applicants are required to complete all appropriate sections of the application completely and thoroughly with the most current information.

Applicant Information Form

Provide primary contact information in the available fields. (See Figure 1).

Person to be contacted regarding this application	
First Name *	<input type="text"/>
Last Name *	<input type="text"/>
Phone Number *	<input type="text"/>
Email Address *	<input type="text"/>

Figure 1: Contact Person

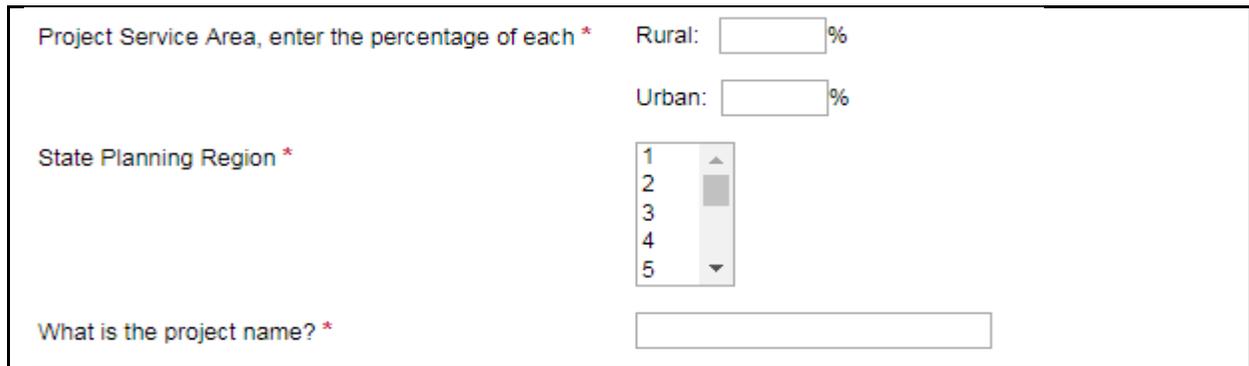
The applicant confirms that the agency *Service Profile* is accurate by checking the box as shown in image below. The *Service Profile* can be found by using the “*Service Profile*” link at the top of the eGrants page. (See Figure 2).

By checking this box, you are indicating that the service profile for this organization is accurate. *	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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Figure 2: Service Profile Certification

Project Summary

1. Provide a percentage breakdown of service area. Project name should be "District [Name] FY 22 Continuation Funds". (See Figure 3)



The form contains the following fields:

- Project Service Area, enter the percentage of each ***
 - Rural: %
 - Urban: %
- State Planning Region ***
 - A dropdown menu with options 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. Option 2 is currently selected.
- What is the project name? ***
 -

Figure 3: Service Area, Planning Region, Project Name

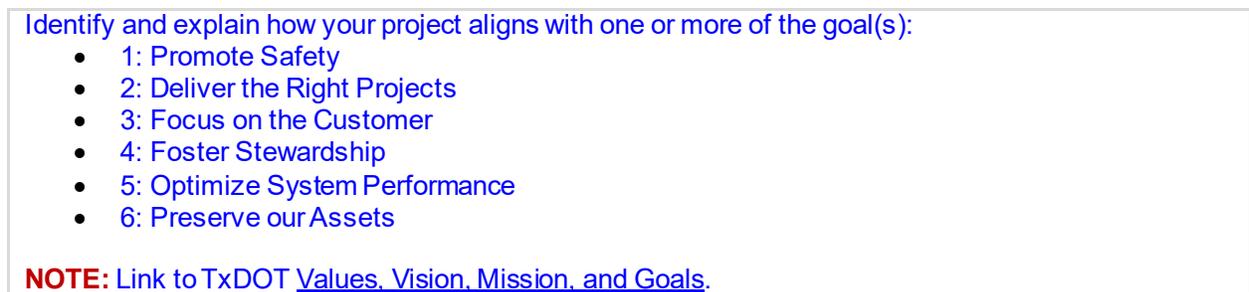
2. Provide a summary of the proposed project(s) for which the funds will be used. *



Provide a concise, high-level overview of continuation activities planned for the FY 2022 period

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3. Describe how the proposed project aligns with the strategic goals outlined in the Texas Transportation Commission's [Strategic Plan](#). *



Identify and explain how your project aligns with one or more of the goal(s):

- 1: Promote Safety
- 2: Deliver the Right Projects
- 3: Focus on the Customer
- 4: Foster Stewardship
- 5: Optimize System Performance
- 6: Preserve our Assets

NOTE: Link to [TxDOT Values, Vision, Mission, and Goals](#).

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4. Identify project partners and describe what each partner will do for the project. (See Figure 4)



Partner Name	Description of Activity
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Figure 4: Partner name and activity description

Name project partners and specifically identify what each will contribute and/or commit to for this project;

Obligation Certification Form

OBLIGATION CERTIFICATION

As an authorized official of the [REDACTED]

I certify to the following:

1. The information presented in the application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.
2. I have not intentionally made any misstatements or misrepresented the facts.
3. The organization has the resources and technical capacity to support the project.
4. The organization has the resources and technical capacity to provide the required match.
5. The organization uses generally accepted accounting standards for its financial recordkeeping functions.
6. The organization will participate in a continuous, comprehensive dialogue throughout the life of the project.

This includes but is not limited to:

- o On-Site monitoring by TxDOT personnel
- o Timely submission of required reports
- o Timely written notification of events that will affect the outcome of the project

7. The organization will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

This includes but is not limited to:

- o Annual Certifications and Assurances
- o Master grant agreements
- o Project grant agreements
- o Applicable federal program circulars and similar federal and state guidance

8. Applicant Affirmation: Compensation has not been received for participation in the preparation of the specifications for this call for projects.

By checking and completing this document I certify that the above statements are true and that I have the authority to sign this document.

Name

Title

Date

Figure 5: Obligation Certification form

An agency representative with authority to sign the document should check the box at the bottom of the page. Their name and title along with the date will be inserted into the page.

RPTCP Continuation Plan Overview and Strategy Form

Continuation Plan

1. Describe approaches and steps your agency will take to:
 - track activities and projects identified in the updated coordinated plan
 - collect, maintain and assess data to evaluate these performance measures *

- Describe how the agency will follow the activities and projects that contribute to implementing the plan.
- Explain how local performance measures will be evaluated. This includes qualitative and quantitative data like survey results, planning studies, or other measurable information.

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2. Describe how your agency will keep stakeholders informed of progress regarding the updated coordinated plan. *

- Identify:
- Method for informing stakeholders and getting their feedback
 - timeframe for stakeholder updates

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Experience & Capacity

1. Describe your agency's financial and resource-capacity to carry out proposed activities, and provide necessary staff support to completed all activities and deliverables. Specify whether work will be performed by your agency's staff, through a partnership or using contracted services. *

- Describe specific, convincing examples of projects similar to this proposed project that the applicant oversaw and managed.
- If using a consultant:
- Provide name of consultant(s) whether currently secured or are anticipated to contribute to the project.
 - Describe the specific services the consultant will provide.
 - Provide examples of where the consultant has performed similar work
- Details about individual staff are in the next question.

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NOTE: When consultant services are used, TxDOT must ensure all federal and state procurement processes are/have been followed. TxDOT usually oversees each phase of the procurement process.

2. Identify resources (financial and labor) to be leveraged to help sustain this planning process throughout. *

- Identify:

- Which individual lead agency staff or people from other agencies/stakeholders **not funded by this grant** will be involved, with their name, title, and agency (where possible)
- Describe their role(s)
- Include relevant details about the experience of each staff member with planning implementation.
- How many hours/the percentage of their time these individuals will spend on activities related to continuation efforts
- Additional sources of funding for planning continuation activities

Details about the individual responsible for managing the continuation activities are in the next question

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3. Identify the individual who will manage the continuation activities and describe:
- how they will make certain all activities are completed on time
 - as part of an inclusive process that meaningfully engages other stakeholders;
 - their relevant experience. *

Identify:

- Individual's name and title
- Include relevant details about planning implementation experience
- How many hours/the percentage of their time this individual will spend on activities related to continuation efforts
- The individual's plan for staying on schedule

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Roles and Responsibilities of Stakeholders

Examples of local stakeholders can include, but are not limited to, the following: human services providers; metropolitan planning organizations (unless in a planning region with no MPO); individuals with disabilities; individuals 65 and older; individuals with low incomes; individuals with limited English proficiency; children; Veterans; workforce agencies; and other members of the public.

1. Explain the process your agency will use to ensure active, effective and regular participation of the stakeholders in the implementation of this five-year public transit-human services transportation plan and how your agency will document this ongoing participation. *

- List the names of organizations, entities and/or individuals who participated in the development of this project.
- Explain at which steps in the development of the project the stakeholders participated and what they did.

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2. Provide a letter from the stakeholder committee indicating their commitment to actively participate in developing and approving this five-year public transit-human services transportation plan continuation effort.*

The letter should include the names and agencies for each of the stakeholders.

- You may use the letter submitted with the FY 22 application if the list of stakeholders did not change. If stakeholders were added, a revised letter from the stakeholder committee is required.

Description

Upload

Choose File

No file chosen

Project Workplan and Quarterly Progress Index

The Workplan and Quarterly Progress Index are separate worksheets to be completed as part of the application. They are required for application approval. The forms can be downloaded from <https://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/public-transportation/local-assistance.html>.

Attach Workplan form from [PTN website](#). Refer to Application Instructions for more information.

Description

Upload

Choose File

No file chosen

Attach Quarterly Progress Index form from [PTN website](#). Refer to Application Instructions for more information.

Description

Upload

Choose File

No file chosen

Workplan

Prepare a workplan that covers from September 1, 2022-August 31, 2023, that includes the activities that will be carried out as part of supporting the implementation of the Regional Public Transportation Coordination Plan. Activities include but are not limited to meetings, stakeholder outreach and recruiting, plan reviews, revisions, workshops, public involvement, performance metrics collection and reporting.

Complete a thorough and appropriate workplan using the template provided to spell out the activities, responsible party or parties for the activity, estimated completion date, deliverable for the activity, and estimated cost.

- **Activity:** List the activities and provide a detailed explanation.
- **Responsible party:** Identify who will be responsible for the task. Note that this may not be the lead agency
- **Estimated completion date:** Enter the date by which the task will be completed. If the exact date is unknown, indicate the month
- **Deliverable:** Identify the product of the activity or appropriate documentation
- **Estimated cost for deliverable: If the cost is not known at this time, enter “unknown”**

Quarterly Progress Index

Update the Quarterly Progress Index worksheet submitted with the FY 2022 application to reflect the current state of the plan as of the date of the FY 2023 application submission.

The Quarterly Progress Index must be updated and submitted quarterly with the Milestone Progress Reports for this grant. At a minimum, the “Progress Update” column must be updated. Any other changes to the goals and objectives of the plan should also be updated.

[Any documents called for elsewhere in this application should be uploaded in “Upload other attachments, as appropriate”.](#)

Attach other attachments, as appropriate.

Description

Upload

Choose File

No file chosen

Budget and Milestones Form

The budget and milestones page contains information about how the agency will spend the funds, on a per line item basis. This application requires one line only.

At the top of the page, indicate if your agency uses indirect costs.

- If “Yes” is selected, type in the approved indirect cost percentage.
- Subrecipients may elect for a 10% de minimis rate of modified total direct cost without negotiating an indirect cost rate or submitting an indirect cost rate agreement plan.

Does this budget include indirect costs? *	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
If yes, please enter the Indirect Rate	<input type="text"/> %

Line Items

Enter the information as shown below.

Column Heading	Comments
Description	Choose Short-Range Transportation Planning, ALI 44.24.00
Scope	Completed by grant program manager
Suffix #	Completed by grant program manager
TPN	Completed by grant program manager
Fuel Type	N/A
# of Units	N/A
Award Amount	\$35,000
State Match	N/A
Local Match	N/A
In-Kind Match	N/A
Total Funds	eGrants system will calculate.
TDC requested?	Yes
Match Ratio	Completed by grant program manager
TDC Amount	Calculated based on match ratio
Estimated RFP/IFB Issued	If hiring a consultant, enter date when RFP/IFB will be issued
Estimated Contract Award	Enter date when the agency and/or consultant intends to start work or when the agency intends to begin the project.
Estimated First Vehicle Delivered	N/A
Estimated Last Vehicle Delivered	N/A
Estimated Contract Complete	August 31, 2023