

**Tulare County Regional Transit Agency**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**AGENDA**  
**February 8, 2023**  
**6:00 pm**  
**Tulare County Regional Transit Agency**  
**210 N. Church Street, Suite B**  
**Visalia, CA 93291**

NOTE: This meeting will allow Board Members and the public to participate in the meeting via Teleconference, pursuant to Assembly Bill 361, available at:

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202120220AB361](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB361)

**Zoom Meeting | Direct Link:** <https://bit.ly/2Zt4BQY>

**Toll Free Call in:** (888) 475-4499 | **Meeting ID:** 744 710 0343 | **Passcode:** 82243742

**Call in only instructions:** Enter your meeting ID followed by #, Enter # for participant ID, Enter the passcode followed by #.

*In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the California Ralph M. Brown Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, including auxiliary aids, translation requests, or other accommodations, or to be able to access this agenda and documents in the agenda packet, please contact the Tulare County Association of Governments ("TCAG") office at 559-623-0450 at least 3 days prior to the meeting. Any staff reports and supporting materials provided to the Board after the distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection at the TCAG office.*

- I. CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME, AND ROLL CALL**
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC**  
**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

At this time, members of the public may comment on any item of interest to the public and within the subject matter jurisdiction of TCRTA but not appearing on this agenda. Under state law, matters presented under this item cannot be discussed or acted upon by the Board at this time. For items appearing on the agenda, the public is invited to make comments at the time the item comes up for Board consideration. Any person addressing the Board will be limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes so that all interested parties have an opportunity to speak with a total of fifteen (15) minutes allotted for the Public Comment Period. Speakers are requested to state their name(s) and address(es) for the record.

**IV. REPORTS:**

This is the time for all committee reports; executive committee reports; and staff informational items:

- A. Safety Committee (None)
- B. Sustainability Committee (None)

**V. PRESENTATIONS:**

- A. None

**VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

- A. None

**VII. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:**

All Consent Calendar Items are considered routine and will be enacted in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these matters unless a request is made, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Calendar. All items removed from the Consent Calendar for further discussion will be heard at the end of Action and Information Items.

**Request Approval of the Consent Calendar Items VII-A.**

- A. Reaffirm Conditions of SB 361 To Continue Remote Attendance (Page 01)

**VIII. DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS:**

- A. Select Director(s) to Attend CALACT Spring Conference (Page 03)
- B. Letter of Commitment for DOT's Thriving Communities Program (Pages 05-09)
- C. Resolution 2023-01 Authorizing Resolution for FTA Section 5311f Application (Pages 11-13)
- D. Federal Fiscal Year 2023 Certifications and Assurances for Federal Transit Administration Assistance Programs (Pages 15-37)
- E. DISCUSSION - Consideration to Amend Joint Powers Agreement and Bylaws to Include Student Transportation (Pages 39-40)

**IX. OTHER BUSINESS:**

- A. Director's Report
- B. Request from Board Members for Future Agenda Items

**X. CLOSED SESSION ITEMS:**

It is the intention of the Board of Directors to meet in closed session concerning:

- A. None

**XI. ADJOURN:**

The next scheduled Tulare County Regional Transit Agency (TCRTA) Board meeting date will be **February 22, 2023, and will take place at 6:00 pm** at the Tulare County Regional Transit Agency (TCRTA), 210 N. Church Street, Suite B, Sequoia Conference Room, Visalia, CA 93291.

## **TULARE COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSIT AGENCY**

<b>BOARD OF DIRECTORS</b>	<b>ALTERNATE</b>	<b>AGENCY</b>
Kuldip Thusu	Vacant	City of Dinuba
Vicki Riddle	Frankie Alves	City of Exeter
Greg Gomez – Vice Chair	Tina Hernandez	City of Farmersville
Hipolito Cerros	Rosaena Sanchez	City of Lindsay
Donald Weyhrauch	Raymond Beltran	City of Porterville
Jose Sigala – Chair	Terry Sayre	City of Tulare
Rudy Mendoza	Jose Martinez	City of Woodlake
Eddie Valero	Amy Shuklian	County of Tulare
Vacant	Vacant	Tule River Tribe of California

### **EX OFFICIO MEMBERS**

Georgina Landecho, CalVans  
Kellie Carrillo, TCAG Public Transit Representative

### **TCRTA STAFF**

Rich Tree, TCRTA Executive Director  
Albert Barragan, TCRTA Transit Manager  
Vacant, TCRTA Finance Manager  
Teresa Ortega, TCRTA Transit Analyst  
Jennie Miller, TCRTA Transit Analyst  
Clayton Landis, TCRTA Transit Analyst  
Olivia Forte, TCRTA Transit Coordinator  
\*Patrick Beck, County Counsel  
\*Leslie Davis, TCAG Finance Director (TCAG)  
\*Servando Quintanilla Jr., TCAG Analyst I (TCAG)

\*TCRTA is receiving support from the Tulare County Association of Governments and  
County of Tulare

TCRTA  
210 N. Church Street, Suite B  
Visalia, CA 93291  
Phone: (559) 623-0450  
Fax: (559) 733-6720  
[www.tularecog.org](http://www.tularecog.org)

# Tulare County Regional Transit Agency

## **AGENDA ITEM VII-A**

**February 8, 2023**

**Prepared by Richard Tree, Executive Director**

### **SUBJECT:**

**Action:** Reaffirm Conditions Of State Assembly Bill 361 To Continue Remote Attendance

### **BACKGROUND:**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor suspended part of the Brown Act concerning the requirements for allowing Governing Board members to remotely participate in Board meetings. The suspended provisions require that 1) Governing Board meeting agendas allowing remote Board Member participation list each of the specific locations from which Board members will be remotely participating, 2) such agendas be posted at each such location, and 3) members of the public must be allowed to remotely participate in the meeting from each of the listed locations. The suspension was done to promote social distancing and so to help limit the spread of COVID-19.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The Governor's suspension of these Brown Act provisions expired as of September 30, 2021 and was replaced by State Assembly Bill (AB) 361, an urgency statute that became effective as of September 30, 2021. Under AB 361, Governing Boards can continue to allow remote Board members participation in Brown Act public meetings if several conditions are met:

1. The meeting is held during a declared State of Emergency (Like the Governor's COVID-19 pandemic State of Emergency that's still in effect in California);
2. The Governing Board adopts findings to the effect that allowing remote meeting participation by Governing Board members promotes social distancing, which in turn helps prevent the spread of COVID-19;
3. The Governing Board confirms these conditions continue to be met every 30 days.

The Tulare County Regional Transit Agency Board of Directors passed a resolution adopting a policy of remote attendance pursuant to AB 361 on October 18, 2021.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Tulare County Regional Transit Agency Board of Directors reaffirm Resolution No. 2021-11 to continue to participate in its governing board meetings remotely by the teleconferencing provisions of AB 361.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

None

### **ATTACHMENT:**

None

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## Tulare County Regional Transit Agency

### **AGENDA ITEM VIII-A**

**February 8, 2023**

**Prepared by Jennie Miller, TCRTA Staff**

#### **SUBJECT:**

**Action:** Selection of Director(s) to Attend CALACT Spring Conference & Expo

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The California Association for Coordinated Transportation (CALACT) will be having its 2023 Spring Conference & Expo on April 17-20, at the Lake Tahoe/Truckee Resort at Squaw Creek.

CALACT, of which TCRTA is a member, hosts two statewide transit conferences each year. A typical conference agenda focuses on legislative initiatives, creating and sustaining public transportation, zero-emission planning, state and federal funding, and regulatory requirements. This year's Spring Conference will focus on the evolution of transit in California, and how providers are redefining how we move communities. Most transit agencies attend these conferences each year to network and obtain continuing education.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

Staff is recommending that up to three Directors be selected to attend the 2023 Spring Conference & Expo, with Staff, to represent TCRTA and learn more about various topics affecting public transportation today.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Tulare County Regional Transit Agency Board of Directors:

1. Select and authorize up to three Directors to attend the 2023 CALACT Spring Conference & Expo.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The estimated expense for a Director to attend the 2023 Spring Conference & Expo is \$585, for a total of \$1,755 for three Directors.

#### **ATTACHMENT:**

None

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## Tulare County Regional Transit Agency

### **AGENDA ITEM VIII-B**

**February 8, 2023**

**Prepared by Richard Tree, TCRTA Staff**

### **SUBJECT:**

**Action:** Letter of Commitment for DOT's Thriving Communities Program

### **BACKGROUND:**

Funded with \$25 million through the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022, the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) new Thriving Communities Program (TCP) aims to ensure that disadvantaged communities adversely or disproportionately affected by environmental, climate, and human health policy outcomes have the technical tools and organizational capacity to compete for federal aid and deliver quality infrastructure projects that enable their communities and neighborhoods to thrive.

TCP facilitates the planning and development of transportation and community revitalization activities and provides tools to ensure that under-resourced communities can access the historic funding provided in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

The Thriving Communities Program will be administered by the Build America Bureau as part of its broader efforts to provide technical assistance to communities.

The Thriving Communities Program is part of the larger Federal Thriving Communities Initiative. Through this Initiative, DOT is coordinating with other federal agency partners to form the Thriving Communities Network and is partnering with philanthropy to ensure that all communities can access federal resources and implement programs that help them thrive.

For fiscal year (FY) 2022 funding, the Thriving Communities Program offered two separate response opportunities for potential applicants: a Letter of Interest and a Notice of Funding Opportunity. The Letter of Interest opportunity closed on December 6, 2022, and the Notice of Funding Opportunity closed on November 29, 2022.

Cooperative agreements between \$3.5 million and \$6 million will be awarded to up to six capacity building teams.

### **DISCUSSION:**

On December 2, 2022, in collaboration with the City of Porterville and the Tule River Tribe of California, TCRTA submitted a Letter of Interest to receive technical assistance to improve mobility, expand affordable transportation options, preserve and expand jobs, improve housing conditions, enhance connections to health care, education, and food security, and Reduce pollution from transportation sources.

On February 1, 2022, staff received notice that TCRTA had been selected by the US Department of Transportation as a finalist in the 2022 Thriving Communities Program. As a finalist, USDOT requests a letter of commitment from TCRTA (lead applicant) and

As the lead applicant, TCRTA is responsible for submitting letters of commitment and from both key partner organizations. Each letter of commitment must be signed by the organization's senior executive, top elected official, or the equivalent person with responsibility for committing the organization.

The purpose of letters of commitment is to ensure that the lead applicant and partner organizations representing the communities selected to receive technical assistance through the program are aware of and committed to their roles and responsibilities to participate in the TCP.

Letters of Commitment must be submitted by February 15, 2023. Failure to submit the letters of commitment by the stated deadline may result in the disqualification of TCRTA's application.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Tulare County Regional Transit Agency Board of Directors:

1. Authorize the Board Chair to execute the draft Letter of Commitment; and
2. Authorize staff to submit the Letter of Commitment from TCRTA and each Community Partner.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no financial responsibility to participate in the Thriving Communities Program.

### **ATTACHMENT:**


1. DOT Email Correspondence
2. Draft Letter of Commitment

## IMPORTANT: Request for Thriving Communities Program Letters of Commitment by February 15

ThrivingCommunities <ThrivingCommunities@dot.gov>

Wed 2/1/2023 5:58 AM

To: Rich Tree <rtree@tularecag.ca.gov>

 2 attachments (47 KB)

TCP Letter of Commitment Template\_Lead Applicant.docx; TCP Letter of Commitment Template\_Community Partner.docx;

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### This Message Is From an External Sender

This message came from outside your organization.

**FEBRUARY 1, 2023**

Dear Richard Tree,

This email is notification that your organization, Tulare County Regional Transit Agency, based on the submitted Letter of Interest (LOI), has been selected by the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) as a finalist in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Thriving Communities Program (TCP). Receipt of this letter does not mean your organization has been selected for participation. USDOT has not made any final selection

lead applicant) and from each of the two key community partner organizations identified in your LOI submission: Tule River Tribe of California and City of Porterville.

As the lead applicant, you are responsible for submitting letters of commitment from your organization and from both key partner organizations. You are welcome to submit all three letters together in one package, or the letters can be submitted individually. However, you are responsible for ensuring that all letters are received by the required deadline. Letters should be no longer than three pages each, and TCP recommends letters be submitted as PDF files.

Your letter of commitment must be signed by your organization's senior executive. The community partner organizations' letters of commitment must be signed by each organization's executive director, top elected official, or the equivalent person with responsibility for committing the organization (see section E.1 and F.1 in the [TCP Call for LOIs](#) regarding the letter of commitment requirement).

The purpose of letters of commitment is to ensure that the lead applicant and partner organizations representing the communities selected to receive technical assistance through the program are aware of and committed to their roles and responsibilities to participate in the TCP.

**Submit letters of commitment from the lead applicant and from the two key community partner organizations via email to [ThrivingCommunities@dot.gov](mailto:ThrivingCommunities@dot.gov) with the subject: "[Lead applicant name] TCP Letters of Commitment" by 11:59 p.m. EST on February 15, 2023.** Failure to submit the letters of commitment by the stated deadline may result in the disqualification of your application. The Department will consider late arriving letters of commitment only to the extent practicable.

Attached are sample letter of commitment templates that can be used by you and your community partners. You are not required to use these templates, but letters of commitment must have all the required information outlined in Section F.1 of the Call for LOIs. For questions about this requirement, please contact us at [ThrivingCommunities@dot.gov](mailto:ThrivingCommunities@dot.gov)

Sincerely,

The USDOT Thriving Communities Team



Tulare County Regional Transit Agency  
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[www.tularecog.org](http://www.tularecog.org)

February 8, 2023

Tulare County Regional Transit Agency  
210 N. Church St., Suite B  
Visalia, CA 93291

SUBJECT: Thriving Communities Program Letter of Commitment

My organization, Tulare County Regional Transit Agency, submitted a Letter of Interest to the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) to participate in the Fiscal Year 2022 Thriving Communities Program (TCP) to receive technical assistance, planning, and capacity building support from capacity building providers ("Capacity Builders") that are funded through the USDOT.

This letter of commitment verifies that my organization is committed to working with the community partners identified in our TCP Letter of Interest (LOI) to advance the local vision and needs we articulated in our LOI.

Per Section F of the Call for LOIs, my organization commits to providing staff resources over the two-year TCP period of performance to enable our engagement and support coordination with our community partners and the DOT-funded Capacity Builder; and to meeting other program commitments.

This includes to:

- Coordinate with the assigned Capacity Builder and engage in the TCP Community of Practice.
- Coordinate with and meaningfully engage with community partners (both those identified in the LOI and additional partners that may be useful to engage in the work supported through this program) and with other staff or departments in the lead applicant agency.
- Participate in program evaluations undertaken by USDOT and/or by the Capacity Builders funded through this program. The evaluation may include an implementation assessment to help identify outstanding technical assistance needs, lessons learned from effective delivery models, and progress toward programmatic and community-identified goals. USDOT anticipates that community recipients should spend no more than three hours annually providing qualitative and quantitative input to meet these annual evaluation reporting requirements.
- Coordinate participation and engage in annual TCP meetings with Capacity Builders and USDOT, noting that funding is provided through the program to support participation of three individuals in total from my organization and the community partner organizations.

If selected, my organization will coordinate with the assigned TCP Capacity Builder to develop and co-sign with them a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that describes the technical assistance, planning, and capacity building to be provided through this program for the two-year period of performance. The Capacity Builder is responsible for coordinating the MOA and providing it to USDOT.



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The MOA will delineate the implementation roles and responsibilities of respective organizations (including the partner organizations), anticipated timelines, deliverables, and other items that both parties feel are relevant.

We look forward to participating in the TCP to build local capacity in our organization and community to advance transformative infrastructure projects.

Sincerely,

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(Signature)

Jose Sigala, Board Chair  
Tulare County Regional Transit Agency

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## Tulare County Regional Transit Agency

### **AGENDA ITEM VIII-C**

**February 8, 2023**

**Prepared by Teresa Ortega, TCRTA Staff**

#### **SUBJECT:**

**Action:** Approve Resolution 2023-01 for FTA Section 5311(f) Application

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The Formula Grants for Rural Areas program provides capital, planning, and operating assistance to states to support public transportation in rural areas with populations of less than 50,000, where many residents often rely on public transit to reach their destinations. The program also provides funding for state and national training and technical assistance through the Rural Transportation Assistance Program.

Eligible recipients include states and federally recognized Indian Tribes. Subrecipients may include state or local government authorities, nonprofit organizations, and operators of public transportation or intercity bus service. Eligible activities include planning, capital, operating, job access and reverse commute projects, and the acquisition of public transportation services.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

TCRTA staff would like to apply for these competitive funds to assist with the reimplementation of the Tule River Tribe of California Tribal Transit Program. Operational funds will provide additional service to tribal residents within the Reservation to access to jobs, healthcare, special needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities, and recreational activities.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Tulare County Regional Transit Agency Board of Directors approve Authorizing Resolution 2023-01 authorizing staff to submit an FTA Section 5311(f) application.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The federal share is 80 percent for capital projects, 50 percent for operating assistance, and 80 percent for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) non-fixed route paratransit service.

#### **ATTACHMENT:**

1. Draft Resolution 2023-01

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-01**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FEDERAL FUNDING UNDER FTA SECTION 5311 (49 U.S.C. SECTION 5311) WITH CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**WHEREAS**, the U. S. Department of Transportation is authorized to make grants to states through the Federal Transit Administration to support capital/operating assistance projects for non-urbanized public transportation systems under Section 5311 of the Federal Transit Act (**FTA C 9040.1G**); and

**WHEREAS**, the California Department of Transportation (Department) has been designated by the Governor of the State of California to administer Section 5311 grants for transportation projects for the general public for the rural transit and intercity bus; and

**WHEREAS**, Tulare County Regional Transit Agency (TCRTA) desires to apply for said financial assistance to permit operation of service/purchase of capital equipment in Tulare, Kern, and Fresno, and

**WHEREAS**, the TCRTA has, to the maximum extent feasible, coordinated with other transportation providers and users in the region (including social service agencies).

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED** that the **TCRTA Board of Directors** does hereby Authorize the Executive Director, to file and execute applications on behalf of with the Department to aid in the financing of capital/operating assistance projects pursuant to Section 5311 of the Federal Transit Act (**FTA C 9040.1G**), as amended.

That Executive Director is authorized to execute and file all certification of assurances, contracts or agreements or any other document required by the Department.

That Executive Director is authorized to provide additional information as the Department may require in connection with the application for the Section 5311 projects.

That Executive Director is authorized to submit and approve request for reimbursement of funds from the Department for the Section 5311 project(s).

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this **8<sup>th</sup> day of February 2023** by the Board of Directors of the Tulare County Regional Transit Agency.



**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-01**

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION was passed and adopted by the Board of Directors of the Tulare County Regional Transit Agency at a regular meeting thereof held on the **8th day of February 2023**.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

SIGNED:

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Jose Sigala, Board Chair

ATTEST:

Richard Tree, Executive Director

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## Tulare County Regional Transit Agency

### **AGENDA ITEM VIII-D**

**February 8, 2023**

**Prepared by Richard Tree, TCRTA Staff**

#### **SUBJECT:**

**Action:** Approve Federal Fiscal Year 2023 Certifications and Assurances for Federal Transit Administration Assistance Programs

#### **DISCUSSION:**

The Tulare County Regional Transit Agency is recognized as a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grantee for operating and capital financial assistance. A requirement of the grant approval process includes submittal of Certifications and Assurances for FTA verification of compliance.

The Certifications and Assurances cover multiple compliance areas, such as: conformity with Federal regulations, Civil Rights, Procurement, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Drug and Alcohol Testing requirements.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

For Federal Fiscal Year 2023, the Certifications and Assurances highlight the role safety committees and frontline worker representatives play in developing a Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP). Of particular note, an applicant applying for assistance under 49 U.S.C. § 5307 that serves an urbanized area with a population of 200,000 or more must be able to certify that the safety committee of the entity, followed by the board of directors (or equivalent entity) of the applicant, has approved the PTASP and any updates. In addition, each applicant serving an urbanized area with a population of fewer than 200,000 must certify that it has developed the PTASP in cooperation with frontline employee representatives.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Tulare County Regional Transit Agency Board of Directors:

1. Authorize the Executive Director to execute the Federal Fiscal Year 2023 Certifications and Assurances for Federal Transit Administration Assistance Programs/Affirmation of Applicant; and
2. File grant application(s) on behalf of the Agency; and
3. Execute a grant agreement(s); and
4. In concurrence with and execution of the Affirmation of Applicant's Attorney Certification by County Counsel.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

Failure to approve FTA Certifications and Assurances will result in FTA's withholding of any future federal financial assistance.

#### **ATTACHMENT:**

1. FY 2023 FTA Certifications and Assurances

*Not every provision of every certification will apply to every applicant or award. If a provision of a certification does not apply to the applicant or its award, FTA will not enforce that provision.*

*Text in italic is guidance to the public. It does not have the force and effect of law, and is not meant to bind the public in any way. It is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.*

## **CATEGORY 1. CERTIFICATIONS AND ASSURANCES REQUIRED OF EVERY APPLICANT.**

*All applicants must make the certifications in this category.*

### **1.1. Standard Assurances.**

*The certifications in this subcategory appear as part of the applicant's registration or annual registration renewal in the System for Award Management (SAM.gov) and on the Office of Management and Budget's standard form 424B "Assurances—Non-Construction Programs". This certification has been modified in places to include analogous certifications required by U.S. DOT statutes or regulations.*

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, you certify that the applicant:

- (a) Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project cost) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of the project described in this application.
- (b) Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States and, if appropriate, the State, through any authorized representative, access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the award; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.
- (c) Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.
- (d) Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.
- (e) Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§ 4728–4763) relating to prescribed standards for merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 CFR 900, Subpart F).

- (f) Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination. These include but are not limited to:
- (1) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin, as effectuated by U.S. DOT regulation 49 CFR Part 21;
  - (2) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. §§ 1681–1683, and 1685–1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, as effectuated by U.S. DOT regulation 49 CFR Part 25;
  - (3) Section 5332 of the Federal Transit Law (49 U.S.C. § 5332), which prohibits any person being excluded from participating in, denied a benefit of, or discriminated against under, a project, program, or activity receiving financial assistance from FTA because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, or age.
  - (4) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. § 794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps, as effectuated by U.S. DOT regulation 49 CFR Part 27;
  - (5) The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§ 6101–6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age;
  - (6) The Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse;
  - (7) The comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91–616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism;
  - (8) Sections 523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. §§ 290 dd-3 and 290 ee-3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records;
  - (9) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§ 3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental, or financing of housing;
  - (10) Any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and,
  - (11) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.
- (g) Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (“Uniform Act”) (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal or federally-assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases. The requirements of the Uniform Act are effectuated by U.S. DOT regulation 49 CFR Part 24.

- (h) Will comply, as applicable, with provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§ 1501–1508 and 7324–7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.
- (i) Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis–Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§ 276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. § 276c and 18 U.S.C. § 874), and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§ 327–333), regarding labor standards for federally assisted construction subagreements.
- (j) Will comply, if applicable, with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is \$10,000 or more.
- (k) Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following:
  - (1) Institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514;
  - (2) Notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738;
  - (3) Protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990;
  - (5) Assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§ 1451 et seq.);
  - (6) Conformity of Federal actions to State (Clean Air) Implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§ 7401 et seq.);
  - (7) Protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 93-523); and
  - (8) Protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (P.L. 93–205).
- (l) Will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. § 1271 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.
- (m) Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. § 470), EO 11593 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. §§ 469a-1 et seq.).
- (n) Will comply with P.L. 93-348 regarding the protection of human subjects involved in research, development, and related activities supported by this award of assistance.
- (o) Will comply with the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-544, as amended, 7 U.S.C. §§ 2131 et seq.) pertaining to the care, handling, and treatment of warm blooded

animals held for research, teaching, or other activities supported by this award of assistance.

- (p) Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead-based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.
- (q) Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart F, “Audit Requirements”, as adopted and implemented by U.S. DOT at 2 CFR Part 1201.
- (r) Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies governing the program under which it is applying for assistance.
- (s) Will comply with the requirements of Section 106(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, as amended (22 U.S.C. § 7104) which prohibits grant award recipients or a subrecipient from:
  - (1) Engaging in severe forms of trafficking in persons during the period of time that the award is in effect;
  - (2) Procuring a commercial sex act during the period of time that the award is in effect; or
  - (3) Using forced labor in the performance of the award or subawards under the award.

## 1.2. Standard Assurances: Additional Assurances for Construction Projects.

*This certification appears on the Office of Management and Budget’s standard form 424D “Assurances—Construction Programs” and applies specifically to federally assisted projects for construction. This certification has been modified in places to include analogous certifications required by U.S. DOT statutes or regulations.*

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, you certify that the applicant:

- (a) Will not dispose of, modify the use of, or change the terms of the real property title or other interest in the site and facilities without permission and instructions from the awarding agency; will record the Federal awarding agency directives; and will include a covenant in the title of real property acquired in whole or in part with Federal assistance funds to assure nondiscrimination during the useful life of the project.
- (c) Will provide and maintain competent and adequate engineering supervision at the construction site to ensure that the complete work conforms with the approved plans and specifications, and will furnish progressive reports and such other information as may be required by the assistance awarding agency or State.

**1.3. Procurement.**

*The Uniform Administrative Requirements, 2 CFR § 200.325, allow a recipient to self-certify that its procurement system complies with Federal requirements, in lieu of submitting to certain pre-procurement reviews.*

The applicant certifies that its procurement system complies with:

- (a) U.S. DOT regulations, “Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards,” 2 CFR Part 1201, which incorporates by reference U.S. OMB regulatory guidance, “Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards,” 2 CFR Part 200, particularly 2 CFR §§ 200.317–200.327 “Procurement Standards;
- (b) Federal laws, regulations, and requirements applicable to FTA procurements; and
- (c) The latest edition of FTA Circular 4220.1 and other applicable Federal guidance.

**1.4. Suspension and Debarment.**

*Pursuant to Executive Order 12549, as implemented at 2 CFR Parts 180 and 1200, prior to entering into a covered transaction with an applicant, FTA must determine whether the applicant is excluded from participating in covered non-procurement transactions. For this purpose, FTA is authorized to collect a certification from each applicant regarding the applicant’s exclusion status. 2 CFR § 180.300. Additionally, each applicant must disclose any information required by 2 CFR § 180.335 about the applicant and the applicant’s principals prior to entering into an award agreement with FTA. This certification serves both purposes.*

The applicant certifies, to the best of its knowledge and belief, that the applicant and each of its principals:

- (a) Is not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily or involuntarily excluded from covered transactions by any Federal department or agency;
- (b) Has not, within the preceding three years, been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against him or her for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public or private agreement or transaction; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes, including those proscribing price fixing between competitors, allocation of customers between competitors, and bid rigging; commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, tax evasion, receiving stolen property, making false claims, or obstruction of justice; or commission of any other offense indicating a lack of business integrity or business honesty;



- (c) Is not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (Federal, State, or local) with commission of any offense described in paragraph (b) of this certification;
- (d) Has not, within the preceding three years, had one or more public transactions (Federal, State, or local) terminated for cause or default.

**1.5. Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021, and CARES Act Funding.**

The applicant certifies:

- (a) To the maximum extent possible, funds made available under title IV of division M of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260), and in title XII of division B of the CARES Act (Public Law 116–136; 134 Stat. 599) shall be directed to payroll and operations of public transit (including payroll and expenses of private providers of public transportation); or
- (b) The applicant certifies that the applicant has not furloughed any employees.

**1.6. American Rescue Plan Act Funding.**

The applicant certifies:

- (a) Funds made available by Section 3401(a)(2)(A) of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-2) shall be directed to payroll and operations of public transportation (including payroll and expenses of private providers of public transportation); or
- (b) The applicant certifies that the applicant has not furloughed any employees.

**CATEGORY 2. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AGENCY SAFETY PLANS**

*This certification is required of each applicant under the Urbanized Area Formula Grants Program (49 U.S.C. § 5307), each rail operator that is subject to FTA’s state safety oversight programs, and each State that is required to draft and certify a Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan on behalf of a Small Public Transportation Provider (as that term is defined at 49 CFR § 673.5) pursuant to 49 CFR § 673.11(d).*

*This certification is required by 49 U.S.C. § 5307(c)(1)(L), 49 U.S.C. § 5329(d)(1), and 49 CFR § 673.13. This certification is a condition of receipt of Urbanized Area Formula Grants Program (49 U.S.C. § 5307) funding.*

*§ 5310), the Formula Grants for Rural Areas Program (49 U.S.C. § 5311), or combination of these two programs, unless it operates a rail fixed guideway public transportation system.*

If the applicant is an operator, the applicant certifies that it has established a Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan meeting the requirements of 49 U.S.C. § 5329(d)(1) and 49 CFR Part 673; including, specifically, that the board of directors (or equivalent entity) of the applicant has approved, or, in the case of an applicant that will apply for assistance under 49 U.S.C. § 5307 that is serving an urbanized area with a population of 200,000 or more, the safety committee of the entity established under 49 U.S.C. § 5329(d)(5), followed by the board of directors (or equivalent entity) of the applicant has approved, the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan or any updates thereto; and, for each recipient serving an urbanized area with a population of fewer than 200,000, that the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan has been developed in cooperation with frontline employee representatives.

If the applicant is a State that drafts and certifies a Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan on behalf of a public transportation operator, the applicant certifies that:

- (a) It has drafted and certified a Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan meeting the requirements of 49 U.S.C. § 5329(d)(1) and 49 CFR Part 673 for each Small Public Transportation Provider (as that term is defined at 49 CFR § 673.5) in the State, unless the Small Public Transportation Provider provided notification to the State that it was opting out of the State-drafted plan and drafting its own Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan; and
- (b) Each Small Public Transportation Provider within the State that opts to use a State-drafted Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan has a plan that has been approved by the provider's Accountable Executive (as that term is defined at 49 CFR § 673.5), Board of Directors or Equivalent Authority (as that term is defined at 49 CFR § 673.5), and, if the Small Public Transportation Provider serves an urbanized area with a population of 200,000 or more, the safety committee of the Small Public Transportation Provider established under 49 U.S.C. § 5329(d)(5).

### **CATEGORY 3. TAX LIABILITY AND FELONY CONVICTIONS.**

*If the applicant is a business association (regardless of for-profit, not for-profit, or tax exempt status), it must make this certification. Federal appropriations acts since at least 2014 have prohibited FTA from using funds to enter into an agreement with any corporation that has unpaid Federal tax liabilities or recent felony convictions without first considering the corporation for debarment. E.g., Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, Pub. L. 117-328, div. E, tit. VII, §§ 744–745. U.S. DOT Order 4200.6 defines a “corporation” as “any private corporation, partnership, trust, joint-stock company, sole proprietorship, or other business association”, and applies the restriction to all tiers of subawards. As prescribed by U.S. DOT*

*Order 4200.6, FTA requires each business association applicant to certify as to its tax and felony status.*

If the applicant is a private corporation, partnership, trust, joint-stock company, sole proprietorship, or other business association, the applicant certifies that:

- (a) It has no unpaid Federal tax liability that has been assessed, for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed, and that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability; and
- (b) It has not been convicted of a felony criminal violation under any Federal law within the preceding 24 months.

#### **CATEGORY 4. LOBBYING.**

*If the applicant will apply for a grant or cooperative agreement exceeding \$100,000, or a loan, line of credit, loan guarantee, or loan insurance exceeding \$150,000, it must make the following certification and, if applicable, make a disclosure regarding the applicant's lobbying activities. This certification is required by 49 CFR § 20.110 and app. A to that part.*

*This certification does not apply to an applicant that is an Indian Tribe, Indian organization, or an Indian tribal organization exempt from the requirements of 49 CFR Part 20.*

##### **4.1. Certification for Contracts, Grants, Loans, and Cooperative Agreements.**

The undersigned certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

- (a) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of an agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.
- (b) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.
- (c) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and

contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

#### **4.2. Statement for Loan Guarantees and Loan Insurance.**

The undersigned states, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

If any funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.

Submission of this statement is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required statement shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

### **CATEGORY 5. PRIVATE SECTOR PROTECTIONS.**

*If the applicant will apply for funds that it will use to acquire or operate public transportation facilities or equipment, the applicant must make the following certification regarding protections for the private sector.*

#### **5.1. Charter Service Agreement.**

*To enforce the provisions of 49 U.S.C. § 5323(d), FTA's charter service regulation requires each applicant seeking assistance from FTA for the purpose of acquiring or operating any public transportation equipment or facilities to make the following Charter Service Agreement. 49 CFR § 604.4.*

The applicant agrees that it, and each of its subrecipients, and third party contractors at any level who use FTA-funded vehicles, may provide charter service using equipment or facilities acquired with Federal assistance authorized under the Federal Transit Laws only in compliance with the regulations set out in 49 CFR Part 604, the terms and conditions of which are incorporated herein by reference.

**5.2. School Bus Agreement.**

*To enforce the provisions of 49 U.S.C. § 5323(f), FTA's school bus regulation requires each applicant seeking assistance from FTA for the purpose of acquiring or operating any public transportation equipment or facilities to make the following agreement regarding the provision of school bus services. 49 CFR § 605.15.*

- (a) If the applicant is not authorized by the FTA Administrator under 49 CFR § 605.11 to engage in school bus operations, the applicant agrees and certifies as follows:
  - (1) The applicant and any operator of project equipment agrees that it will not engage in school bus operations in competition with private school bus operators.
  - (2) The applicant agrees that it will not engage in any practice which constitutes a means of avoiding the requirements of this agreement, part 605 of the Federal Mass Transit Regulations, or section 164(b) of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1973 (49 U.S.C. 1602a(b)).
- (b) If the applicant is authorized or obtains authorization from the FTA Administrator to engage in school bus operations under 49 CFR § 605.11, the applicant agrees as follows:
  - (1) The applicant agrees that neither it nor any operator of project equipment will engage in school bus operations in competition with private school bus operators except as provided herein.
  - (2) The applicant, or any operator of project equipment, agrees to promptly notify the FTA Administrator of any changes in its operations which might jeopardize the continuation of an exemption under § 605.11.
  - (3) The applicant agrees that it will not engage in any practice which constitutes a means of avoiding the requirements of this agreement, part 605 of the Federal Transit Administration regulations or section 164(b) of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1973 (49 U.S.C. 1602a(b)).
  - (4) The applicant agrees that the project facilities and equipment shall be used for the provision of mass transportation services within its urban area and that any other use of project facilities and equipment will be incidental to and shall not interfere with the use of such facilities and equipment in mass transportation service to the public.

*If the applicant owns, operates, or manages capital assets used to provide public transportation, the following certification is required by 49 U.S.C. § 5326(a).*

The applicant certifies that it is in compliance with 49 CFR Part 625.

**CATEGORY 7. ROLLING STOCK BUY AMERICA REVIEWS AND BUS TESTING.****7.1. Rolling Stock Buy America Reviews.**

*If the applicant will apply for an award to acquire rolling stock for use in revenue service, it must make this certification. This certification is required by 49 CFR § 663.7.*

The applicant certifies that it will conduct or cause to be conducted the pre-award and post-delivery audits prescribed by 49 CFR Part 663 and will maintain on file the certifications required by Subparts B, C, and D of 49 CFR Part 663.

**7.2. Bus Testing.**

*If the applicant will apply for funds for the purchase or lease of any new bus model, or any bus model with a major change in configuration or components, the applicant must make this certification. This certification is required by 49 CFR § 665.7.*

The applicant certifies that the bus was tested at the Bus Testing Facility and that the bus received a passing test score as required by 49 CFR Part 665. The applicant has received or will receive the appropriate full Bus Testing Report and any applicable partial testing reports before final acceptance of the first vehicle.

**CATEGORY 8. URBANIZED AREA FORMULA GRANTS PROGRAM.**

*If the applicant will apply for an award under the Urbanized Area Formula Grants Program (49 U.S.C. § 5307), or any other program or award that is subject to the requirements of 49 U.S.C. § 5307, including the Formula Grants for the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors Program (49 U.S.C. § 5310); “flex funds” from infrastructure programs administered by the Federal Highways Administration (see 49 U.S.C. § 5334(i)); projects that will receive an award authorized by the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (“TIFIA”) (23 U.S.C. §§ 601–609) or State Infrastructure Bank Program (23 U.S.C. § 610) (see 49 U.S.C. § 5323(o)); formula awards or competitive awards to urbanized areas under the Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program (49 U.S.C. § 5339(a) and (b)); or low or no emission awards to any area under the Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program (49 U.S.C. § 5339(c)), the applicant must make the following certification. This certification is required by 49 U.S.C. § 5307(c)(1).*

The applicant certifies that it:

- (a) Has or will have the legal, financial, and technical capacity to carry out the program of projects (developed pursuant 49 U.S.C. § 5307(b)), including safety and security aspects of the program;

- (c) Will maintain equipment and facilities in accordance with the applicant's transit asset management plan;
- (d) Will ensure that, during non-peak hours for transportation using or involving a facility or equipment of a project financed under this section, a fare that is not more than 50 percent of the peak hour fare will be charged for any—
  - (1) Senior;
  - (2) Individual who, because of illness, injury, age, congenital malfunction, or any other incapacity or temporary or permanent disability (including an individual who is a wheelchair user or has semi-ambulatory capability), cannot use a public transportation service or a public transportation facility effectively without special facilities, planning, or design; and
  - (3) Individual presenting a Medicare card issued to that individual under title II or XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 401 et seq., and 1395 et seq.);
- (e) In carrying out a procurement under 49 U.S.C. § 5307, will comply with 49 U.S.C. §§ 5323 (general provisions) and 5325 (contract requirements);
- (f) Has complied with 49 U.S.C. § 5307(b) (program of projects requirements);
- (g) Has available and will provide the required amounts as provided by 49 U.S.C. § 5307(d) (cost sharing);
- (h) Will comply with 49 U.S.C. §§ 5303 (metropolitan transportation planning) and 5304 (statewide and nonmetropolitan transportation planning);
- (i) Has a locally developed process to solicit and consider public comment before raising a fare or carrying out a major reduction of transportation;
- (j) Either—
  - (1) Will expend for each fiscal year for public transportation security projects, including increased lighting in or adjacent to a public transportation system (including bus stops, subway stations, parking lots, and garages), increased camera surveillance of an area in or adjacent to that system, providing an emergency telephone line to contact law enforcement or security personnel in an area in or adjacent to that system, and any other project intended to increase the security and safety of an existing or planned public transportation system, at least 1 percent of the amount the recipient receives for each fiscal year under 49 U.S.C. § 5336; or
- (k) In the case of an applicant for an urbanized area with a population of not fewer than 200,000 individuals, as determined by the Bureau of the Census, will submit an annual report listing projects carried out in the preceding fiscal year under 49 U.S.C. § 5307 for associated transit improvements as defined in 49 U.S.C. § 5302; and
- (l) Will comply with 49 U.S.C. § 5329(d) (public transportation agency safety plan).

### **CATEGORY 9. FORMULA GRANTS FOR RURAL AREAS.**

*If the applicant will apply for funds made available to it under the Formula Grants for Rural Areas Program (49 U.S.C. § 5311), it must make this certification. Paragraph (a) of this certification helps FTA make the determinations required by 49 U.S.C. § 5310(b)(2)(C). Paragraph (b) of this certification is required by 49 U.S.C. § 5311(f)(2). Paragraph (c) of this certification, which applies to funds apportioned for the Appalachian Development Public Transportation Assistance Program, is necessary to enforce the conditions of 49 U.S.C. § 5311(c)(2)(D).*

- (a) The applicant certifies that its State program for public transportation service projects, including agreements with private providers for public transportation service—
  - (1) Provides a fair distribution of amounts in the State, including Indian reservations; and
  - (2) Provides the maximum feasible coordination of public transportation service assisted under 49 U.S.C. § 5311 with transportation service assisted by other Federal sources; and
- (b) If the applicant will in any fiscal year expend less than 15% of the total amount made available to it under 49 U.S.C. § 5311 to carry out a program to develop and support intercity bus transportation, the applicant certifies that it has consulted with affected intercity bus service providers, and the intercity bus service needs of the State are being met adequately.
- (c) If the applicant will use for a highway project amounts that cannot be used for operating expenses authorized under 49 U.S.C. § 5311(c)(2) (Appalachian Development Public Transportation Assistance Program), the applicant certifies that—
  - (1) It has approved the use in writing only after providing appropriate notice and an opportunity for comment and appeal to affected public transportation providers; and
  - (2) It has determined that otherwise eligible local transit needs are being addressed.

### **CATEGORY 10. FIXED GUIDEWAY CAPITAL INVESTMENT GRANTS AND THE EXPEDITED PROJECT DELIVERY FOR CAPITAL INVESTMENT GRANTS PILOT PROGRAM.**

*If the applicant will apply for an award under any subsection of the Fixed Guideway Capital Investment Program (49 U.S.C. § 5309), including an award made pursuant to the FAST Act's Expedited Project Delivery for Capital Investment Grants Pilot Program (Pub. L. 114-94, div. A, title III, § 3005(b)), the applicant must make the following certification. This certification is required by 49 U.S.C. § 5309(c)(2) and Pub. L. 114-94, div. A, title III, § 3005(b)(3)(B).*

The applicant certifies that it:



- (a) Has or will have the legal, financial, and technical capacity to carry out its Award, including the safety and security aspects of that Award,
- (b) Has or will have satisfactory continuing control over the use of equipment and facilities acquired or improved under its Award.
- (c) Will maintain equipment and facilities acquired or improved under its Award in accordance with its transit asset management plan; and
- (d) Will comply with 49 U.S.C. §§ 5303 (metropolitan transportation planning) and 5304 (statewide and nonmetropolitan transportation planning).

**CATEGORY 11. GRANTS FOR BUSES AND BUS FACILITIES AND LOW OR NO EMISSION VEHICLE DEPLOYMENT GRANT PROGRAMS.**

*If the applicant is in an urbanized area and will apply for an award under subsection (a) (formula grants), subsection (b) (buses and bus facilities competitive grants), or subsection (c) (low or no emissions grants) of the Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program (49 U.S.C. § 5339), the applicant must make the certification in Category 8 for Urbanized Area Formula Grants (49 U.S.C. § 5307). This certification is required by 49 U.S.C. § 5339(a)(3), (b)(6), and (c)(3), respectively.*

*If the applicant is in a rural area and will apply for an award under subsection (a) (formula grants), subsection (b) (bus and bus facilities competitive grants), or subsection (c) (low or no emissions grants) of the Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program (49 U.S.C. § 5339), the applicant must make the certification in Category 9 for Formula Grants for Rural Areas (49 U.S.C. § 5311). This certification is required by 49 U.S.C. § 5339(a)(3), (b)(6), and (c)(3), respectively.*

*Making this certification will incorporate by reference the applicable certifications in Category 8 or Category 9.*

*If the applicant will receive a competitive award under subsection (b) (buses and bus facilities competitive grants), or subsection (c) (low or no emissions grants) of the Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program (49 U.S.C. § 5339) related to zero emissions vehicles or related infrastructure, it must make the following certification. This certification is required by 49 U.S.C. § 5339(d).*

The applicant will use 5 percent of grants related to zero emissions vehicles (as defined in subsection (c)(1)) or related infrastructure under subsection (b) or (c) to fund workforce development training as described in section 49 U.S.C. § 5314(b)(2) (including registered apprenticeships and other labor-management training programs) under the recipient's plan to address the impact of the transition to zero emission vehicles on the applicant's current workforce; or the applicant certifies a smaller percentage is necessary to carry out that plan.

### **CATEGORY 12. ENHANCED MOBILITY OF SENIORS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES PROGRAMS.**

*If the applicant will apply for an award under the Formula Grants for the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program (49 U.S.C. § 5310), it must make the certification in Category 8 for Urbanized Area Formula Grants (49 U.S.C. § 5307). This certification is required by 49 U.S.C. § 5310(e)(1). Making this certification will incorporate by reference the certification in Category 8, except that FTA has determined that (d), (f), (i), (j), and (k) of Category 8 do not apply to awards made under 49 U.S.C. § 5310 and will not be enforced.*

*In addition to the certification in Category 8, the applicant must make the following certification that is specific to the Formula Grants for the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program. This certification is required by 49 U.S.C. § 5310(e)(2).*

The applicant certifies that:

- (a) The projects selected by the applicant are included in a locally developed, coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan;
- (b) The plan described in clause (a) was developed and approved through a process that included participation by seniors, individuals with disabilities, representatives of public, private, and nonprofit transportation and human services providers, and other members of the public;
- (c) To the maximum extent feasible, the services funded under 49 U.S.C. § 5310 will be coordinated with transportation services assisted by other Federal departments and agencies, including any transportation activities carried out by a recipient of a grant from the Department of Health and Human Services; and
- (d) If the applicant will allocate funds received under 49 U.S.C. § 5310 to subrecipients, it will do so on a fair and equitable basis.

### **CATEGORY 13. STATE OF GOOD REPAIR GRANTS.**

*If the applicant will apply for an award under FTA's State of Good Repair Grants Program (49 U.S.C. § 5337), it must make the following certification. Because FTA generally does not review the transit asset management plans of public transportation providers, the asset management certification is necessary to enforce the provisions of 49 U.S.C. § 5337(a)(4). The certification with regard to acquiring restricted rail rolling stock is required by 49 U.S.C. § 5323(u)(4). Note that this certification is not limited to the use of Federal funds.*

The applicant certifies that the projects it will carry out using assistance authorized by the State of Good Repair Grants Program, 49 U.S.C. § 5337, are aligned with the applicant's most recent transit asset management plan and are identified in the investment and prioritization section of such plan, consistent with the requirements of 49 CFR Part 625.

If the applicant operates a rail fixed guideway service, the applicant certifies that, in the fiscal year for which an award is available to the applicant under the State of Good Repair Grants Program, 49 U.S.C. § 5337, the applicant will not award any contract or subcontract for the procurement of rail rolling stock for use in public transportation with a rail rolling stock manufacturer described in 49 U.S.C. § 5323(u)(1).

#### **CATEGORY 14. INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE PROGRAMS.**

*If the applicant will apply for an award for a project that will include assistance under the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (“TIFIA”) Program (23 U.S.C. §§ 601–609) or the State Infrastructure Banks (“SIB”) Program (23 U.S.C. § 610), it must make the certifications in Category 8 for the Urbanized Area Formula Grants Program, Category 10 for the Fixed Guideway Capital Investment Grants program, and Category 13 for the State of Good Repair Grants program. These certifications are required by 49 U.S.C. § 5323(o).*

*Making this certification will incorporate the certifications in Categories 8, 10, and 13 by reference.*

#### **CATEGORY 15. ALCOHOL AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES TESTING.**

*If the applicant will apply for an award under FTA’s Urbanized Area Formula Grants Program (49 U.S.C. § 5307), Fixed Guideway Capital Investment Program (49 U.S.C. § 5309), Formula Grants for Rural Areas Program (49 U.S.C. § 5311), or Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program (49 U.S.C. § 5339) programs, the applicant must make the following certification. The applicant must make this certification on its own behalf and on behalf of its subrecipients and contractors. This certification is required by 49 CFR § 655.83.*

The applicant certifies that it, its subrecipients, and its contractors are compliant with FTA’s regulation for the Prevention of Alcohol Misuse and Prohibited Drug Use in Transit Operations, 49 CFR Part 655.

#### **CATEGORY 16. RAIL SAFETY TRAINING AND OVERSIGHT.**

*If the applicant is a State with at least one rail fixed guideway system, or is a State Safety Oversight Agency, or operates a rail fixed guideway system, it must make the following certification. The elements of this certification are required by 49 CFR §§ 672.31 and 674.39.*

The applicant certifies that the rail fixed guideway public transportation system and the State Safety Oversight Agency for the State are:

- (a) Compliant with the requirements of 49 CFR Part 672, “Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Program”; and
- (b) Compliant with the requirements of 49 CFR Part 674, “State Safety Oversight”.

### **CATEGORY 17. DEMAND RESPONSIVE SERVICE.**

*If the applicant operates demand responsive service and will apply for an award to purchase a non-rail vehicle that is not accessible within the meaning of 49 CFR Part 37, it must make the following certification. This certification is required by 49 CFR § 37.77.*

The applicant certifies that the service it provides to individuals with disabilities is equivalent to that provided to other persons. A demand responsive system, when viewed in its entirety, is deemed to provide equivalent service if the service available to individuals with disabilities, including individuals who use wheelchairs, is provided in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of the individual and is equivalent to the service provided other individuals with respect to the following service characteristics:

- (a) Response time;
- (b) Fares;
- (c) Geographic area of service;
- (d) Hours and days of service;
- (e) Restrictions or priorities based on trip purpose;
- (f) Availability of information and reservation capability; and
- (g) Any constraints on capacity or service availability.

### **CATEGORY 18. INTEREST AND FINANCING COSTS.**

*If the applicant will pay for interest or other financing costs of a project using assistance awarded under the Urbanized Area Formula Grants Program (49 U.S.C. § 5307), the Fixed Guideway Capital Investment Grants Program (49 U.S.C. § 5309), or any program that must comply with the requirements of 49 U.S.C. § 5307, including the Formula Grants for the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors Program (49 U.S.C. § 5310), “flex funds” from infrastructure programs administered by the Federal Highways Administration (see 49 U.S.C. § 5334(i)), or awards to urbanized areas under the Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program (49 U.S.C. § 5339), the applicant must make the following certification. This certification is required by 49 U.S.C. §§ 5307(e)(3) and 5309(k)(2)(D).*

The applicant certifies that:

- (a) Its application includes the cost of interest earned and payable on bonds issued by the applicant only to the extent proceeds of the bonds were or will be expended in carrying out the project identified in its application; and
- (b) The applicant has shown or will show reasonable diligence in seeking the most favorable financing terms available to the project at the time of borrowing.

## **CATEGORY 19. CYBERSECURITY CERTIFICATION FOR RAIL ROLLING STOCK AND OPERATIONS.**

*If the applicant operates a rail fixed guideway public transportation system, it must make this certification. This certification is required by 49 U.S.C. § 5323(v). For information about standards or practices that may apply to a rail fixed guideway public transportation system, visit <https://www.nist.gov/cyberframework> and <https://www.cisa.gov/>.*

The applicant certifies that it has established a process to develop, maintain, and execute a written plan for identifying and reducing cybersecurity risks that complies with the requirements of 49 U.S.C. § 5323(v)(2).

## **CATEGORY 20. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ON INDIAN RESERVATIONS FORMULA AND DISCRETIONARY PROGRAM (TRIBAL TRANSIT PROGRAMS).**

*Before FTA may provide Federal assistance for an Award financed under either the Public Transportation on Indian Reservations Formula or Discretionary Program authorized under 49 U.S.C. § 5311(c)(1), as amended by the FAST Act, (Tribal Transit Programs), the applicant must select the Certifications in Category 21, except as FTA determines otherwise in writing. Tribal Transit Program applicants may certify to this Category and Category 1 (Certifications and Assurances Required of Every Applicant) and need not make any other certification, to meet Tribal Transit Program certification requirements. If an applicant will apply for any program in addition to the Tribal Transit Program, additional certifications may be required.*

FTA has established terms and conditions for Tribal Transit Program grants financed with Federal assistance appropriated or made available under 49 U.S.C. § 5311(c)(1). The applicant certifies that:

- (a) It has or will have the legal, financial, and technical capacity to carry out its Award, including the safety and security aspects of that Award.
- (b) It has or will have satisfactory continuing control over the use of its equipment and facilities acquired or improved under its Award.
- (c) It will maintain its equipment and facilities acquired or improved under its Award, in accordance with its transit asset management plan and consistent with FTA regulations, “Transit Asset Management,” 49 CFR Part 625. Its Award will achieve maximum feasible coordination with transportation service financed by other federal sources.
- (d) With respect to its procurement system:
  - (1) It will have a procurement system that complies with U.S. DOT regulations, “Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards,” 2 CFR Part 1201, which incorporates by reference U.S. OMB regulatory guidance, “Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost

- Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards,” 2 CFR Part 200, for Awards made on or after December 26, 2014,
- (2) It will have a procurement system that complies with U.S. DOT regulations, “Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments,” 49 CFR Part 18, specifically former 49 CFR § 18.36, for Awards made before December 26, 2014, or
- (3) It will inform FTA promptly if its procurement system does not comply with either of those U.S. DOT regulations.
- (e) It will comply with the Certifications, Assurances, and Agreements in:
  - (1) Category 05.1 and 05.2 (Charter Service Agreement and School Bus Agreement),
  - (2) Category 06 (Transit Asset Management Plan),
  - (3) Category 07.1 and 07.2 (Rolling Stock Buy America Reviews and Bus Testing),
  - (4) Category 09 (Formula Grants for Rural Areas),
  - (5) Category 15 (Alcohol and Controlled Substances Testing), and
  - (6) Category 17 (Demand Responsive Service).

**CATEGORY 21. EMERGENCY RELIEF PROGRAM.**

*An applicant to the Public Transportation Emergency Relief Program, 49 U.S.C. § 5324, must make the following certification. The certification is required by 49 U.S.C. § 5324(f) and must be made before the applicant can receive a grant under the Emergency Relief program.*

The applicant certifies that the applicant has insurance required under State law for all structures related to the emergency relief program grant application.

**FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2023 CERTIFICATIONS AND ASSURANCES FOR FTA ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

(Signature pages alternate to providing Certifications and Assurances in TrAMS.)

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

The Applicant certifies to the applicable provisions of all categories: (*check here*) \_\_\_\_\_.

*Or,*

The Applicant certifies to the applicable provisions of the categories it has selected:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Certification</b>
01 Certifications and Assurances Required of Every Applicant	_____
02 Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans	_____
03 Tax Liability and Felony Convictions	_____
04 Lobbying	_____
05 Private Sector Protections	_____
06 Transit Asset Management Plan	_____
07 Rolling Stock Buy America Reviews and Bus Testing	_____
08 Urbanized Area Formula Grants Program	_____
09 Formula Grants for Rural Areas	_____
10 Fixed Guideway Capital Investment Grants and the Expedited Project Delivery for Capital Investment Grants Pilot Program	_____
11 Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities and Low or No Emission Vehicle Deployment Grant Programs	_____

12 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Programs

13

14 Infrastructure Finance Programs

15 Alcohol and Controlled Substances Testing

16 Rail Safety Training and Oversight

17 Demand Responsive Service

18 Interest and Financing Costs

19 Cybersecurity Certification for Rail Rolling Stock and Operations

20 Tribal Transit Programs

21 Emergency Relief Program

**CERTIFICATIONS AND ASSURANCES SIGNATURE PAGE**

**AFFIRMATION OF APPLICANT**

Name of the Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

BY SIGNING BELOW, on behalf of the Applicant, I declare that it has duly authorized me to make these Certifications and Assurances and bind its compliance. Thus, it agrees to comply with all federal laws, regulations, and requirements, follow applicable federal guidance, and comply with the Certifications and Assurances as indicated on the foregoing page applicable to each application its Authorized Representative makes to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in the federal fiscal year, irrespective of whether the individual that acted on his or her Applicant's behalf continues to represent it.

The Certifications and Assurances the Applicant selects apply to each Award for which it now seeks, or may later seek federal assistance to be awarded by FTA during the federal fiscal year.

The Applicant affirms the truthfulness and accuracy of the Certifications and Assurances it has selected in the statements submitted with this document and any other submission made to FTA, and acknowledges that the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act of 1986, 31 U.S.C. § 3801 *et seq.*, and implementing U.S. DOT regulations, "Program Fraud Civil Remedies," 49 CFR part 31, apply to any certification, assurance or submission made to FTA. The criminal provisions of 18 U.S.C. § 1001 apply to any certification, assurance, or submission made in connection with a federal public transportation program authorized by 49 U.S.C. chapter 53 or any other statute



In signing this document, I declare under penalties of perjury that the foregoing Certifications and Assurances, and any other statements made by me on behalf of the Applicant are true and accurate.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Authorized Representative of Applicant

**AFFIRMATION OF APPLICANT'S ATTORNEY**

For (Name of Applicant): \_\_\_\_\_

As the undersigned Attorney for the above-named Applicant, I hereby affirm to the Applicant that it has authority under state, local, or tribal government law, as applicable, to make and comply with the Certifications and Assurances as indicated on the foregoing pages. I further affirm that, in my opinion, the Certifications and Assurances have been legally made and constitute legal and binding obligations on it.

I further affirm that, to the best of my knowledge, there is no legislation or litigation pending or imminent that might adversely affect the validity of these Certifications and Assurances, or of the performance of its FTA assisted Award.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Attorney for Applicant

*Each Applicant for federal assistance to be awarded by FTA must provide an Affirmation of Applicant's Attorney pertaining to the Applicant's legal capacity. The Applicant may enter its electronic signature in lieu of the Attorney's signature within TrAMS, provided the Applicant has on file and uploaded to TrAMS this hard-copy Affirmation, signed by the attorney and dated this federal fiscal year.*

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## Tulare County Regional Transit Agency

### **AGENDA ITEM VIII-E**

**February 8, 2023**

**Prepared by Richard Tree, Executive Director**

#### **SUBJECT:**

**Discussion:** Consideration To Amend The Joint Powers Agreement And Bylaws to Include Student Transportation

#### **BACKGROUND:**

School districts in Tulare County are challenged with addressing transportation barriers that often impede student success. Additionally, school districts are faced with similar challenges as public transportation regarding workforce shortages, rising operational costs, transitioning the fleet to zero-emission, and antiquated scheduling that limits access to education, jobs, healthcare, and recreational activities.

Over the years, TCRTA and the Porterville Unified School District (PUSD) have partnered on several funding opportunities to improve access to education. Through these partnership opportunities the agency's have developed a strong and positive working relationship.

Currently, TCRTA and PUSD are partnering on a workforce development project, a Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) project, and frequently collaborate on transitioning our fleets to zero-emission.

Because of our similar challenges, PUSD is seeking the Board's consideration to amend the Joint Powers Agreement and Bylaws to include student transportation in the Agency's purpose and include PUSD as a Member Agency.

At the Board meeting of November 10, 2022, the Board of Directors elected to take no action on amending the Joint Powers Agreement to include student transportation, in favor of authorizing staff to continue discussing the needs of PUSD, and to draft a service agreement.

At the Board meeting of January 30, 2023, the Board of Directors authorizes staff to draft amendments to the Joint Powers Agreement and also draft an agreement between PUSD and TCRTA.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

On February 3, 2023, PUSD and TCRTA met with PUSD's third party operator to discuss the possibility of extending the agreement one year. This would allow PUSD and TCRTA additional time to prepare an agreement between the two parties.

Additionally, both parties are continuing to prepare draft amendments to the Joint Powers Agreement and prepare a draft agreement between the parties.

Finally, TCRTA staff is requesting guidance from the FTA Administrator for Region IX in regard to federal grantees administering student transportation programs.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

No action needed at this time.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Member agencies fully fund their respective services dependent on the funding their agencies receive. Adding additional member agencies is revenue neutral.

**ATTACHMENT:**

None