

State Section 5311(f) Application and Policy Assistance

**Presented By:
Charles Glover
RLS & Associates, Inc.**

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Technical Assistance for Development and Implementation of Alabama DOT Intercity Bus Program

► Tasks:

- Evaluate Existing Program**
- Facilitate Consultative Process**
- Determine Operating/Capital Funding Priorities**
- Prepare Intercity Bus Application Package and Guidelines**
- Facilitate Application Review**
- Develop Performance Measurements**
- Prepare Mid-Size Coach Specifications**
- On-Going Technical Assistance As Needed**

Evaluate Existing Program

► 2007 Intercity Bus Study

- **Status of industry in Alabama – service decline**
- **Other state Section 5311(f) programs**
- **Quality of intercity bus facilities**
- **Potential service areas**
- **Not to invoke “Governor’s Certification”**
- **Priorities for use of Section 5311(f) funds**
 - Planning and marketing
 - Feeder routes
 - Purchase coaches for private providers
 - Operating assistance to restore routes

Facilitate Consultative Process

- ▶ **Prepare and advertise a call for projects**
- ▶ **Meeting with intercity bus companies, public transportation providers, transportation planning agencies, other stakeholders and ALDOT**
- ▶ **Facilitate meeting**
 - **Encourage discussion of service and capital needs, application, and project selection process**
- ▶ **Document consultative process**

Determine Operating/Capital Funding Priorities

- ▶ **Availability of ARRA funds in addition to Section 5311(f) funds**
- ▶ **100% funded ARRA capital projects**
- ▶ **Remaining ARRA funds and Section 5311(f) funds – priority to intercity routes serving**
 - **South-Central Alabama**
 - **Northwest Alabama**
 - **Northeast Alabama**
 - **East-Central Alabama**
 - **Southwest Alabama**

Prepare Intercity Bus Application Package and Guidelines

► Applying for operating assistance

- Detailed service description/design
- Marketing plan
- Annual service, cost and revenue estimates
 - Total Passenger Boardings
 - Total revenue bus-miles
 - Number/type vehicles to be utilized
 - Subsidy per passenger
 - Cost recovery ratio
- Fare structure
- Operating budget – years 1 and 2
- Local match confirmation

Application Package (Continued)

▶ **Applying for capital assistance**

- **Vehicle/vehicle related equipment**
 - Describe use of equipment
 - Need determination
 - Vehicle/equipment inventory
 - Maintenance procedures
 - FMCSA compliance
 - Leasing - cost benefit analysis

- **Facility**
 - Project detail
 - Benefits to intercity bus service
 - Evidence of ownership of site/facility
 - Status of environmental determination

Application Package (Continued)

- **Planning request**
 - Study detail and budget
 - Preparation method
- **All capital requests**
 - Public hearing documentation
 - Capital budget

Application Guidelines (Continued)

- **Definition of intercity bus service**
- **Eligible applicants**
- **Funding availability**
- **Matching requirements**
- **Eligible projects**
- **Applicant/ALDOT roles and responsibilities**
- **Federal requirements**
- **Reporting**
- **Marketing**

Facilitate Application Review

▶ Application evaluation criteria

○ Operating assistance

- Overall quality/thoroughness of application, (20 pts.)
- Connection with existing intercity bus network (15 pts.)
- Service for priority/previously abandoned routes (15 pts.)
- Financial solvency of the intercity provider (10 pts.)
- Adequacy of capital, including vehicles and facilities (10 pts.)
- Availability of 50% local match (10 pts.)
- Operator experience (10 pts.)
- Proposed ridership, farebox recovery and sustainability (10 pts.)

Facilitate Application Review (Continued)

- **Capital assistance (vehicles/related equipment)**
 - Overall quality/thoroughness of application (20 pts.)
 - Connection with existing intercity bus network (20 pts.)
 - Ability of the vehicle/equipment to improve Alabama intercity bus service (20 pts.)
 - Availability of 20% local match, if applicable (10 pts.)
 - Meeting overall intercity program objectives (10 pts.)
 - Need and proposed effectiveness of vehicle/equipment (10 pts.)
 - Maintenance capability of provider (10 pts.)

Facilitate Application Review (Continued)

- **Facilities – New Construction and Expansion/Renovation**
 - Existing facility condition/status (20 pts.)
 - Management capability of provider (20 pts.)
 - Regional coordination efforts/consistency with regional coordination plan (15 pts.)
 - Costs vs. benefits of proposed facility (15 pts.)
 - Anticipated provider growth (10 points)
 - Provider operational status/performance (10 pts.)
 - Compliance with Federal/state regulations (5 pts.)
 - Environmental/air quality concerns addressed (5 pts.)

Facilitate Application Review (Continued)

- ▶ Prepared application evaluation form and checklist**
- ▶ Led ALDOT staff through review**
- ▶ Provided detailed written evaluation of each application**
- ▶ Resulted in project selection list implemented by ALDOT**

Develop Performance Measurements

- ▶ **Reporting requirements to enable measurement of performance**

- ▶ **Performance measurements**
 - **Cost per passenger**
 - **Subsidy per passenger**
 - **Passengers per mile**
 - **Cost per revenue mile**
 - **Cost recovery ratio**
 - **Load factor**
 - **Number road calls**

- ▶ **Consequences of possible low ridership and higher expenses**

Prepare Mid-Size Coach Specifications

- ▶ **Approximately 35 ft.**
- ▶ **39 passenger capacity**
- ▶ **Under-floor luggage compartment**
- ▶ **Wheelchair lift**
- ▶ **Restroom**
- ▶ **Suitable for rural intercity operations**
- ▶ **RFP recently issued**

Questions???

Charles Glover, Senior Associate

RLS & Associates, Inc.

919-233-1552 (office)

919-971-5668 (mobile)

cglover2@nc.rr.com