

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Section 5311 Guidebook
Grant Guidelines

Rural Public Transit Program
FFY 2018 Funding Cycle
Reimbursement Period Beginning October 2018



December 2017

Contents

PART I. OVERVIEW..... 4

A. INTRODUCTION4

B. PURPOSE4

C. TRIBAL TRANSIT PROGRAM.....5

D. PROGRAM UPDATES – NEW FOR 2018.....5

E. CONTACT INFORMATION.....6

State and Regional Contacts 6

PART II. APPLICATION PROCESS 7

A. APPLICATION PROCESS7

2018 Application Cycle..... 8

E-Grants User Roles:..... 8

B. APPLICANT/PROJECT ELIGIBILITY8

C. TRIBAL FTA DIRECT FUNDING10

D. SUB-RECIPIENT RESPONSIBILITIES.....10

Local Stakeholder Involvement – Transit Advisory Committee (TAC) 10

Local Financial Support..... 11

Planning 11

Coordination 11

E. PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS12

F. LOCAL FUNDING SOURCES AND MATCH RATIOS13

Match Funding Resources14

In-kind Match..... 14

PART III. PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT 15

A. ELIGIBLE PROJECT EXPENSE AND REVENUE CATEGORIES15

B. EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT18

C. PROJECT MANAGEMENT, MONITORING, AND REPORTING.....18

D. TRAINING22

Expected Training Program..... 23

Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP)..... 24

E. PROCUREMENT.....24

Standard Thresholds 25

Vehicle Procurements 25

F. VEHICLES26

G. DISPOSITION OF ASSETS.....27

H. INSURANCE AND LICENSING REQUIREMENTS28

I. ACCIDENT REPORTING29

PART IV. FEDERAL AND STATE REQUIREMENTS 30

A. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES30

B. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OBLIGATIONS TO THIRD PARTIES32

C. PRIVATE ENTERPRISE INVOLVEMENT.....32

D. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT33

Example of FTA Formula Grants for Rural Area Program (Section 5311) Public Notice 34

E. LABOR PROTECTION.....35

F. AUDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS35

G. DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES (DBE).....36

FTA Grant Section 5311 – Formula Grant for Non-Urbanized Areas

H. CIVIL RIGHTS REQUIREMENTS37
Title VI – Non-Discrimination..... 37
Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)38
Equal Employment Opportunity..... 40

I. FTA CHARTER REQUIREMENTS40

J. INTERCITY BUS.....45

K. SCHOOL BUS REQUIREMENTS.....46

L. FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY LICENSES.....46

M. DRUG & ALCOHOL REQUIREMENTS46

N. APPLICANTS’ CERTIFICATIONS AND ASSURANCES50

O. NATIONAL TRANSIT DATABASE (NTD).....50

P. SAFETY AND SECURITY50

PART I. OVERVIEW

A. INTRODUCTION

The Multimodal Planning Division (MPD) of the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) administers the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Formula Grants for Rural Areas Program commonly known as the Section 5311 Program or as the Rural Public Transit Program. This program provides funds for public transportation and intercity bus projects serving rural areas. The purpose of these funds is to address the mobility needs of Arizona's rural population. Section 5311 Program grants are intended to provide access to employment, education, health care, shopping, and recreation.

This guidebook is intended to inform the reader about the Section 5311 Program. It includes information on:

- The purpose of the program
- Who is eligible for the program and expectations of applicants
- Program administration
- Responsibilities of program participants
- How to apply for funding
- Support and resources available to program participants

B. PURPOSE

The Section 5311 Program provides funding to support the administrative, operating, intercity operating and capital, capital and planning costs of operating public transit services in rural areas. Federal funds for the Section 5311 Program are apportioned to the States on a formula basis. States have the primary responsibility for administering the program. In Arizona, ADOT MPD manages the Program. FTA defers most of the responsibility for developing grant program standards, funding criteria, and state management policies and procedures to the State in order to provide maximum flexibility to distribute funds based on the State's needs.

Funds may be used only to support public transit service in Non-Urbanized Areas, which are defined as fewer than 50,000 in population (as defined by the U.S. Census). Grants are available on a competitive basis to address the mobility needs of the general public and Section 5311 Program services are expected to coordinate with human service transportation and other providers in their service areas.

Funds may be used for public transit services operating: a) within rural communities, b) among rural communities, and c) between rural communities and Urbanized Areas. Section 5311 Program funds cannot be used for public transit services that operate exclusively within an Urbanized Area, as those services are funded through other FTA programs.

Nationally, it is recognized that many people living in rural communities do not have access to an automobile and need transportation in order to access services, employment, and medical care. ADOT is committed to assisting local communities in building effective transit services through a combination of technical support, training, and funding. As part of that commitment, the ADOT MPD strongly encourages coordination of services to facilitate the most efficient use of Federal, State and local resources. ADOT's goal is to support the development of a statewide multi-modal transportation system

FTA Grant Section 5311 – Formula Grant for Non-Urbanized Areas

that is economically efficient and environmentally sound.

C. TRIBAL TRANSIT PROGRAM

The FTA Tribal Transit funding program is a separate funding program that allows federally-recognized Tribes to receive funds directly from FTA. FTA makes the funds available directly through a separate application process with the FTA.

Recipients of Tribal Transit funds may use the funds for any purpose that is eligible under Section 5311, which includes planning, capital, and operating assistance for rural public transit services and support for rural intercity bus service.

Only Federally recognized tribes are eligible recipients for funds under the FTA Tribal Transit Program. However, tribes which are not federally recognized are eligible for Section 5311 funds through ADOT. Federally recognized tribes may elect to apply for funds from either ADOT for the Section 5311 program or from FTA for the Tribal Transit Program to provide public transit services, or both.

D. PROGRAM UPDATES – NEW FOR 2018

The FTA circular for Formula Grants for Rural Areas: Program Guidance and Application Instructions can be found online at: http://www.fta.dot.gov/legislation_law/12349_15693.html

POLICY CHANGES (Effective December 2017)

| POLICY SUBJECT | CHANGE |
|----------------------------------|--|
| E-Grants | The application has been updated on the following pages: Program Management, System Characteristics, Vehicle Page, Other Capital Requests, Budget, and the Grant Agreement. The majority of the application can be carried forward from prior year. Please review and update every page prior to submission. |
| Preventive Maintenance | Preventive Maintenance may be placed under the Other Capital Section of the application. It does not need to be included with the Operating budget for purposes of calculating the Administration/ Operating ratio. See PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE in ELIGIBLE PROJECT EXPENSE AND REVENUE CATEGORIES Section. |
| Complementary Paratransit | Complementary Paratransit may be placed under the Other Capital Section for the application. Programs operating complementary paratransit are now eligible for reimbursement at a 90/10 ratio. See COMPLEMENTARY PARATRANSIT in ELIGIBLE PROJECT EXPENSE AND REVENUE CATEGORIES Section. |
| Reimbursement Requests | The 2018 application reimbursements must be submitted monthly for the entire 2 years. |

E. CONTACT INFORMATION

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>For program and training related inquiries please contact: ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION Multimodal Planning Division 206 South 17th Avenue, Mail Drop 340-B Phoenix, Arizona 85007</p> | |
| <p>Northern/Western AZ Sarah Fitzgerald Sfitzgerald@azdot.gov 602-712- 7106</p> | <p>Southern/Eastern AZ Aubree Perry Aperry@azdot.gov 602-712- 8947</p> |

The ADOT 5311 grant program and public transit website can be accessed through the ADOT home page at www.azdot.gov/Transitprograms. The website is the primary source of information for participants in the Section 5311 Program.

This guidebook is available on the website along with information on related programs and initiatives. From this site, users can link to numerous other local and national transit web sites, including the U.S. DOT/FTA websites. Recipients should periodically check this site for Section 5311 and other ADOT Transit Program updates.

If an applicant or recipient has any questions in regards to the contract or stated requirements, please contact:

State and Regional Contacts

| |
|--|
| <p>Multimodal Planning Division Arizona Department of Transportation Attention: Sally J. Palmer, Contracts Program Manager Telephone: 602-712-6732 Email: SPalmer@azdot.gov</p> |
|--|

Prospective Rural Public Transit participants and those already participating in the Program may obtain coordination and planning assistance, demographics information, and information about other providers through the Council of government(s) or Metropolitan Planning Organization(s) in their region(s).

Civil Rights Contact Information

When an applicant accepts Section 5311 Program funds, the agency agrees to comply with all applicable Federal and State Civil Rights statutes and regulations, including but not limited to Title VI—Nondiscrimination, Environmental Justice, Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO), Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE), Limited English Proficiency (LEP) and other Civil Rights components of the grant program.

To better manage and support the Civil Rights functions, ADOT has two offices supporting these programs. The Business Engagement and Compliance Office (BECO) handles all functions related to DBE

FTA Grant Section 5311 – Formula Grant for Non-Urbanized Areas

including assisting with contract compliance and DBE reporting. The Civil Rights office assists with all other Civil Rights areas of compliance.

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION Civil Rights Office 206 S. 17th Ave - Mail Drop 155-A Phoenix, AZ 85007 Phone: (602) 712-8946 CivilRightsOffice@azdot.gov</p> <p>Contacts: Lucy Schrader or Felicia Beltran</p> | <p>ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION Business Engagement and Compliance Office Beverly Krumm Local Public Agency Sub-recipient Program Manager 1135 N 22nd Ave., MD 154A Phoenix, AZ 85009 contractorcompliance@azdot.gov Office: (602) 712-4074 http://www.azdot.gov/business/business-engagement-and-compliance/dbe-compliance/LPA-Sub-recipient-overview</p> |
|--|---|

PART II. APPLICATION PROCESS

A. APPLICATION PROCESS

E-grants is the on-line program for all Transit Applications submitted to the Arizona Department of Transportation. See <http://www.azdot.gov/egrants> or <https://egrants.azdot.gov>. All users must register and be granted access.

All users from an organization that need access to their application should register in E-grants prior to initiating an application. This ensures that they will be automatically assigned to the application. (See E-Grants User Roles below.)

The 5311 Application is a 2-year application cycle and will be open in even years. All awards will be eligible for funding for 2 years. At ADOT's discretion, ADOT may call for projects for new applicants in the off year. New Applicants must contact ADOT and have completed a planning study to be considered eligible for this off year funding cycle application.

While ADOT awards for 2 years, FTA awards annually. Grantees will be awarded an anticipated 1 year portion of funding in the first year. Grantees in good standing will have their 2nd year of the program amended to adjust for the remaining second year. ADOT will amend the awards towards the end of the 1st year to fund the remaining planned award for the 2nd year based on the applications and the budget discussion as well as where the sub-recipient is in their use of the funds. This will be done by a revision to the Exhibit A. The revised Exhibit A must be signed by the appropriate signatory authority prior to ADOT reimbursing the Year 2 awards.

A 2-year budget spreadsheet should be attached to the budget page to demonstrate the desired fund allocations in each year. In this way the applicant may show the funding needed for each year and when the capital funds would most likely be expended. The local match from the sub-recipient must be

FTA Grant Section 5311 – Formula Grant for Non-Urbanized Areas

committed for the full portion of the **awarded** Exhibit A. The initial award is meant to cover the 1st year of administrative and operating expenses as well as any capital awarded. The amended 2nd year of funding will increase the total award, but ADOT recognizes that the local match for the first year was supported and expended per the grantee's reimbursements and does not require the full two years of the local match to be available towards the program at any one time. The 2-year budget allows applicants to demonstrate preferred funding by year. (See Budget page in E-grants 5311 application)

2018 Application Cycle

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2018 5311 Guidebook posted | December 2017 |
| 5311 Application Opens in E-grants | January 8, 2018 |
| Application Deadline | February 21, 2018 |
| Federal Fiscal Year 2018 Begins | October 1, 2018 |

**Dates anticipated, but subject to change. Awards are dependent on FTA approval of ADOT grant application.*

E-Grants User Roles:

1. *Organization Administrator* – The Organization Administrator is the person responsible for ensuring that their organization information and the users access stays current. If an employee leaves, the Organization Administrator can remove their access. This role can perform all other functions allowable in the system including starting, writing, and submitting grants, reports, and reimbursement requests.
2. *Authorized Official* – This role can perform all functions allowable in the system including starting, writing, and submitting grants, reports, and reimbursement requests. This role cannot modify or eliminate access for the organization in the system, but can do all other functions.
3. *Financial Officer* – This role can start, and write grants and reimbursement requests. (Financial Officers cannot submit grants, but can submit reimbursement requests.)
4. *Grant Writer* – This role can start, and write grants. Grant Writers are limited to the application function.
5. *View Access* – This role can see applications, but cannot actively save or edit the system.
6. *Attorney* – This role was designed to allow an attorney access to the contracts for signature purposes. Attorneys can save and view the contracts. They also receive notices pertaining to the contracts, such as a completed contract when it is executed. Attorneys can see all of the application, and may be actively participating, but they cannot submit the contract or work on reimbursement requests.

B. APPLICANT/PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The following eligibility criteria should be considered before applying for Section 5311 Rural Transit Program funding.

FTA Grant Section 5311 – Formula Grant for Non-Urbanized Areas

Public Bodies - Eligible applicants for Rural Public Transit funds include local public bodies (e.g., counties and municipalities), State agencies, Tribal governments and related Tribal communities and private non-profit agencies.

General Public Service – The transportation services funded under Section 5311 must be open to the general public and marketed to the general public. Projects or portions of projects which exclude certain groups of the general public, or are intended to benefit a specific group to the exclusion of others, are **not** eligible for funding. Providers of special needs transportation (e.g., elderly or disabled clients) are eligible to apply if they are a government entity (e.g. City, County, Tribe) and open their transit services to the general public (e.g., a city or county operated senior center or similar organization). Job Access/Reverse Commute are also eligible activities that should be provided by, coordinated or contracted through an eligible 5311 provider.

Rural Service Area – Section 5311-funded rural public transit operations must serve areas outside of “Urbanized Areas.” The U.S. Census Bureau defines an “Urbanized Area” as an area with a central city of at least 50,000 in population, and includes the surrounded closely settled area. Transit services which operate exclusively within Urbanized Areas are not eligible for Section 5311 funding.

Planning – Historically, successful applicants for Section 5311 funds have been involved in multi-modal transportation planning processes. Applicants serving Non-Urbanized portions of metropolitan areas should contact their Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for assistance. If you are unsure as to your status in terms of meeting planning requirements, please contact the ADOT Section 5311 Program Manager. In addition, new programs should have completed a feasibility study and have an operations plan. Section 5311 and 5304 funds can be used to support planning efforts.

Coordination - Section 5311 funds may be used in conjunction with, or to support, services provided under a variety of human service initiatives. Services funded under these initiatives potentially include a large group of economically disadvantaged clientele. Section 5311 Program applicants should work with local Department of Economic Security (DES) representatives to identify unmet transportation needs, investigate opportunities to coordinate service, and leverage funding opportunities available through these programs. Section 5311 Program participants are required to coordinate their services with other transportation providers in their areas, including potential purchase-of-service arrangements.

SPECIAL PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

In addition to the typical Section 5311 eligibility criteria described above, there are two other options for potential grantees to consider prior to applying for funds; intercity bus projects and pilot projects.

Intercity Bus Services

A subsection of the overall 5311 program, Section 5311(f), requires states to spend 15% of their annual Section 5311 apportionment to address unmet intercity bus service needs. FTA defines intercity bus service as regularly scheduled bus service for the general public that operates with limited stops over fixed routes connecting two or more urban areas not in close proximity, that has the capacity for transporting baggage carried by passengers, and that makes meaningful connections with scheduled intercity bus service to more distant points, if such service is available. Private for-profit operators are eligible to apply for intercity funds.

Pilot Projects

To meet critical gaps in transit service, for communities and between these locales and their proximate

FTA Grant Section 5311 – Formula Grant for Non-Urbanized Areas

urban centers, including critical-purpose trips such as medical, employment and nutrition needs ADOT will consider pilot projects that demonstrate the viability of transit services that address these needs. In order to increase the opportunity for early-phase success for a particular project, ADOT may elect to modify or waive certain performance and evaluation criteria for pilot projects.

Pilot project applications will be evaluated by the standard Section 5311 criteria and by how the following concerns are addressed in the planning process:

- Area wide scope of plans, documenting demand by user group and/or trip origins and destinations.
- Coordination of planning and articulation of demand among employers, businesses, social service agencies and user groups.
- Consolidation opportunities with social service transportation providers

To request pilot projects status, local governmental agencies need to contact the ADOT Program Manager. ADOT will then schedule a meeting to review the proposal. Based on unmet transit needs and budget availability, ADOT may be able to assist applicants in developing necessary plans to support the funding request. Pilot projects must meet all requirements in the Section 5311 program for initial funding. Once beyond pilot status, the transit service must continue to be managed by a local governmental agency if funded by ADOT through the 5311 Program.

C. TRIBAL FTA DIRECT FUNDING

Tribes that receive notice of award from ADOT may elect to receive their allocation from FTA directly rather than as a sub-recipient of the State's 5311 program. Tribes that choose this option should notify ADOT of their selection preferably at the time of application, but must submit to ADOT a transfer request upon notice of award.

D. SUB-RECIPIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Successful applicants for Rural Public Transit funding must meet Federal, State and local requirements. Key program elements are presented below.

Local Stakeholder Involvement – Transit Advisory Committee (TAC)

Obtaining and sustaining community support is an important part of developing and growing an effective rural public transit system. Section 5311 program applicants are responsible for garnering support from a broad number of stakeholders – local governments, local businesses, the medical community, agencies serving seniors and people with disabilities, as well as others. The TAC's role is to advise the grantee agency on the operation of the system. This includes ensuring that the service responds to changing local needs, commenting on service quality and effectiveness, soliciting community participation, helping the system achieve financial sustainability, and related issues. TAC members should be ambassadors for the transit program and serve as the Transit Manager's eyes and ears in the community.

In addition to the Transit Manager, the committee membership should include representation from the elderly, persons with disabilities community, local business, and other key stakeholders. Transit Managers are required to conduct meetings at least on a quarterly basis and submit the agenda or minutes of the meetings to ADOT. Meeting topics should include, but not be limited to: fare structures,

FTA Grant Section 5311 – Formula Grant for Non-Urbanized Areas

monthly passenger statistics, training requirements, procurement, staffing issues, route structure, and any other transit concerns. If a Transit Advisory Committee is not the best approach for your community, please coordinate with your ADOT program manager on your alternative approach for including stakeholder involvement.

Local Financial Support

Sustained local financial support is needed for effective transit systems. The Section 5311 Program reimburses sub-recipients at the following ratios:

| Eligible Expense | Federal Reimbursement | Local Match |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Operations of transit services | 58% | 42% |
| Administration of transit services | 80% | 20% |
| Planning | 80% | 20% |
| Preventive Maintenance | 80% | 20% |
| Capital Items | 80-90% | 20-10% |
| Complementary Paratransit | 90% | 10% |

Planning

All projects require early, coordinated and comprehensive planning and they should involve participation by a variety of stakeholders. This comprehensive approach is strongly encouraged at the federal and state levels so that transportation investments are maximized to provide the most effective and efficient use of resources. ADOT's Statewide and Rural Transit Planning program provides assistance to local entities for initial transit planning activities or plans for growing and changing transit systems. Agencies should have short and long range planning in place for capital, service, coordination, revenue and marketing initiatives.

Coordination

Coordination is key to providing strong and effective transportation networks in communities. A comprehensive approach to planning and managing transit services will enable communities to identify how coordination would assist them in making the best use of their resources and strengthen their programs. The MPD is continually strengthening its emphasis on coordination to reflect federal goals. Participants in the Section 5311 Program are expected to actively work to coordinate services with other local providers.

ADOT encourages active transit systems to work with their local Department of Labor Jobs Programs, Department of Health and Human Services, Arizona Department of Economic Security Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), and local Area Agencies on Aging to coordinate local and regional transportation activities.

Regional Transportation Coordination Plans Per federal regulations; *Regional Transportation Coordination Plans* have been developed in each region of Arizona. Inclusion in a *Coordination Plan* is required for the FTA 5310 program and strongly encouraged for 5311 program participants. The rural COGs and the MPOs in Urbanized Areas are responsible for maintaining and updating *Transportation Coordination Plans* in each region.

Section 5311 funded programs are responsible for evaluating how well their current transit services meet the needs of transit-dependent individuals, including clients of the various human services

FTA Grant Section 5311 – Formula Grant for Non-Urbanized Areas

programs.

Public and Private Sector Involvement

Section 5311 grantees must provide ways for active public involvement in the transit decision-making process. This is accomplished through the TAC (see page 10), through public hearings, and other local government's citizen participation processes. *Public Involvement is required as part of the Section 5311 grant process.* See more information about the Public Involvement Requirements on Page 31.

As part of this process, *private sector transportation providers must be notified of the agency's intent to apply for Federal transit funding* and be given an opportunity to comment. The transportation network in rural Arizona includes both publicly funded and private for profit services. Most often, private carriers in Arizona serve intercity needs, provide tour services or operate local taxi services. Both public and private sector services are valuable components of a comprehensive passenger transportation network and private operators must be given an opportunity to participate in the development of public transportation services, to the extent feasible.

Safety

A commitment to operating safe services is a fundamental component of rural transit. Section 5311 Program sub-recipients must have a driver training program. See page 22 for more details regarding training requirements.

Record Retention

Financial Records, Supporting Documentation and all other records pertinent to a grant must be retained and made available upon request for a period of 7 years. All documentation for capital must be kept for at least 7 years or the duration of the useful life of the equipment + 3 years, whichever is longer. If any litigation, claims, or audit is started prior to the disposal date of the records, the records must be retained until all litigation, claims, or audit findings have been resolved.

E. PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS

This section describes the project selection process for Section 5311 grants, including the evaluation criteria, the review process and the appeals process.

Project Evaluation Criteria

ADOT's Multimodal Planning Division uses the same evaluation criteria for all projects. However, it is recognized that new systems may not be able to achieve the same service levels as systems that have been in place for several years. The ADOT MPD expects new systems to begin with a firm foundation and to steadily improve over the first few years of operations.

The evaluation criteria address six specific areas: Appropriateness and Effectiveness of Service, Benefit to Rural Community, Financial and Managerial Capability, Local Commitment to Transit and Accessibility, Safety and Training, and Coordination. Applicants from existing 5311 programs are evaluated based on current system performance, financial management, and contract deliverables. New applicants are evaluated on estimated performance and demonstrated financial management capability. See pages 19-21 for detailed descriptions of these categories.

FTA Grant Section 5311 – Formula Grant for Non-Urbanized Areas

Application Review Process

A Review Panel ranks applicants according to the evaluation criteria listed and submits its recommendations to ADOT staff, who then contacts applicants to discuss any issues that have been identified.

Based upon this application review process, ADOT determines a fair and equitable distribution of available FTA funding using the following priorities:

| Program Maintenance | Program Growth | Capital Investment |
|---|---|--|
| Maintain investment in administration and operations at least at the previous year's level recognizing economic factors such as decreased state and local revenues, inflation and conservation. | Capacity for individual program growth to meet local community needs as well as state program growth to ensure new program entry based upon the application review process. | Provide long term program capacity to meet annual variations in capital purchases without impacting administration and operations budgets. |

ADOT conducts a Title VI evaluation to ensure fair distribution of funds. The Section 5311 Program Managers approve the final funding amounts for each project. ADOT then notifies each agency of anticipated funding. Actual grant awards, however, cannot be made until the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) approves the State's overall 5311 grant application.

Appeal Process

All applicants are notified of preliminary funding decisions made by ADOT. Applicants are given the opportunity to appeal award decisions. If filing an appeal, applicants must use the following process in order for the appeal to be considered valid.

Letters of appeal must clearly identify the applicant, contact person, address, phone number, project description and grounds for appeal.

Letters of appeal must be submitted within ten business days of notification of award. Submit the appeal via email to your assigned program manager.

ADOT reviews all appeals and notifies applicants of the decision within ten business days. If the applicant is not satisfied with the 5311 Program Manager's response, a further appeal may be made to the Transit Program Director. **This appeal must be submitted within ten business days of the notice of the 5311 Program Manager's decision.** A copy of the additional appeal must be sent to the 5311 Program Manager. The Transit Program Director will then provide a written response to the applicant within 30 days of receipt of the appeal to the Transit Program Director's Office.

F. LOCAL FUNDING SOURCES AND MATCH RATIOS

Local government financial support is a key element in developing and sustaining an effective transit program. Applications lacking significant local public financial support generally do not rank as high as those with a solid base of local funding.

Match Funding Resources

Federal funds typically **cannot** be used as local match including other DOT program funds, i.e. Section 5310. Typically, local match funding comes from the local sponsoring agency, usually a local government agency, but other sources may support the transit program.

Federal funds that may be used include:

- Older Americans Act Title III
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
- Indian Reservations Roads Program
- STP Flexible Funds
- Community Services Block Grant Funds
- Medicaid Transportation Funds

Non-Federal local match can be in the form of contract revenue, derived as part of purchase-of-service agreements with human service agencies, **only if the funding source is local or state**. If the source is federal, the revenue will only be considered as local match **if allowed by the federal funding source**. It should be noted though, that funds derived from purchase-of-service agreements pursuant to service agreements with a state, local social service agency, or a private social service organization may be treated as **local** rather than Federal funds, **even though the original source of such funds may have been another Federal program**.

Other examples of non-Federal local match sources include:

- State or Local Appropriations;
- Dedicated Tax Revenues;
- Private and Non-Profit Donations
- Net Income Generated From Advertising and Concessions.
- University/School Contributions

In-kind Match

In-kind match must be documented in the application and approved by ADOT. In-kind contributions may be used toward the local match only if the recipient formally documents the value of each non-cash share, and if this value represents a cost that would otherwise be eligible under the project. The net project cost must include the value of any in-kind contributions included in net project cost to the extent it is used as local match. In-kind match for Intercity funding must provide documentation of the in-kind miles being used as part of the application. ADOT must provide the Intercity in-kind match documentation to FTA as part of the federal grant application. **Use of non-cash match sources and documentation must be approved by ADOT.**

Advertising revenues and income generated from concessions may be included as local match or applied to the gross operations with farebox. Farebox revenues from service **cannot** be used as local match. Farebox revenue is only to be used to reduce the net operating expense of the program.

LOCAL MATCH RATIOS

The following table summarizes matching requirements for the different program elements.

FTA Grant Section 5311 – Formula Grant for Non-Urbanized Areas

| Local Match Ratios | Maximum Federal Share | Minimum Local Share |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Project Administration | 80% | 20% |
| Project Operating* | 50% - 58% | 50% - 42% |
| Capital (Sliding Scale / STP Flex)* | 80% - 90% | 20% - 10% |
| Preventive Maintenance | 80% | 20% |
| Complementary Paratransit | 90% | 10% |
| Planning | 80% | 20% |
| Training (RTAP Pre-Approved) | 100% | 0% |

**Sliding Scale may be applied. ADOT will determine ratio during budget award review*

Administration Expense Match Ratio - 80/20

The federal share of Section 5311 administrative costs may not exceed 80%.

Operating Expense Match Ratio - 58/42

The federal share of Section 5311 net operating expenses may not exceed 58%. The Local Match may come from unrestricted funds from service agreements or other Federal funding programs, as described in the definitions section.

Certain forms of [in-kind match](#) (e.g., a volunteer driver) might be acceptable in lieu of cash. However, all in-kind matches must be approved by ADOT, included in the contract, and thoroughly documented in the sub-recipient's accounting system.

Capital Expense Match Ratio – 90/10 or 80/20

The entire local match for most capital projects must be in cash. In-kind can be used towards the match for construction when approved in advance by ADOT. The Federal match share shall not exceed 80% of the net cost, unless the sliding scale match ratio is used. The Federal share may be 90% for vehicle-related equipment required to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), as amended or the Clean Air Act as amended. If STP Flex funds are awarded for capital projects, the federal match ratio may be increased based on a sliding scale. ADOT will determine the final match ratio for all capital projects, depending on the types of funds awarded, the number of applications, and the amount of funding requested.

PART III. PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT

A. ELIGIBLE PROJECT EXPENSE AND REVENUE CATEGORIES

Administration Expenses - Eligible project administrative costs may include, but are not limited to general administrative expenses such as salaries and fringe benefits for the project director, transit manager and secretary; marketing expenses, insurance premiums or payments to a self-insurance

FTA Grant Section 5311 – Formula Grant for Non-Urbanized Areas

reserve, office supplies, facilities and equipment rental and administering drug and alcohol testing.

Administrative costs may not exceed 30% of the total (sum of) federal administrative and operating / intercity operating and capitalized preventive maintenance budgets.

Capital Expenses - Capital expenses include the acquisition and improvement of public transit equipment and facilities needed for an efficient public transit system. By FTA definition, all capital expenses include facilities or equipment with a useful life of at least one year. Capital Expenses generally exceed \$5,000 purchase cost. Capital expenses include buses, vans, radios and communication equipment, vehicle rehabilitation, wheelchair lifts and restraints, passenger shelters, engine overhauls and special maintenance tools, operational support such as computer hardware/software and minor construction or rehabilitation of transit facilities. “Intelligent transportation system” (ITS) equipment includes vehicle locator systems, scheduling software, information kiosks, etc.

Complementary ADA Paratransit – Complementary ADA Paratransit is eligible for reimbursement at a 90/10 ratio depending on funds available. Applicants must have a current Complementary Paratransit plan and must be able to demonstrate how the costs of delivering Complementary Paratransit are kept separate from other operational expenses. Complementary Paratransit should be applied for under the Other Capital Page in E-grants. These funds are limited as a maximum of 10% of the ADOT formula apportionment annually can be spent towards these funds. Applicants who do not have a Complementary Paratransit plan may apply for planning funds to complete a plan and would then be eligible to apply for Complementary Paratransit operational funds in Year 2.

When evaluating paratransit service, the following considerations should be observed:

- The service must be provided within three quarters of a mile (0.75) of the fixed-route corridor
- Fare for the service must not be more than twice the fare of the fixed route
- Organizations should have an established eligibility criteria and procedure for determining eligibility
- Organizations should have a system to monitor and track service denials
- Requests for reservations must be accepted during normal business hours on a next day basis
- Days and hours of service must be the same as for fixed route, except for routes designated as commuter/express service or university service, for which no complementary service is required

Local Matching Funds - Local matching funds are primarily cash contributions from local or state sources. The local share may include: state or local appropriations, dedicated tax revenues, private donations, or net income generated from advertising and concessions. [In-kind match](#) may be included; however it must be approved by the ADOT Program Manager, included in the contract, and thoroughly documented in the recipient’s accounting system.

Fares - Grantees are not required to charge a fare. Grantees may establish a fare based upon its local needs. The Farebox and other operating revenue reduce the overall project operating costs eligible for Federal funding.

Indirect Costs — Indirect costs may only be reimbursed based on a current, approved Indirect Cost Plan submitted with the application. Cost Allocation Plans (CAPs) and/or Indirect Cost Rate Proposals must be approved by FTA or another Cognizant Federal agency.

FTA Grant Section 5311 – Formula Grant for Non-Urbanized Areas

Intercity and Intercity Feeder Service — Both the Intercity and Intercity Feeder Routes are awarded as Intercity by ADOT. Intercity Routes are between two urbanized areas not close together. Intercity feeder routes are from a rural to an urban or connect from a rural to an Intercity Route. These routes must connect to a larger intercity network. If the route does not connect, it will not be considered for Intercity funding. The marketing materials and websites must indicate that this is an intercity or intercity feeder route. These routes have limited stops in the communities they serve and must allow passengers to carry baggage. ADOT awards 15% of its formula funds to Intercity per FTA requirements. ADOT will not fund intercity routes that do not demonstrate a significant benefit to rural communities. As with all programs, ADOT funds the deficit of the operating expenses after the fare has been deducted. See Operating for eligible expenses.

Net Operating Expense — Net operating expense is the expense balance that remains after operating revenues including farebox are subtracted from eligible operating expenses.

Operating Expenses — Operating expenses are costs directly related to system operations. At a minimum, the following items are considered to be operating expenses: fuel; oil; licenses; salaries and fringe benefits for drivers, dispatchers and transit supervisor/operations manager. Maintenance costs may be included in the operations or may be capitalized (see Applying for Preventive Maintenance below). Operating expenses can be used for the following types of routes (further explanations of routes can be found in the E-grants Applications under “System Characteristics”):

- **Deviated/Flex or Fixed Route with Deviations:** A type of transit service that operates as conventional fixed route bus service along a fixed alignment or path with scheduled time points at each terminal point and key intermediate locations. Route deviation service is different than conventional fixed route bus service in that the bus may deviate from the route alignment to service destinations within locally defined distance (e.g., 3/4 mile) off the route. Following an off route deviation, the bus must return to the point on the route it left.
- **Demand Response:** Demand Response (also called Paratransit or Dial-a-Ride) operates in response to calls from passengers or their agents to the transit operator, who then dispatches a vehicle to pick up the passengers and transport them to their destinations. Pick-ups must be generated no later than close of business the day prior to the ride.
- **Commuter Route:** Characterized by service predominantly in one direction during peak periods, limited stops, use of multiple ride tickets and routes of extended length (must have at least 5 miles of closed door service). Often commuter routes are labeled as Express routes. Commuter routes do not require Complementary ADA Paratransit.
- **Fixed Routes:** A fixed route is public transportation in which a vehicle is operated along a prescribed route according to a fixed schedule and does not deviate. If you provide fixed route service then you must also provide Complementary ADA Paratransit (as described above).

Operating Revenues — Operating revenues are monies derived from the project which are returned to the operation of the project to offset operating costs. All fare box revenues paid by the riders (cash fares, fares from tickets, passes, etc.) are considered to be operating revenue and therefore cannot be used as local match.

Planning Expenses — Planning funds are available at an 80/20 match ratio. Eligible planning activities include: feasibility, implementation, operation, routes, facility, marketing, short range, regional mobility and coordination, ridership surveys, origin & destinations studies and plans. Planning activities may be funded by other planning funds at the discretion of ADOT.

FTA Grant Section 5311 – Formula Grant for Non-Urbanized Areas

Preventive Maintenance — All activities, supplies, materials, labor, services, and associated costs required to preserve or extend the functionality and serviceability of the asset in a cost effective manner, up to and including the current state of the art for maintaining such asset. Preventive Maintenance is eligible for vehicles, and building components and systems.

Applying for Preventive Maintenance—Preventive Maintenance may be capitalized if sufficient grant funds are available. Preventive Maintenance is otherwise considered part of the operating budget. The match ratio for capitalized Preventive Maintenance is 80/20. Preventive Maintenance should be applied for under the Other Capital Page in E-grants. Capitalized Preventive Maintenance funds should be included in operations costs when determining the 30% admin/operating ratio.

B. EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

Cost Reimbursement Basis

All payments made under the Rural Public Transit Program are on a cost reimbursement basis, up to the authorized amounts described in Exhibit A of the grantee contracts. All expenses incurred during the contract period must be paid in full by the contractor to be eligible for reimbursement by ADOT. Non-compliance with billing schedules may result in delay or denial of reimbursement.

ADOT will not consider requests for prepayment, no exceptions.

Billing Schedule and Payments

Reimbursement requests must be submitted to E-Grants. ADOT maintains an email address as a back-up option for submission to MPDInvoice@azdot.gov. Reimbursement requests must include the back-up documentation, performance information and documentation of local match. Should the reimbursement requests be submitted via email, the request must include the invoice, budget spreadsheet and system generated documentation identifying invoiced request amount.

Receipts must be kept on file. Reimbursement Requests may be submitted immediately following the end of the month. After 45 days, the reimbursement request can no longer be accessed. Agencies may request an extension by contacting their Program Manager. Final invoices for the Federal fiscal year must be submitted no more than 45 calendar days after the end of the final billing period.

C. PROJECT MANAGEMENT, MONITORING, AND REPORTING

Roles and Responsibilities: Grantee

Grantees (ADOT grant sub-recipients) have the primary responsibility for managing their Section 5311 projects. This includes ensuring the transit service meets local needs, is safe, is operated effectively and efficiently, meets performance standards, is coordinated with other agencies, and is marketed to the public and to human service agencies. In addition, the service must be operated in compliance with Federal and State regulations. The grantee is also responsible for identifying areas where technical assistance may be needed in order to fulfill these requirements.

Grantee Sub-Recipients to provide ADOT with the following:

MONTHLY

- Reimbursement Requests
 - Performance Data (passenger trips, vehicle miles, etc.)
 - DBE Contracting Activities (required monthly at <https://adot.dbesystem.com/>)
 - Capital Milestones
- E-grants monthly reimbursement requests are open for 45 days after the month ends*

QUARTERLY Transit Advisory Committee (TAC) Minutes and/or Agendas

ANNUALLY

- Complementary Paratransit Plan Updates (Certifications)
- Single Audit Report (required at \$750,000 in federal grants) Email Audit Report to singleaudit@azdot.gov
- National Transit Database (NTD) Report
- Insurance Certificates
- Federal Certs and Assurances
- Title VI plan

OTHER

- Proposed scheduling or fare changes must be reported to Program Manager and [Public](#) prior to implementation
- [Accident reporting](#) to Program Manager within 24 hrs.
- Asset management / Vehicle records must be maintained and updates shared with Program manager.

Grantees are expected to maintain records of ridership, service characteristics, maintenance activities, expenses, and revenues on a daily basis. The information grantees collect, monitor, and report is needed to assess the performance of their transit services. This information is then tabulated for monthly and annual reports. Grantees submit these statistics monthly in reports accompanying their monthly invoice.

In addition, transit managers have the primary responsibility for monitoring and reporting system performance on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis. **The ADOT Program Manager must be notified as soon as possible of any significant variances in system performance and/or approved budget.**

Transit managers need to ensure the following:

- Drivers are well trained and this training is reflected in how they carry out their jobs on both a daily basis and in emergency situations;
- Vehicles are safe, well maintained, and costs for maintenance are appropriate. Grantees must document routine maintenance: i.e., oil change, fluids, and tire condition. The vehicle must be maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's recommended maintenance standards;

FTA Grant Section 5311 – Formula Grant for Non-Urbanized Areas

- Transit service is provided at appropriate levels, meets the needs of the community, and is accessible; and
- Costs of operating services are reasonable and both revenues and expenses are in line with budget projections.

Effective administration and management of transit systems include the following:

I. Financial and Management Capability

Demonstrate effective management and administration skills. This includes all aspects of transit service operation, financial management, and compliance with Federal regulations.

- Qualifications and experience in fixed route transit or paratransit programs, as well as qualification and experience in grant administration, public service or governmental programs.
- Adequacy of management oversight and public involvement. What is the role and membership of the TAC? Do goals and objectives address current issues? Are objectives measurable and achievable?
- Adequacy of marketing plans and strategy. Do materials communicate effectively with all key market segments, including those who are elderly, have low incomes, or have disabilities?
- Adequacy of maintenance program and performance. Is routine preventive maintenance provided and documented? Are problems with vehicles, including accessibility equipment, addressed in a timely fashion?
- Past performance of ADOT contract activities. Are invoices submitted on a timely basis? Are all requirements met?
- Demonstrate compliance with applicable State and Federal requirements, including non-discrimination laws, statutes, and regulations.
- Assurance that persons employed and served by the agency are not discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, or disability.
- Compliance with hiring, terminating, and promoting in accordance with Equal Employment Opportunity and the applicable Titles of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
- Past Civil Rights, including Title VI and ADA, or Equal Employment Opportunity complaints and the outcome of such complaints.

II. Appropriateness and Effectiveness of Coordination of Service

Maximize the use of available resources through coordination and joint planning with all service area transportation providers and human service organizations.

- Level of coordination with city and county governments, regional councils of governments, transportation planning agencies and others. A coordination agreement is one way of illustrating the level of coordination.
- Demonstration of actual or anticipated operating efficiencies, elimination of duplicative services and service extensions as the result of coordination.
- Demonstration of operating efficiencies produced should illustrate lower costs per unit of service.
- Demonstration of the level of involvement in coordinating public transit services, human service transportation, and employment transportation services.

III. Service

Provide otherwise unavailable transit services that are appropriate to community needs and provided in an efficient manner.

- Type of service is suited to community characteristics and ridership levels
- Benefit to rural communities
- Service indicators
- Vehicle service miles and hours
- Ridership levels
- Passengers per mile and hour
- Service miles per vehicle
- Cost indicators (estimates for new applicants)
- Cost per mile and service hour
- Cost per passenger trip
- Monthly fare revenues
- Trip purpose and passengers served
- Appropriateness of the routes and schedules for targeted ridership
- Service to populations that are disadvantaged, such as those with low levels of auto ownership or those with high levels of people who are elderly or have disabilities.
- Number and types of local activity and employment centers served, including new developments.

IV. Local Commitment to Transit

Receive financial assistance for local transit operations and seek involvement in planning and policy decisions by local governments and community groups.

- Financial support from local government, and local match available to meet or exceed requirements. Are adequate local matching funds available to replace vehicles in a timely manner? Local financial support includes LTAF II funding and/or other local funds.
- Resolution of support from governing body of applicant agency and (ideally) others.
- Participation in local transportation planning and policy decisions.
- Breadth of local financial base and success in working with local governments, other providers, and other sectors of the community (human service organizations, education, employment and training, private sector providers, the business community, etc.)

V. Accessibility, Safety & Training

Provide service that is safe and recognizes the needs of persons with disabilities.

Demonstrated competence in driver training and driver ability is required.

- Awareness of the trip needs of people with disabilities in the planning and marketing of the service.
- Accessibility of project vehicles and service. Are accessible features kept in good repair? Is there a back-up vehicle available when accessible vehicles need repair? Does the system comply with training and service provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act?
- Provisions for efforts that assure a drug and alcohol free workplace.
- Compliance with State and Federal Substance Abuse Requirements.
- Provision of training for safety-sensitive and supervisory personnel.
- Relationship between your agency's risk management program and transit operations.
- Attendance at ADOT sponsored training sessions and conferences.

In Good Standing

It is the policy of MPD to administer state and federal grants in compliance with all appropriate Federal and State regulations and use best practices in the management of public funds and public accounting. Section 5311 grantees are expected to maintain a "good standing" status to continue to receive grant funds.

The following is required to remain in good standing

- Comply with all grant agreement requirements;
- Responsiveness to communications and request for information from ADOT;
- Maintenance of adequate financial records that document and support all grant expenditures;
- Submission of invoices that are accurate and timely;
- Full participation in site visits with timely responses to any deficiencies.
- Submission of reports to ADOT including audit documents, vehicle insurance certificate, quarterly TAC minutes, etc.;
- Satisfactory progress of the grant funded project; and
- Timely reporting of accidents as required.

D. TRAINING

Training is an important part of a transit program. Participation in ADOT-sponsored training workshops is required.

An effective training program includes driver training to ensure passenger safety, staff training to ensure that clients are handled in an efficient, firm, yet sensitive manner, and client training in terms of how to use the system.

FTA Grant Section 5311 – Formula Grant for Non-Urbanized Areas

Driver training is the single most important tool that transit management has available to improve a system's operational efficiency, image, and risk management. Vehicle operators are the first and often the only personal contact that passengers have with the transit system. Drivers should be familiar with the vehicles they operate, knowledgeable of the system fare structure, transfer procedures, fare collection, how to complete required forms, safety and security, emergency and accident handling procedures, how to interact with the elderly and persons with disabilities, CPR, first aid, and Passenger Assistance Service and Safety training (PASS).

Expected Training Program

The following are components of a required Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) training program:

- Operate vehicles and equipment safely
- Appropriate attention to the differences among persons with disabilities
- Treat persons with disabilities in a respectful and courteous way
- Assist passengers properly

In addition to ADA requirements, Standard Training Programs include:

- Defensive Driving training *
- PASS (Passenger Service and Safety - CTAA) or START (Safety Training and Rural Transit – National RTAP)*
- Customer Service
- Emergency Preparedness and Evacuation (covered by PASS)
- Biohazard Training*
- First Aid
- CPR
- Safety & Security
- Reasonable Suspicion (Drug & Alcohol Training for Supervisors)*
- Dispatcher Training*
- 24 hour behind the wheel training for drivers with experienced driver*
- Vehicle Pre/Post Trip Inspection Training*
- Transit Operations Policies & Procedures*
- All employees must receive at least one hour of training on the effects and consequences of prohibited drug use; pre-employment and drug/alcohol testing requirements.*

**Required by FTA regulations and ADOT*

All Transit Managers and Supervisors must take the Reasonable Suspicion Training and should renew the training at least every 5 years. All shifts must have at least one person who has taken the reasonable Suspicion Training during operational hours. FTA offers this training on-line. The agency must record the start and finish time of the Reasonable Suspicion Training. FTA requires one hour of drug and one hour of alcohol training for a total minimum of two hours of training.

Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP)

RTAP is a nationwide technical assistance program designed for 5311 and 5310 transit providers. The RTAP program includes a reimbursement program for training materials and scholarships.

Current RTAP services include a resource library, a training scholarship program, networking meetings, conference attendance, and on-site technical assistance. ADOT provides a training budget for all approved Section 5311 projects funded at 100%. **Requests for training must be approved by the RTAP Coordinator at least 30 days prior to attendance and reimbursement for training expenses must be submitted within 10 days of training.**

All training requests will follow the procedure outlined in the RTAP Policy and Procedures Handbook dated 2014. The handbook is posted on the RTAP web page, www.azdot.gov/transit. For additional information on program training requirements or to request training, contact the RTAP Training Coordinator at RTAP@azdot.gov.

E. PROCUREMENT

Grantees procure a variety of operating and capital items. In doing so, purchasing policies must comply with Federal, State and local procurement requirements. Grantees should coordinate with their Program Manager regarding large purchases.

Grantees procedures for managing equipment, whether acquired in whole or in part with grant funds, until disposition takes place, will at a minimum, meet the following requirements:

1. Property records must be maintained that include a description of the property, a serial number or other identification number, the source of property, who holds title, the acquisition date, and cost of the property, percentage of Federal participation in the cost of the property, the location, use and condition of the property, and any ultimate disposition data including the date of disposal and sale price of the property
2. A physical inventory of the property must be taken and the results reconciled with the property records at least once every two years.
3. A control system must be developed to ensure adequate safeguards to prevent loss, damage, or theft of the property. Any loss, damage, or theft shall be investigated.
4. Adequate maintenance procedures must be developed to keep the property in good condition.
5. If the grantee or sub grantee is authorized or required, by ADOT, to sell the property, proper sales procedures must be established to ensure the highest possible return.

Grantees are to follow FTA Third-Party Contracting Guidelines per FTA Order 4220.1F.

The basic general procurement standards are:

- Procurements must conform with Federal, State and Local Law, whichever of the laws are more stringent;
- Grantees must have in place a contract administration system;
- Grantees must have written standards of conduct;

FTA Grant Section 5311 – Formula Grant for Non-Urbanized Areas

- Competition of projects must be full and open; and
- Grantees must have written protest procedures to handle and resolve disputes relating to procurements. In all instances, the grantee will disclose information regarding Section 5311 related protests to ADOT

Standard Thresholds

| Micro-purchases | Small Purchases | Above \$100,000 |
|--|---|---|
| By federal regulation, purchases under \$3,000 must document the decision process. ADOT always recommends getting multiple quotes, for \$3,000. Over \$2,000, construction projects must include the federal language and follow Davis Bacon requirements. | Between \$3,000-\$100,000, a minimum of 3 quotes are required; federal language must be attached to all purchase documents. | A formal bid process must be followed with all federal clauses included and followed. |

Procurement Pro is a valuable tool that can assist localities in preparing the federal terms and conditions. The required clauses are also outlined in the ADOT contract.

Procurement Pro link: <http://www.nationalrtap.org/>

All procurements must include DBE language and be reported in the LPA system <https://arizonalpa.dbesystem.com>. Vehicle procurements from vehicle manufacturers on the TVM list <http://www.fta.dot.gov/civilrights/12891.html> are exempt from ADOT DBE requirements, but the inclusion on the TVM list must be documented.

Most standard state and federal procurement regulations are incorporated in local government purchasing policies and procurement procedures. These policies and procedures, under the direction of local finance departments and/or legal counsels, should be coordinated with the information in the Capital Procurement Handbook. Non-profits and Tribal agencies should follow federal procurement code 42.20. The local governments must follow the state and federal procurement codes.

Regarding methods of solicitation: i.e., Invitation for Bid (IFB) or Request for Proposal (RFP), ADOT allows grantees to use either the prescribed method identified by ADOT or a method established by your City, County, or Tribal government processes.

Vehicle Procurements

ADOT offers a vehicle contract that agencies may use to purchase vehicles. Contact ADOT if your agency would like to procure a vehicle this way. Local match must be provided prior to vehicle order and must be received within 45 days of receipt of invoice for vehicle purchases. In addition, sub-recipients may purchase from the State Procurement Office if they can document that federal transit required language was included with the contract. Otherwise, sub-recipients are encouraged to utilize a joint procurement process. This process allows grantees to purchase by joining together with another agency or through an existing open contract established by another agency to procure vehicles, goods, and services. Through this process grantees can benefit from volume purchases and the reduction in administrative workload and expenses. Guidelines and requirements for joint procurements are included in Procurement Pro.

If a recipient of FTA funds has unintentionally acquired more goods or options than it needs to support its transit system, the assignment of options to another recipient or sub-recipient (i.e. “piggybacking”)

FTA Grant Section 5311 – Formula Grant for Non-Urbanized Areas

may be allowed. Joint Procurement is the FTA preferred method of coordinated procurement, but “piggybacking” is allowed if used appropriately. Prior to entering into a “piggybacking” or joint procurement agreement, check with your ADOT program manager for approval.

Grantees must submit a copy of the vehicle or other capital specifications, TAC minutes approving procurement, Intergovernmental Procurement checklist, and copy of the contract if using a joint procurement to the 5311 Program Manager for approval.

Grantees must obtain authorization from ADOT Program Manager for any vehicle purchase prior to submitting an order with vendor. Failure to receive prior approval may result in delay of reimbursement. Before ADOT can reimburse any purchase, all required documentation must be submitted.

F. VEHICLES

Vehicle Accessibility: Providing wheelchair and other mobility device accessibility to local areas is a priority in order to meet the needs of individuals of all ages with mobility-impairments. However, applications for non-accessible vehicles will also be considered by ADOT if that type of vehicle best meets an agency’s needs. In order to acquire a non-accessible vehicle, applicants must assure adequate ADA-compliant “Equivalent Service.”

Purchase of Vehicles ([see vehicle procurements for more details](#))

Option 1: ADOT procured vehicles through a state contract. Sub-recipients must identify whether their intention is to use the ADOT contract for procurement in the application. Applicants must submit vehicle build/quote sheet and vendor required documentation with the application. Local match must be submitted by December 31, 2018.

Option 2: Reimbursement - ADOT will approve and provide reimbursement for the purchase of any suitable bus or van following prescribed procurement procedures. Any special equipment or options desired by the grantee, but not deemed essential by ADOT, will be paid 100% by the grantee.

Leased Vehicles

ADOT has not historically participated in the leasing of vehicles for Section 5311 projects. Rural Public Transit Program funding is approved on an annual basis and leases are typically made for five years. ADOT cannot guarantee Rural Public Transit Program funding for additional program years or the life of a lease. Federal guidelines mandate that grant funds be expended in the most cost-effective fashion, which in most cases would be a direct purchase. For ADOT to consider participating in a vehicle lease, the applicant must demonstrate that the lease provides cost efficiency (i.e. a lease incorporating both maintenance and insurance).

ADOT may also require a project requesting leasing to request bids for private operation of the system. ADOT will not participate in a lease which extends beyond the useful life of the vehicle based on average annual mileage.

ADOT Liens on Project Equipment, Vehicle Useful Life, and Disposition

ADOT retains a first lien equal to 80% (or its share in the purchase price if other than 80%) of the fair market value on all capital equipment purchased with Rural Public Transit funds. Capital equipment is defined as equipment that is expected to last one year or more. Vehicle liens will be retained according to the useful life standards listed below:

FTA Grant Section 5311 – Formula Grant for Non-Urbanized Areas

| 4 years / 100,000 miles | 5 years / 200,000 miles | 7 -10 years / 400,000 miles* | 10-12 years / 350-500,000 miles* |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|---|
| Vans (up to 15 passengers) | Mini buses (up to 30 passengers) | Buses (over 30 passengers or 30 ft. vehicles) | Heavy Duty Buses 35-40 Foot |

**May be established at time of purchase per the manufacturers expected useful life where applicable.*

Grantees are expected to use equipment up to its useful life or the duration of their contract. When vehicles have reached the end of their useful life and the grantee is disposing of the property, the grantees are required to submit a lien release request to ADOT. Grantees cannot sell, discard transfer or dispose of equipment without formal lien release approval from ADOT. Lien release will occur prior to disposition of equipment. Otherwise, the equipment will remain on lien.

Asset Management – State of Good Repair

FTA has put a greater emphasis on grant recipients keeping vehicle fleets, facilities and related transit equipment in a “State of Good Repair.”

In general, “State of Good Repair” is the ability to maintain assets in a well-performed condition. For example, if a vehicle is older than its intended useful life, has high mileage, and is frequently breaking down costing the agency a significant amount of unbudgeted funds to maintain, then that vehicle would not be in a state of good repair.

Transit Asset Management is a strategic and systematic approach to managing physical assets. Assets are considered physical equipment and infrastructure owned by a transit agency. Asset Management focuses on processes for allocating and using resources, with the objective of better decision-making based upon quality information and well-defined objectives.

ADOT is required to implement an asset management plan with policies and procedures that move towards determining how to best restore and replace aging transportation infrastructure. ADOT is required to set performance targets and report on the progress towards meeting those targets. ADOT is currently in the process of defining Transit Asset Management performance measurements and developing the ADOT Transit Asset Management Plan. Subrecipients should anticipate participating in the efforts for develop the ADOT TAM.

Incidental Use

Notice must be provided to the ADOT Program Manager of any incidental use of vehicles not related to the regularly scheduled general public service prior to providing the service.

G. DISPOSITION OF ASSETS

When vehicles are sold, and the sale exceeds \$5,000, the remaining federal portion from the purchase of the vehicle as calculated by the match ratio, must be reimbursed to ADOT or applied to the federal portion of an approved capital purchase in consultation with your ADOT Program Manager. The lien release and disposal of the equipment must be approved in advance of the sale.

FTA Grant Section 5311 – Formula Grant for Non-Urbanized Areas

For all other equipment, the net income from disposition of equipment must be used to reduce the gross project cost of other capital projects. The net income should be used on the next capital purchase. This can be accomplished by returning the net income to ADOT when purchasing vehicles using an ADOT contract. Otherwise a copy of the sales proceeds must be sent to the ADOT Program Manager, and identify which capital asset was disposed and to which capital purchase it will be applied. This must also accompany the reimbursement request for which the capital purchase is being applied. FTA retains a federal interest in all equipment until the fair market value is less than \$5,000.

Vehicles and other equipment which have reached their useful life can be transferred if the agency has determined that it will no longer use the vehicle or other equipment for the transit program. This transfer must be approved by ADOT and follow FTA requirements as outlined in [FTA Circular 5010.1E](#) for transfer of property.

H. INSURANCE AND LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

Liability Insurance

All Section 5311 Program participants must maintain adequate property and liability insurance coverage.

The current minimum requirement for automobile liability insurance is based on vehicle size, and is as follows:

| Combined Single Limit (CSL) of \$5,000,000 | Combined Single Limit (CSL) of \$2,000,000 | Combined Single Limit (CSL) of \$1,000,000 |
|---|---|---|
| For vehicles carrying sixteen (16) or more passengers | For vehicles carrying five (5) to fifteen (15) passengers | For vehicles carrying four (4) or less passengers |

Grantees must also maintain collision and comprehensive coverage for the full fair market value of each vehicle provided under this Program. The deductible for such coverage shall not exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000). Umbrella policies and self-insurance policies can count towards these requirements.

Grantees must ensure and be able to document that up-to-date insurance is obtained and on file. This information must be readily available for review by ADOT and its auditors. A current insurance card must also be located in vehicles **at all times**.

Vehicles for which the State of Arizona or ADOT is listed on the title as vehicle owner or lien holder must also show the State of Arizona or ADOT as “loss payee.”

ADOT shall be an “additional insured” on all insurance policies required under this program. Insurance policies shall be endorsed to include the following additional insured language: “The State of Arizona, its departments, agencies, boards, commissions, universities and its officers, officials, agents, and employees shall be named as additional insured with respect to liability arising out of the activities performed by or on behalf of the Grantee, involving automobiles owned, leased, hired or borrowed by the Grantee.” The Grantee's insurance coverage shall be the primary insurance with respect to all other available sources.

FTA Grant Section 5311 – Formula Grant for Non-Urbanized Areas

Policies required under this program shall contain a waiver of subrogation against the State of Arizona, its departments, agencies, boards, commissions, universities and its officers, officials, agents, and employees.

Notice of Cancellation: Any changes material to compliance with the insurance coverage required under this program shall require thirty (30) days written notice to ADOT.

Acceptability of Insurers: Insurance is to be placed with duly licensed or approved non-admitted insurers in the State of Arizona with an “A.M. Best” rating of not less than A- VII. ADOT in no way warrants that the above-required minimum insurer rating is sufficient to protect the Grantees from potential insurer insolvency.

To comply with these requirements, Grantees are required to submit ongoing Certificate of Insurance renewals yearly based on renewal date and cancellation notices to MVD1@azdot.gov and list Transit in the subject line of the e-mail.

Failure to show Proof of Insurance will result in the vehicle being placed out of service.

Driver and Vehicle Licenses

All Section 5311 grantees must use drivers that hold a current and valid Arizona Driver’s License. The ADOT Motor Vehicle Division requires licensing in keeping with their Commercial Driver’s License Program as follows:

| |
|---|
| Vehicles under 14-passenger capacity including driver |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Class D (Operator’s) License |
| Vehicles 15 passenger and over |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Class B or C Commercial License with bus/school bus endorsement• Class B or C Commercial License with bus/school bus endorsement ADOT encourages all agencies which have any vehicles in excess of 16 passenger capacity to have all drivers obtain a Class B or C Commercial License.• Drivers who currently have a Chauffeur’s License may continue to use such license until it expires. At that time, the appropriate above license must be acquired. |

**Grantees are also required to comply with Arizona laws in the licensing of all agency vehicles.*

I. ACCIDENT REPORTING

Participants in the Section 5311 program are required to report any accidents that require post-accident testing based on FTA Drug and Alcohol testing criteria to the ADOT Program Manager. This would include:

1. Any safety sensitive employee, who is involved in an accident where there is a loss of life, must submit to drug and alcohol testing. Additionally, any safety sensitive employee not directly involved in the accident, but whose performance could have contributed to the accident as determined by the employer shall be tested.

FTA Grant Section 5311 – Formula Grant for Non-Urbanized Areas

2. Whenever any individual involved in an accident is transported away from the scene for immediate medical treatment as a result of the accident. All safety-sensitive employees must be tested unless their behavior can be completely discounted as a contributing factor to the accident.
3. Whenever one or more vehicles incurs disabling damage as a result of the accident which requires the vehicle being towed away from the scene by a tow truck or other vehicle, testing is required (unless the employee's behavior can be completely discounted as a contributing factor).

Any accident must be reported within 24 hours. If the accident occurs on a weekend or holiday, a report must be filed on the next regularly scheduled workday. Documents to be provided include:

- Police Reports
- Agency and Rider Incident Reports
- Vehicle Damage Estimates
- Other pertinent information available or requested by the ADOT Program Manager

PART IV. FEDERAL AND STATE REQUIREMENTS

A. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Roles and Responsibilities: *ADOT*

In ADOT's role as the State agency administering the Section 5311 Program, ADOT receives an allocation of funds from FTA annually to not only support rural transit projects, but also to cover the administrative costs it incurs in managing the program. Those funds are used by ADOT to complete the following activities.

ADOT'S Administrative Activities

- Providing program information, planning, and technical assistance for 5311 project development.
- Documenting grant procedures in a State Management Plan (SMP), annual program announcement; grantee technical assistance: application review, evaluation and selection; forwarding of annual Programs of Projects to the FTA; certifying applicant and project eligibility; ensuring sub-recipient compliance with Federal requirements; project monitoring; and overseeing project audit and closeout.
- Integrating the 5311 Program with other ADOT administered FTA Programs including the Section 5310, Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP), and the Transportation Planning Programs (Sections 5303 and 5304 Statewide Transportation Planning Program and the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Program).
- Monitoring the progress of each project through audits and site visit reviews.

MPD oversight begins at the time of the application and contracting process, ensuring that all required information is submitted. Reviewing monthly reports, invoices, and other contract deliverables are other

FTA Grant Section 5311 – Formula Grant for Non-Urbanized Areas

areas where ADOT monitors grantee performance. ADOT staff will participate in TAC meetings when possible and conduct on-site visits to observe the systems and to ensure 5311 Program compliance.

On-Site Visits

ADOT, as the administrative agent for Federal funds, is required to monitor grantees on a regular basis. Comprehensive site visits are performed to review all elements of grant administration, as specified in the 5311 contract. These visits include a detailed review of receipts to verify reimbursement requests, ridership statistics, funding, transit service operation and service to the general public. Conducted at least every three years, they include the following oversight areas:

- Level and Quality of Transit Services
- Training Program
- Safety and Risk Management
- Procurement Procedures
- Review Invoices and Reports
- Financial Management
- EEO Poster
- [Title VI Poster](#)
- Civil Rights Compliance (Title VI, DBE, EJ, LEP, ADA)
- Vehicle/Facilities Maintenance Plan
- Continuing Control of FTA Funded Vehicles/Facilities
- Vehicle Inspections / Maintenance Records / Insurance Policies
- Charter/School Bus Service
- Compliance with all Federal Certificates and Assurances
- Any Additional Requirements of FTA or the State

Drug and Alcohol, policy, procedures and testing programs are reviewed at a minimum every two years in a separate site visit. Site visits will be more frequent if there are compliance issues.

Continuing Control of FTA Funded Facilities

When facilities are acquired, built, or improved through Section 5311 funding, ADOT will ensure satisfactory continuing control of the capital facility through the site visit process. ADOT will ensure that there is no degradation or failure to maintain the Federal investment, that facilities are available to the public, and that grantees comply with ADA and other federal requirements.

Financial Management Audits

See [Audits of State and Local Governments Section](#).

FTA Compliance Audits

Consistent with FTA's oversight responsibilities, FTA may elect to conduct financial, drug & alcohol, or other program area(s) audits. ADOT will assist grantees in preparing for FTA audits, if needed. As a Federal program, Federal legislation and a variety of Federal regulations form the foundation of how the Section 5311 program is operated.

In this section, the basic Federal and State requirements are summarized. In addition to reading the abbreviated summaries in this guidebook, applicants are urged to review the relevant federal regulations, circulars and guidance. Links are provided at the end of this chapter.

FTA Grant Section 5311 – Formula Grant for Non-Urbanized Areas

In the application and contract documents, program applicants will see these fundamental regulations referenced in various sections. As you complete the application, it may be helpful to return to this section to get a broader understanding of each Federal or State requirement.

B. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OBLIGATIONS TO THIRD PARTIES

Grantees (Sub-recipients) must agree that, without the Federal government's express written consent, the Federal government is not subject to any obligations or liabilities to any grantees, any third-party contractor, or any other person not a party to the Grant Agreement or Cooperative Agreement in connection with the performance of a funded project. Notwithstanding any concurrence provided by the Federal government in or approval of any solicitation, grantee, or third-party contract, the Federal government continues to have no obligation or liabilities to any party, including the grantee and third-party contractor.

C. PRIVATE ENTERPRISE INVOLVEMENT

Applicants must ensure that private-for-profit and private non-profit transit operators are given the opportunity to participate in the planning and implementation of the project to the maximum extent feasible. This includes soliciting private companies' participation in their planning process and encouraging private companies to actively participate in the planning process.

ADOT encourages all applicants to fully utilize the resources and expertise of private providers such as taxicab companies, intercity bus operators and human service transportation systems, considering the capability of these firms to provide the needed service. Purchase of service agreements or contracts with private operators are an appropriate means of providing general public transportation service.

Applicants should review local regulations to ensure that private companies are treated fairly. This includes revising or encouraging adjustments in local regulations to permit private companies to operate the applicants' services more efficiently.

Applicants should periodically review their existing services to determine if private companies can provide parts of the service, or the entire service, more efficiently. Consider the total cost of providing transportation service when comparing public and private service proposals. The subsidies provided to public and private nonprofit transportation providers such as capital assistance grants, operating subsidies, and the use of public facilities should be reflected in the cost comparisons.

Finally, applicants must have a process in place to resolve disputes with private transportation providers.

Documentation such as letters of support, formal agreements or minutes of meetings will assist the application. The application must contain a list and description of all transportation providers in the service area including the days and hours of service, number of passengers, frequency of service, fare charged, and area served.

Requirements the applicant must meet related to private enterprise involvement are:

Provide Reasonable Notice to Private Operators: The applicant must provide reasonable notice to all

FTA Grant Section 5311 – Formula Grant for Non-Urbanized Areas

transportation providers in the proposed service area to inform them of the project and ascertain whether the private providers could participate in the project. This is accomplished by publishing a public notice in a newspaper of general circulation and/or website, by writing letters to providers, as well as holding a public involvement process. ([See Public Involvement.](#))

Send letters to each private provider describing the project and providing the notice of the public involvement process. These letters must be sent via registered mail or if by email, must have a return email from the provider confirming receipt of the notice. The application must contain a copy of the notice of public process as published and a summary of the public involvement process, together with copies of the letters sent, any exhibits and written statements submitted.

Privatization Policy: The applicant must submit a local privatization policy that includes a method of resolving disputes. New projects will write privatization policies as part of their contract activities. ADOT will provide guidance to grantees with respect to this task, as needed.

D. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Federal law requires the public to be involved in the transportation planning process, and specifically requires that private providers be provided an opportunity to be consulted in developing transportation plans and programs in both urbanized and rural areas. Public involvement processes must be proactive and provide complete information, timely public notice, full public access to key decisions, and opportunities for early and continuing involvement throughout the transportation planning and programming process.

Prior to submission, all applicants for Rural Public Transit Program funds must provide an opportunity for public involvement. Public notice must be sufficiently early for the public to participate in the decision making process. Any fare or significant route changes should also have an accompanying public involvement process.

Public notices shall be published in the newspaper(s) having general circulation in the vicinity of the proposed undertaking and/or on the front page of the community's website for a minimum of 2 weeks. Additional notices can be posted throughout the community (libraries, grocery stores, post offices, etc.) published through a Facebook page/social media, radio announcements, and community listserve(s). **Publish two notices of public meetings, at least one week apart.** Schedule the date of the meeting at least five days after the second notice is published.

The grant proposal, any fare changes, and/or significant route changes must be made available for public inspection. Any public meetings should be held at a place and time generally convenient for persons affected by the proposed undertaking. The site must be accessible to the elderly and persons with disabilities. Provisions should be made for submission of written statements, exhibits, and oral statements. Interpreters must be provided for non-English speaking persons if requested. A written summary of the oral proceedings must be prepared. A [Title VI](#) statement must be included in the notice and visible at any public involvement meeting.

The notice of the public meeting must include:

- Name of the applicant
- Time, date, and place of the meeting

FTA Grant Section 5311 – Formula Grant for Non-Urbanized Areas

- Description of the project, including the area to be served by the proposed undertaking, items to be purchased, constructed, etc.
- A statement which allows individuals with Limited English Proficiency per Title VI requirements and needed ADA assistance the ability to request an accommodation.

Example of FTA Formula Grants for Rural Area Program (Section 5311) Public Notice

Public notice is hereby made that the **[specify name of Applicant]** is applying for federal financial assistance to provide public transportation service as follows: (specify the type of service (fixed-route, demand responsive, etc.), the project duration, and the general service area covered).

Public notice is further made that the **[specify name of Applicant]** is also applying for federal financial assistance to purchase (describe what will be purchased) that will be used to provide public transportation service for (specify the type of service (e.g. fixed-route and/or demand responsive) and the general service area covered).

The transportation service will be available to the general public during all hours of operation. The project is expected to be financed by FTA Section 5311 Rural Program public transportation funds, with additional funds to be provided from (specify each other expected program source of other federal, State or local funds for the project). The total federal share for operating and capital projects is expected to be \$_____.

[specify name of Applicant] ensures that the level and quality of transportation service is provided without regard to race, color, or national origin in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. For more information regarding our Title VI/ADA obligations or to file a complaint, please contact us at the address given below.

Comments on the proposed project are invited from the general public, private bus and taxi companies, other public transportation providers and human service agencies. Interested parties may comment on the project or obtain more details about the project by writing to:

(Name of Applicant's Contact Person)

(Address)

(Telephone No. and Email)

Human service agencies that receive assistance from other Federal agencies for non-emergency transportation services are encouraged to participate and coordinate with the provider in the planning, design and delivery of transportation services. Agencies may obtain copies of the service description and submit proposals for service coordination. Private bus and taxi operators may request copies of the project service description from the above named person and may submit comments on the service as described.

If you wish to comment on any aspect of the proposed project, submit a proposal or a request for service coordination or request a public hearing on this project, you must make your interest known in writing within fifteen calendar days of the date of this publication and provide your comments within fifteen calendar days of your receipt of the project service description. Your requests and/or comments must be forwarded to the above person.

FTA Grant Section 5311 – Formula Grant for Non-Urbanized Areas

Public Notice for Fare and Services Changes

ADOT requires a minimum of two weeks' notice for fare and service changes. FTA requires adequate public notice. All fare and service changes should be posted on buses and the public should receive at least one other way of receiving notification of the changes as well as an opportunity for public comment.

E. LABOR PROTECTION

Section 13 of the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964, as amended, specifies that as a condition to any financial assistance, fair and equitable arrangements be made to protect the interests of employees of transit providers, which may be affected by the project receiving such assistance. Applicants shall either: (1) execute the Special Warranty developed by the U.S. Departments of Labor and Transportation or (2) request and receive approval for waiver of the required protection from the Department of Labor.

Successful applicants must provide the labor protection information required (see attached sample Listing of Recipients Eligible Surface Public Transportation Providers and Labor Representation for 13(c) in application) by no later than August in order to ensure a fully executed contract by October 1. ADOT is required (annually) to certify to the Department of Labor that 5311 agencies are in compliance with terms and conditions of the Special Section 13(c) Warranty.

F. AUDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS

Each grantee that receives over \$750,000 in federal funding, including funding from other federal agencies is required to prepare an annual audit that complies with [2 CFR Part 200](#). A copy of this annual audit must be electronically submitted to the singleaudit@azdot.gov and copy your ADOT 5311 Program Manager.

The FTA requires ADOT to perform financial audits of this program. In any given year, ADOT's auditor may request to examine the financial records of sub-recipients. These actions are designed to ensure tighter budget-process control, asset inventory management and enhanced ADOT-FTA reporting capability. If the agency is not subject to the single audit requirement, but conducts an audit, the findings must be submitted to ADOT.

If the amount of FTA funds granted to a particular sub-recipient does not trigger the requirement for the 2 CFR Part 200 audit, the State may still request to review the total Federal funds received by an agency to determine if, in combination with their total Federal funds from all sources exceeds the \$750,000.00 threshold. At a minimum, ADOT requires sub-recipients to bring to the attention of the State any audit findings relevant to their use of FTA funds.

The Single Audit Act provides that: The audit shall cover the entire operations of the transit agency and departments that received Federal financial assistance during the year. A series of audits of individual departments, agencies, and establishments for the same fiscal year may be considered a single audit.

An independent auditor in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards covering financial and compliance audits shall conduct the audit.

FTA Grant Section 5311 – Formula Grant for Non-Urbanized Areas

The Auditor shall determine whether:

- The financial statements of the agency present fairly its financial position and results of its financial operation in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.
- The agency has internal accounting and other control systems to provide reasonable assurance that it is managing the Federal financial assistance program in compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- The agency has complied with laws and regulations that may have material effect on its financial statements and on each major Federal assistance program.

Audits shall be submitted annually as part of the contract deliverables.

FTA does not require an annual financial audit of a sub-recipient when assistance is provided solely in the form of capital equipment procured directly by the State.

G. DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES (DBE)

All of ADOT sub-recipients are required to adopt the ADOT DBE Plan. Agencies can adopt the DBE plan as part of the application, but must follow any local requirements regarding adoption of plans.

Assurances: The contractor, sub-recipients (including vehicle awardees) or subcontractors shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex in the performance of this contract. The contractor shall carry out applicable requires of 49 CFR part 26 in the award and administration of DOT-assisted contracts. Failure by the contractor to carry out these requirements is a material breach of this contract, which may result in the termination of this contract or such other remedy, as the sub-recipient deems appropriate.

The Objectives of the DBE Program are: ADOT's policy is to ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of DOT-assisted contracts in its highway, transit and airport financial assistance programs. To achieve this, ADOT will strive:

- To create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for DOT-assisted contracts;
- To ensure that the DBE program is narrowly tailored in accordance with applicable law;
- To ensure that only firms that fully meet this part's eligibility standards are permitted to participate as DBEs;
- To help remove barriers to the participation of DBEs in DOT-assisted contracts; and
- To assist the development of firms that can compete successfully in the marketplace outside the DBE program.

Sub-recipients (grantees) of Rural Public Transit funds shall take affirmative steps to ensure that socially and economically disadvantaged business enterprises participate in the performance of contracts and subcontracts. This may be accomplished by way of actual transportation service providers, or as suppliers of commodities or services needed in the operation of transportation service.

FTA Grant Section 5311 – Formula Grant for Non-Urbanized Areas

Where the sub-recipient or subcontractor is found to have failed to exert sufficient reasonable and good faith efforts to involve DBEs in the work provided, ADOT may declare the sub-recipient or subcontractor in breach of contract; refer to 49 CFR pt. 26.

The ADOT Grant Administrator files semi-annual contracting activity reports to FTA. The sub-recipients must submit all contract invoice activity through the Arizona Local Public Agency Contract Management System at <https://arizonalpa.dbesystem.com/> on a monthly basis or when invoicing occurs for that contract. If there are no contracts, the sub-recipients should report to ADOT every six months that they have no contracts.

Changes in agency contact information must be provided to ADOT through E-grants.

All applicants who receive preliminary approval for their project may contact ADOT Business Engagement and Compliance Office contractorcompliance@azdot.gov and request assistance in locating DBEs for contracting opportunities.

H. CIVIL RIGHTS REQUIREMENTS

All sub-recipients of FTA assistance are responsible for compliance with all Civil Rights requirements applicable to transit related projects, including 49 U.S. 5332 (Nondiscrimination), Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, [FTA Circular 4702.1B](#), Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Pursuant to Executive Orders 13166 and 12898 and DOT policy guidance concerning recipient's responsibilities to Limited English Proficient (LEP) persons ([FTA C 5010.1D](#)) and Environmental Justice populations (FTA C 4703.1). Sub-recipients also must include these requirements in each subcontract financed in whole or in part with Federal assistance provided by FTA, modified only if necessary to identify the affected parties.

Sub-recipients must ensure compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Title VI states that “no person in the United States shall be excluded from participation, denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any Federally-funded program, policy or activity on the basis of race, color or national origin.”

Title VI – Non-Discrimination

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (49 C.F.R. Part 21) and related statutes and regulations, the agency must comply and further ensure that:

“No person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, age, sex, disability, or income status, be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any programs or activity receiving federal financial assistance.”

In accordance with [FTA Circular 4702.1B](#) grantees must submit a Title VI program plan to the ADOT Civil Rights Office (CRO) for review and approval prior to receipt of federal financial assistance from ADOT.

A Title VI Implementation Plan template can be found here:

<https://www.azdot.gov/docs/default-source/civil-rights-library/title-vi-template.pdf?sfvrsn=2>.

FTA Grant Section 5311 – Formula Grant for Non-Urbanized Areas

The Title VI Implementation program plan must include:

1. Title VI Notice to the Public, including a list of locations where the notice is posted
2. Title VI Complaint Procedures (i.e., instructions to the public regarding how to file a Title VI discrimination complaint)
3. Title VI Complaint Form
4. List of transit-related Title VI investigations, complaints, and lawsuits
5. Public Participation Plan, including information about outreach methods to engage minority and limited English proficient populations (LEP), as well as a summary of outreach efforts made since the last Title VI Program submission
6. Language Assistance Plan for providing language assistance to persons with limited English proficiency (LEP), based on the DOT LEP Guidance
7. A table depicting the membership of non-elected committees and councils, the membership of which is selected by the recipient, broken down by race, and a description of the process the agency uses to encourage the participation of minorities on such committees
8. A Title VI equity analysis if the recipient has constructed a facility, such as a vehicle storage facility, maintenance facility, operation center, etc.
9. A copy of board meeting minutes, resolution, or other appropriate documentation showing the board of directors or appropriate governing entity or official(s) responsible for policy decisions reviewed and approved the Title VI Program.

All Fixed Route Transit Providers must submit:

10. Service standards
 - Vehicle load for each mode
 - Vehicle headway for each mode
 - On time performance for each mode
 - Service availability for each mode
11. Service policies
 - Transit Amenities for each mode
 - Vehicle Assignment for each mode

Specific citations for FTA provisions for sub-recipients include:

- Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 601.
- Title VI Regulation, 49 CFR, Part 21.

[FTA Circular 4702.1B](#), "Title VI Requirements and Guidelines for FTA Recipients," outlines specific State and sub-recipient requirements.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

All ADOT sub-recipients must comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The ADA was enacted by Congress as a national mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities. In addition, any new construction of

FTA Grant Section 5311 – Formula Grant for Non-Urbanized Areas

public access facilities must have accessible features incorporated to provide accessibility to individuals with mobility disabilities. Section 504 prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

In accordance with FTA Circular 4710.1 ADOT Civil Rights Office will review grantees conformance with ADA requirements to ensure their services, vehicles, and facilities are accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities. The following written policies and procedures will be reviewed:

- ADA transportation service provisions
- Auxiliary Aids and Services
- ADA Complaint Procedures (i.e., instructions to the public regarding how to file an ADA discrimination complaint)
- ADA Complaint Form
- List of transit-related ADA investigations, complaints, and lawsuits

Service Provisions: The ADA has a standard practice of specific service and operational provisions for transportation providers. During management reviews / site reviews, ADOT will interview sub-recipients regarding the status of the following ADA transportation service provisions:

- Procedures to ensure wheelchair lift equipped vehicle availability;
- Wheelchair lift/ramp and securement use;
- Vehicle identification mechanisms in accordance with ADA;
- Maintenance of accessible features on vehicles;
- Lift deployment at stops, where requested;
- Adequate time for vehicle boarding and disembarking (what actions are taken to ensure that reasonable time is provided?);
- Announcement of stops (where applicable);
- Service animals (what policies and procedures are in place which are in accordance with ADA?);
- Service to persons using respirators or portable oxygen;
- Public information/communications (what actions are taken to apprise the disability community of transportation services available, and to otherwise ensure that persons with disabilities are given maximum opportunity to participate in the provision of services?); and
- Driver and related staff training in wheelchair securement and sensitivity to passengers.

Sub-recipients should undertake all reasonable means to provide for the needs of sight and hearing-impaired individuals in their communication regarding transportation services provided. Braille-etched

FTA Grant Section 5311 – Formula Grant for Non-Urbanized Areas

sign and other forms of written communication as well as telephone devices for the hearing impaired are some examples of facility improvements, covered under the ADA.

For more information on ADA requirements, please visit the following website and subscribe to the online ADA newsletter published by the FTA at: <https://www.transit.dot.gov/regulations-and-guidance/civil-rights-ada/americans-disabilities-act>

Equal Employment Opportunity

Sub-recipients Equal Employment Opportunity Programs (EEO) must ensure that recipients do not discriminate against any employees or applicants for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, disability, age or national origin. Such action must include, but not be limited to the following: employment, upgrading, demotion or transfer, recruitment or advertising, layoff or termination, rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training. The sub-recipient also agrees to comply with any implementing requirements FTA may issue.

Sub-recipients must comply with current Title VI, EEO, LEP and ADA regulation requirements, as identified in the respective assurances enclosed in the application package. Failure by the sub-recipient to carry out the terms of the Title VI, DBE, EEO, LEP and ADA programs will be treated as a violation of the Grant Agreement.

All transit programs must keep a complaint log. Complaints which may be related to the Title VI and ADA must be documented and the follow-up must be documented. The program must follow their complaint process as outlined in their Title VI Plan. The program must follow the policies for all other complaints as outlined in the program policy or driver handbook. A Title VI Implementation Plan template can be found here:

<https://www.azdot.gov/docs/default-source/civil-rights-library/title-vi-template.pdf?sfvrsn=2>.

I. FTA CHARTER REQUIREMENTS

FTA's Charter Bus Service Rule, which implements 49 U.S.C. 5323(d), protects private-charter operators from unauthorized competition from FTA grant recipients. Sub-recipients must contact their 5311 Program Manager before agreeing to proceed with any charter operations.

The regulations define charter service as follows:

(1) Transportation provided at the request of a third party for the exclusive use of a bus or van for a negotiated price. The following features may be characteristics of charter service:

- A third party pays a negotiated price for the group
- Any fares charged to individual members of the group are collected by a third party
- The service is not part of the regularly scheduled service, or is offered for a limited period of time
- A third party determines the origin and destination of the trip as well as scheduling.

(2) Transportation provided to the public for events or functions that occur on an irregular basis or for a limited duration and:

FTA Grant Section 5311 – Formula Grant for Non-Urbanized Areas

- A premium fare is charged that is greater than the usual or customary fixed route fare, or
- The service is paid for in whole or in part by a third party.

Examples of services that do not meet the definition of charter service and, therefore, are not considered charter services by FTA are:

- Service requested by a third party that is irregular or on a limited basis for an exclusive group of individuals and the grantee does not charge a premium fare for the service and there is no third party paying for the service in whole or in part
- Shuttle service for a one-time event if the service is open to the public, the itinerary is determined by the grantee, the grantee charges its customary fixed route fare and there is no third party involvement
- When a university pays the grantee a fixed charge to allow all faculty, staff, and students to ride the transit system for free so long as the grantee provides the service on a regular basis along a fixed route and the service is open to the public
- When the grantee sees a need and wants to provide service for a limited duration at the customary fixed route fare

The charter regulations include **exemptions** and **exceptions**.

Exemptions

Exemptions, which are not considered charter service, require no notification to registered charter providers, record-keeping, quarterly reporting, or other requirements. The charter service regulation exempts the following services:

1. Transportation of Employees, Contractors, and Government Officials: Grantees are allowed to transport their employees, other transit systems' employees, transit management officials, transit contractors and bidders, government officials and their contractors, and official guests to or from transit facilities or projects within its geographic service area or proposed geographic service area for the purpose of conducting oversight functions such as inspection, evaluation, or review.
2. Private Charter Operators: The prohibitions do not apply to private charter operators that receive, directly or indirectly, federal financial assistance under the over-the-road bus accessibility program or to non-FTA funded activities of private charter operators that receive, directly or indirectly, FTA financial assistance.
3. Emergency Preparedness Planning and Operation: Grantees are allowed to transport their employees, other transit system employees, transit management officials, transit contractors and bidders, government officials and their contractors, and official guests for emergency preparedness planning and operations.
4. Section 5310, 5311, 5316 and 5317 Recipients: The prohibitions do not apply to grantees that use federal financial assistance from FTA for program purposes, that is, transportation that serves the needs of either human service agencies or targeted

FTA Grant Section 5311 – Formula Grant for Non-Urbanized Areas

populations (elderly, individuals with disabilities) under Section 5310, 5311, 5316, or 5317. “Program purposes” does not include exclusive service for other groups formed for purposes unrelated to the special needs of the identified targeted populations.

5. Emergency Response: Grantees are allowed to provide service for up to 45 days for actions directly responding to an emergency declared by the president, governor, or mayor or in an emergency requiring immediate action prior to a formal declaration.

Recipients in Non-Urbanized Areas: Grantees in non-urbanized areas may transport employees, other transit systems’ employees, transit management officials, and transit contractors and bidders to or from transit training outside its geographic service area.

All Exceptions must be recorded and reported to your assigned ADOT Program Manager quarterly. They must also be posted prior to the charter activity at the FTA Charter Registration website.

| Exception | Procedure |
|--|--|
| <p>Exception 604.6 – Government officials on official government business (GO)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is restricted to its geographic service area 2. Must not generate revenue, except as required by law 3. Is limited to 80 hours annually. May petition for additional charter hours | <p>Record the following information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Government organization’s name, address, phone number, and email address 2. Date and time of service 3. Number of government officials and other passengers 4. Origin, destination, and trip length (miles and hours) 5. The fee collected, if any 6. Vehicle number (example, bus 102) <p>Retain the record for three years.</p> |

FTA Grant Section 5311 – Formula Grant for Non-Urbanized Areas

| Exception | Procedure |
|--|--|
| <p>Exception 604.7 – Qualified human service organizations (QH)</p> <p>Service to persons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. With mobility limitations related to advanced age, 2. With disabilities, or 3. With low income <p>Organization must register if it does not receive funds from programs listed in Appendix A of the charter regulation.</p> | <p>Ensure that the human service agency is qualified, that is, it receives funds from programs listed in Appendix A of the charter regulation or has registered on the FTA charter website at least 60 days before the charter request.</p> <p>Record the following information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. QHSO's name, address, phone number, and email address 2. Date and time of service 3. Number of passengers 4. Origin, destination, and trip length (miles and hours) 5. The fee collected, if any 6. Vehicle number (example, bus 102) <p>Retain the record for three years.</p> |
| <p>Exception 604.8 – Leasing FTA funded equipment and drivers to a charter service operator (LE) only if the following conditions exist:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The operator is registered on the FTA charter registration web site 2. The operator owns and operates buses or vans in a charter service business 3. The operator received a request for charter service that exceeds its capacity either of the number of vehicles operated or the number of accessible vehicles 4. The operator has exhausted all of the available vehicles for all registered charter providers in your geographic service area | <p>Record the following information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Registered charter provider's name, address, telephone number, and email address 2. Number of vehicles leased, types of vehicles leased, and vehicle identification numbers 3. Documentation presented by the registered charter provider that the four conditions are satisfied. <p>Retain the record for three years.</p> |

FTA Grant Section 5311 – Formula Grant for Non-Urbanized Areas

| Exception | Procedure |
|---|--|
| <p>Exception 604.9 – When no registered charter provider responds to a notice posted on the FTA charter website (WN):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Within 72 hours for charter service requested to be provided in less than 30 days, or 2. Within 14 calendar days for charter service requested to be provided in 30 days or more. | <p>Include the in the e-mail notice sent to the list of registered charter providers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Customer name, address, phone number, and e-mail address (if available); 2. Requested date of service; 3. Approximate number of passengers 4. Type of equipment requested, bus(es) or van(s); 5. Trip itinerary and approximate duration; and 6. The intended fare to be charged for the service. <p>If an “undeliverable” notice is received in response to its e-mail notice, fax the notice.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If service is provided, record the following information: 2. The group’s name, address, phone number, and email address 3. Date and time of service 4. Number of passengers 5. Origin, destination, and trip length (miles and hours) 6. Fee collected, if any 7. Vehicle number (example, bus 102) <p>Retain all records (email sent, undeliverable notice, facsimile, record of charter) for three years.</p> |
| <p>Exception 604.10 – Agreement with registered charter providers</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If a new charter provider registers in the geographic service area, may continue to provider charter service for 90 days without an agreement with the newly registered charter provider. 2. Any parties to an agreement may cancel at any time after providing a 90-day notice. | <p>Record the following information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The group’s name, address, phone number, and email address 2. Date and time of service 3. Number of passengers 4. Origin, destination, and trip length (miles and hours) 5. Fee collected, if any 6. Vehicle number (example, bus 102) <p>Retain the record for three years.</p> |

FTA Grant Section 5311 – Formula Grant for Non-Urbanized Areas

| Exception | Procedure |
|---|---|
| <p>Exception 604.11 – Petitions to the Administrator for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Events of regional or national significance 2. Hardship (<200,000 population only) 3. Unique and time sensitive events that are in the public interest | <p>For an event of regional or national significance, the petition shall describe how registered charter providers were consulted and will be utilized, include a certification that the recipient has exhausted all the registered charter providers in its service area, and submit the petition at least 90 days before the first day of the event.</p> <p>For a hardship request, the exception must be for deadhead time that exceeds total trip time from initial pick-up to final drop-off, including wait time and shall describe how the minimum duration would create a hardship on the group requesting the charter.</p> <p>For a unique and time sensitive event, the petition shall describe why the event is unique and time sensitive and would be in the public’s interest.</p> <p>Record the following information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The group’s name, address, phone number, and email address 2. Date and time of service 3. Number of passengers 4. Origin, destination, and trip length (miles and hours) 5. Fee collected, if any 6. Vehicle number (example, bus 102) <p>Retain the record for three years.</p> |
| <p>Note: Charter service hours include: time spent transporting passengers, time spent waiting for passengers and “deadhead” hours.</p> <p>Charter Registration Website: http://ftawebprod.fta.dot.gov/CharterRegistration/Default.aspx?p=%2fCharterRegistration%2fCharterService%2fCharterServiceSearchResults.aspx</p> | |

J. INTERCITY BUS

FTA identifies intercity bus service as regularly scheduled bus service for the general public which operates with limited stops over fixed routes connecting two or more urban areas not in close proximity, which has the capacity for transporting baggage carried by passengers. Package express service may be included, if incidental to passenger transportation. Commuter service (service designed primarily to provide daily work trips within the local commuting area) is excluded from the definition.

While much of the public transportation service provided under Section 5311 covers large distances because of the nature of the areas served, not all long distance trips are included in the definition of intercity service. Similarly, service that only stops at an intercity bus facility among other destinations within the city at either end of a route that covers a long distance, without regard to scheduled

FTA Grant Section 5311 – Formula Grant for Non-Urbanized Areas

connections, is eligible for Section 5311 assistance as public transportation, but is not an intercity feeder service.

A public entity operating or contracting for intercity bus service is not required to provide complementary paratransit service for individuals with disabilities who are unable to use the fixed route intercity bus service.

Intercity bus service is a vital link between otherwise isolated rural communities and the rest of the nation. In recent years the major intercity carriers have abandoned many less productive routes. Patronage generated in rural areas, however, appears to be important to the continuing viability of the remaining intercity routes. One objective of the funding for intercity bus service under Section 5311, therefore, is to support meaningful connections between non-urbanized areas and scheduled intercity bus service in urban areas to more distant points. Intercity services accommodate baggage carried by passengers. Another objective is to support services to meet the intercity travel needs of residents in non-urbanized areas. ADOT awards 15% of its formula funds to Intercity per FTA requirements.

K. SCHOOL BUS REQUIREMENTS

Grantees are prohibited from providing exclusive school bus service unless the service qualifies under an allowable exemption and is approved by the FTA Administrator. In no case can FTA-funded equipment or facilities be used to provide exclusive school bus service.

1. Do you provide school “tripper” service?

A tripper is an extra bus that is added to a route to provide capacity or service that cannot be accommodated by the buses already in service.

If yes, does the tripper service meet the following criteria to be considered public transit service?

- a. Service is regularly scheduled?
- b. Buses are clearly marked as open to the public?
- c. Buses have no special designations (e.g., school bus, school special)?
- d. Buses use regular bus stops?
- e. Service is noted on published schedules?

If not, the service does not qualify as public transit service and cannot be provided with FTA-funded equipment or out of FTA-funded facilities.

Please note: Agencies may work with schools for donations in exchange for students receiving transit passes. This is common with college and universities but there can be no exclusive service contract.

L. FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY LICENSES

All non-municipal operators are subject to Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations. Contact the Federal Highway Administration, Office of Motor Carriers, 234 North Central, Suite 330, Phoenix, AZ 85004, (602) 379-6851.

M. DRUG & ALCOHOL REQUIREMENTS

The Drug-Free Workplace Policy is part of the Federal government’s effort to eliminate the use of illegal and controlled substances from the workplace. This includes any substance that alters the senses or

FTA Grant Section 5311 – Formula Grant for Non-Urbanized Areas

could affect one's ability to function in one's job.

ADOT AND FTA REQUIREMENTS

ADOT has adopted a Drug & Alcohol-Free Workplace Policy. In addition to the Department, Sub-recipients which receive FTA funds must comply with the regulations contained in 49 CFR Part 40, Procedures for Transportation Workplace Drug Testing Programs and 49 CFR Part 655, Prevention of Alcohol Misuse and Prohibited Drug Use in Transit Operations. All agencies should post a drug free workplace announcement / poster in an area that their employees can easily see.

Safety sensitive functions are defined as those duties that include operation of revenue vehicles (whether or not in revenue service), operation of a non-revenue service vehicle when required to be operated by a holder of a Commercial Driver's License, controlling the movement or dispatch of the vehicles, and maintenance of vehicles (unless in the case of the Rural Public Transportation programs 5311, 5307 or 5309 in an area less than 200,000 in population and contracts out such services), security personnel who carry firearms, and supervisors who could perform any of the above responsibilities.

The Implementation Guidelines for Drug and Alcohol Regulations in Mass Transit updates the document revised in November 2003 (FTA-OH-26-001-94-1). The revised Implementation Guidelines summarize and interpret Part 655. The Implementation Guidelines and the Best Practices Manual, updated in 2008 are intended to be used together. The Implementation Guidelines communicates to readers the requirements and the Best Practices explain compliance. To obtain a copy of The Implementation Guidelines for Drug and Alcohol Regulations in Mass Transit, go to:

http://transitsafety.fta.dot.gov/publications/substance/ImplementationGuidelines/ImplementationGuidelines_Oct2009.pdf

GRANTEE REQUIREMENTS

FTA requires each grantee to establish a policy that defines its Drug and Alcohol Testing Program and requires the entity's governing body to formally adopt the policy. An entity's governing body is the board of directors or highest-ranking officials. The person who is primarily responsible for implementing and managing the program usually guides development of the initial draft of the policy and presents it to the governing body for review and approval. It is generally useful to involve top management officials, union officials (if the employees are represented) and local legal counsel in reviews of the draft policy.

The policy must indicate proof of governing board adoption. Some entities include a header on their entire document that contains the policy number, adoption date, and appropriate signature. Other common methods include notating in the policy the date of the adoption and the ability to review the documentation upon request, a page documenting meeting minutes, or a formal adoption page complete with signatures. Another method is to include it as an appendix.

Although policies must be changed, readopted, and redistributed to reflect significant regulatory revisions, policy re-adoption is not necessary for minor regulatory changes. The same applies to minor changes in the policy statement such as the name of the entity's new Drug and Alcohol Program Manager, Medical Review Officer (MRO), Substance Abuse Professional (SAP), collection site, or testing laboratory. Such changes are often included in an appendix and described in a form distributed to safety-sensitive employees. The current revision date should also be indicated in the policy document.

Policy Statement

At a minimum, transportation operators and their subcontractors must adopt a policy which details the

FTA Grant Section 5311 – Formula Grant for Non-Urbanized Areas

prohibited behaviors, testing requirements, identified sources of assistance for substance abuse problems, and the consequences for refusal to take tests and for positive drug and alcohol results.

Employee and Supervisor Education

Transportation operators must have a training program for all employees in safety sensitive positions that are compliant with the regulation. Employees must be trained prior to assuming their duties. The policy must include a community service “hotline” telephone number and the name of a person where employees can obtain assistance. In addition, supervisors who have the responsibility and authority to refer employees for testing under reasonable cause must receive additional training in manifestations and behavioral cues indicative of drug and alcohol use and abuse.

Your application should contain a list of managers who completed supervisor training. The application package also includes Substance Abuse Program Implementation Checklist that must be completed by continuing project applicants.

Substance Abuse Testing Program

Section 5311 recipients must be in compliance with the FTA Drug & Alcohol Testing Program. Transportation operators must test employees who perform safety sensitive functions for the use of prohibited drugs: marijuana, cocaine, opioids, phencyclidine (PCP), MDMA (ecstasy) and amphetamines and for alcohol. There are potentially six conditions which testing is mandatory:

Pre-employment and/or Pre-duty - Testing for drugs and the receipt of a negative test result is required prior to an employee performing in a safety sensitive position and before a current employee is transferred into a safety sensitive position. A pre-employment test is also required when a current employee who has not performed safety sensitive duties for more than 90 days **and** has been removed from the random pool, is brought back to work to perform safety sensitive duties.

Reasonable Cause - Testing is required when an employee in a safety sensitive function is observed by a trained supervisor to be exhibiting behavior indicative of drug or alcohol abuse. The decision to perform a “Reasonable Suspicion” test must be made based on specific contemporaneous, articulable observations concerning the appearance, behavior, speech, or body odor of the safety-sensitive employee. Reasonable Cause testing for drugs may be done anytime a safety sensitive employee is on duty. Reasonable Cause testing for alcohol may only be done just prior to, during or immediately after an employee has performed a safety sensitive duty.

Post – Accident - Testing is mandatory when an incident meets the FTA thresholds defining an accident. The thresholds for performing a test are as follows:

1. Any safety sensitive employee, who is involved in an accident where there is a loss of life, must submit to drug and alcohol testing. Additionally, any safety sensitive employee not directly involved in the accident, but whose performance could have contributed to the accident as determined by the employer shall be tested.
2. Whenever any individual involved in an accident is transported away from the scene for immediate medical treatment as a result of the accident. All safety-sensitive employees must be tested unless their behavior can be completely discounted as a contributing factor to the accident.
3. Whenever one or more vehicles incurs disabling damage as a result of the accident which

FTA Grant Section 5311 – Formula Grant for Non-Urbanized Areas

requires the vehicle being towed away from the scene by a tow truck or other vehicle, testing is required (unless the employee's behavior can be completely discounted as a contributing factor).

Random - The random selection of employees is conducted in a scientific manner from a pool of safety sensitive employees ensuring that the employee has the same chance of being selected for testing every time there is a random selection done; The minimum random testing rate is set by the FTA and the testing must be spread over 12 months, in an unpredictable, unannounced manner. Testing must also be spread over all hours/days of operation. Testing must be performed immediately upon notification of the employee.

Should the agency choose to retain the employee who refuses to test or has a positive drug or alcohol test result, the following additional conditions require testing of the employees:

Return-to-Duty - Testing of the employee is required after a policy violation resulting in a positive drug or alcohol test or the refusal to test. If the employer wants to return the employee to safety sensitive duties the employee must be evaluated by a Substance Abuse Professional (SAP) and once the SAP recommends the employee is ready to return to duty a negative drug and/or alcohol test must be required by the employer.

Follow-up-Testing - Any employee who has tested positive on a drug test or .04 or greater on an alcohol test or refused to be tested, must be evaluated by a Substance Abuse Professional. Upon the completion of the return to duty testing requirement, the SAP will prescribe the number of unannounced tests in addition to the usual conditions of testing that must be performed. The tests must be a minimum of 6 within the first 12 months of returning to work and can continue up to 60 months.

Reporting Procedures

Transportation operators must certify compliance and submit reports to ADOT on an annual basis as per 49 CFR Part 40. The reports shall be submitted on the appropriate form and shall consist of the requirements stated within the regulation which includes but is not limited to the number and results of drug and alcohol tests on the forms provided within the federal register or within the FTA implementation Guidelines. Failure to certify compliance or submit the required reports will result in the suspension of your system's eligibility for operating and capital funding.

Implementation in Arizona

When you implement the drug and alcohol regulations, you will affect all aspects of your operation including boards or commissions, the employee, the personnel system, and sub-contractors.

If you as the grantee subcontract services, you are responsible for ensuring that sub-contractors are in compliance with the regulations that will require monitoring of their programs. In addition, you must also create new contractual relationships with appropriately qualified medical experts and certified drug testing laboratories and certified alcohol testing facilities, equipment and technicians. All Arizona Rural Public Transit projects will be required to comply with and participate in ADOT's drug and alcohol program.

For those sub-recipients without their own contracted testing programs, ADOT will assist the agency by supplying guidance.

N. APPLICANTS' CERTIFICATIONS AND ASSURANCES

ADOT's Multimodal Planning Division is responsible for ensuring sub-recipient compliance with applicable Federal requirements. Federal Certifications and Assurances are published annually and must be signed prior to the contract execution. ADOT will notify all current grantees when new Federal Certifications and Assurances are required.

O. NATIONAL TRANSIT DATABASE (NTD)

The FTA requires each designated recipient under the Section 5311 program to submit annual rural data through the National Transit Database (NTD). The NTD is the system through which the FTA collects uniform data needed by the Secretary of Transportation to administer department programs. FTA requires each State DOT receiving funds under the Section 5311 program to submit an annual report for each Section 5311 transit agency. Each grantee must provide the following information **by mode** of transportation (i.e. commuter, intercity, fixed route, demand response, etc.)

- Annual Vehicle Revenue Miles
- Annual Vehicle Revenue Hours
- Regular Unlinked Passenger Trips
- Sponsored Unlink Passenger Trips (Demand Response only)

The reporting period for the State's report is July 1st through June 30th. While entities may also report to NTD directly when they are direct recipients or Tribes, the NTD data for 5311 funded service must be provided to ADOT when requested.

P. SAFETY AND SECURITY

As part of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), eligible Section 5311 sub-recipients are required to comply with guidance contained in the Emergency preparedness, Response and Recovery requirements in the FTA Security Initiative. One of the requirements involves the completion of a [Safety, Security and Emergency Preparedness Plan \(SSEPP\)](#). ADOT-Section 5311 staff are committed to exploring coordinated approaches to assist grantees in implementing a disaster safety and emergency evacuation plan, with a focus on ensuring business continuity during emergencies and providing effective evacuation support.

Safety has always been a priority for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The FTA has made it clear that all transit systems in the Section 5311 program must identify their role in their respective communities by being ready to respond to a crisis; be it man made or natural disaster. ADOT has the responsibility to assure that written plans are prepared and implemented once the final guidance is issued by FTA.