**H-GAC Pre-Application Workshop**

**September 20, 2018**

**-Questions and Answers-**

**Question**: *Will all applications be reviewed at the same time?*

**Answer:** Yes, we will look at all applications that come in by the October 31st deadline. Then any applications that come in November 1st or later will be reviewed after that. If the funding is exhausted by the ones that came in on October 31st, we will look at other alternatives. We will look to see if we are able to get additional funding. That is an “if”, not a guarantee. If funding is still available, then we will continue review the remaining applications.

**Question:** *I assume that if we have something we are particularly concerned about, we can reach out to you and ask if that would be associated with the funding source that we are using?*

**Answer**: You can, yes. You can also submit those questions by the deadline listed in the document. If you haven’t reviewed it yet, you want to go back and look at those. If there is anything that is of concerned, you can send those questions in.

**Question:** *Is there any kind of Buy America to identify this situation?*

**Answer:** Not in this situation, no. That’s specific to goods, purchases.

**Question:** *The equipment use however, does not have any provisions?*

**Answer:** No, we don’t have those as provisions in our procurement. And I just want to remind you that this is not a request for proposals. This is a request for applications, so this is a little bit different than a procurement.

**Question:** *So, could you explain what the difference is?*

**Answer:** So, the difference between the two is a Request for Proposal is where we are actually looking to maybe fund only one project and the project would be specific to that work being performed. The Request for Applications is the opportunity to fund your project. So there’s multiple opportunities for funding. It’s not something that we’re looking to procure. You would not be a consultant for H-GAC in the sense that you would be performing work for us. And that’s the difference between the two.

**Question:** *On the signature page, does it need to be out Executive or does it need to be Chief Financial Officer?*

**Answer:** It would need to be whoever would have the authority to bind your organization to a contract.

**Question:** *So they both have that authority?*

**Answer:** It would be either one, yes. And that would also would be the same person that you would want to list to executive the contract when that comes up. We may ask, um, we use an automated contract system, so need an email address for that person. And please make sure you do fill out that signature page; that’s very important. You want to make sure that it is signed.

**Question:** *So once the application is submitted, what’s the timeline?*

**Answer:** So that would be the Project Manager that would handle that timeline. I think he mention they would review the one’s that come in and then if there are others that come in they’ll probably have a separate timeline for evaluating. Maybe on a quarterly schedule, some procurements that we have, we typically will do a quarterly re-evaluation, or every month, or as they come in. And it’s up to the Project Manager.

That’s a good question – the honest answer is that we don’t know because we don’t know how many we’re going to get. If we get one or two, it will be fairly quickly. If we get 3, 5, 6, 7, it will take longer. Because it will take longer for us to review each application and make a decision. We were looking at 30-45 days for the timeline.

**Question:** *Clarification on the additions estimates, H-GAC will be doing those calculations. So do we turn that in without anything other than the base data that you need to procure on this?*

**Answer:** That is correct.

**Question:** *On page 12 on the scoring criteria, specifically the section on mobility to approve air quality. Is that the same thing you’re going to be doing the VMT – you’re going to be doing all of those calculations on the base data that we provide?*

**Answer:** Correct

**Question:** *You mentioned that should your initial federal funding not be sufficient, that you cut the possibility that you could add more. You also had another threshold in here relative to the $1.5 million for the project, 3 years or 5 years. Is there any ability to exceed that per project that would require a great federal participation with a 3-year minimum?*

**Answer:** What you could do with a project of great size, is that you can put it into phases. The reason we came up with the $1.6 million is because we have a region and we didn’t want to provide more than 40% to any single project. And deny funding to different parts of the region by giving $3.5 million dollars to one project. So that was the thinking behind the $1.6 million cap. Now the thinking is, what we can do if the money was expended, the $4 million. We hope we can get more funds into this. It’s never happened, these funds have always been under used. But if we use them all, more money would come into the program.

 And if you started out with eight routes for the project, you could expand the project in phase two. And use the additional amount of funding to expand the project. And sort of in a way, get around that issue. It wouldn’t be a perfect solution, but it would be a solution. You’ll still have the issue of after 3 years, you’ll still need to come up with the funding to provide the serve afterwards. But, you would be able to phase in the federal funding after 3 years or after 5 years if you chose to run it. And the 5 years you’re going to have much less federal funding in years four and five.

**Question:** *Once this is $4 million is allocated, will there be additional allocations?*

**Answer:** We would have to see when the money happened. On the short end it would probably be 8-10 months. On the long end, it will be longer than that. Because it would have to be approved internally and it has to go through TxDOT. And the Advance Funding Agreements; the timelines for those now are 6 months. We just put the Advance Funding Agreement through for this one and it takes a few months to get that.

**Question:** *So, it sounds like it is reasonable to assume if all of that is awarded right away, that there may be additional funds in less than a year?*

**Answer:**  A best case scenario.

**Question:** We will provide the provider ship investments as part of the application, and in doing so we can pull the public data would that would be helpful?

**Answer:** That would certainly be helpful, we’re going to look at data. We have folks here that are going to look at the data as well, and if the data is close, that is a good thing. We’re going to do our own work as well.

**Question:**  *On the Appendix that says the League City Park and Ride Galveston Expansion, is this one that was recently just announced?*

**Answer:** That was the Expansion Park and Ride, it was one from the Mall of the Mainland that was suspended a couple of years ago. And it was an expansion of service that was suspended because of funding issues as of March 1, 2018.

**Question:** Going back to your criteria for ridership, you’re sustainability is it the threshold of past the 3 years, past the 5 years?

**Answer:** As far as the sustainability – If the sustainability shows it would really have to be a very solid showing that funding is in place. Not contingent funding, that funding is actually in place.