ACRP Problem Statement: 15-03-02

The Basics of the Airport Block Grant Program

Recommended Funding Amount: --

ACRP Staff Comments

The proposed research is similar to 15-03-01. There are currently 10 block grant states.

TRB Aviation Group Committee Comments

AVIATION SYSTEM PLANNING: To do an assessment of the Airport Block Grant Program, a comparative assessment of non-block grant states would need to be conducted in addition to evaluations of states already in the program. The pro's/con's of being in/out of the program, as well as the political implications required to transition into a block grant state, should also be highlighted.

Review Panel Comments

Not recommended. The anticipated audience is limited (10 block grant states). The information is available and explained already (e.g., at conferences), so the proposed research may not add to the existing body of knowledge. FAA is currently undertaking a review of their block grant program and AC guidance.

New Hampshire DOT Department of Transportation

FY 2015 ACRP PROBLEM STATEMENT

1. **Problem Statement Title**:

The Basics of the Airport Block Grant Program.

2. Background:

Nationally, states in the FAA's Airport Block Grant Program have a few basic requirements in accordance with 14 CFR Part 156 that they must follow, but they are generally given significant leeway in implementing the rest of the program. There are costs and benefits to each state's method of program implementation, however, there is no comprehensive public reference to help airports, states, and the FAA better understand these options. One of the advantages the program confers onto each block grant state is the flexibility to implement the program in the best, most efficient way for their particular state. A comprehensive document of how this flexibility is being implemented across the nation could help improve the value of services offered by states under the program to each of its airports and help encourage other states to petition FAA to increase the program to more than the current 10 states.

3. Objective:

A comprehensive report offering compiled research and case studies on the following:
*   FAA vs. state policies
*   FAA responsibilities vs. state responsibilities
*   Program reporting needs
*   Communication opportunities
*   Required program elements (14 CFR Part 156)
*   Project management and oversight options
*   State staffing levels
*   Compensation for program administration efforts

4. Proposed Tasks:

Review of Airport Block Grant Program state's websites, FAA program analyses, and interviews with representatives of existing program states and FAA subject matter experts. A comparison to other federal block grant programs might be helpful to learn about other program opportunities not currently being implemented for airports.

5. Estimated Funding: Estimated at $250,000.

6. Estimated Research Duration: Estimated at 15 months.

7. Related Research:
*   *Report to Congress, State Block Grant Program*, USDOT/FAA, May 1992
*   *State Block Grant Program Handbook*, NASAO, March 2009
*   *FAA State Block Grant Review*, Delta Airport Consultants, Inc., 2012-2013
*   14 CFR Part 156

8. Process Used to Develop Problem Statement: Product of comments gathered over several years by the organization.

9. Person Submitting Problem Statement and Date: Date of Submission: Jan. 9, 2014
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