



**TSA Grant Programs
Newsletter Copy
August 26, 2008**

After Action Conference

As you may be aware, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is hosting an After Action Conference (AAC) this September in Orlando, Florida for the Freight Rail Security Grant Program (FRSGP), Intercity Bus Security Grant Program (IBSGP) and both Tier I and Tier II of the Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP). The purpose of these conferences is to solicit your feedback and recommendations on the Fiscal Year 2008 grant programs and enable open conversations about how to improve various aspects of the programs.

The AAC will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Airport at 5555 Hazeltine National Drive in Orlando, Florida. The hotel is located approximately one mile from the Orlando International Airport. A block of rooms is not reserved for the conference. Therefore, we encourage you to book your room as soon as possible. For all programs, we expect registration to begin at 7:30 am, with the conference starting at 8:00 am and finishing by 5:00 pm. The daily schedule is as follows:

- Monday, September 8, 2008: FRSGP and IBSGP

- Tuesday, September 9, 2008: TSGP Tier I
- Wednesday, September 10, 2008: TSGP Tier II

Discussion topics at the conferences may include the following: Funding Priorities; Feedback on Changes; Eligibility and Match Requirements; Evaluation Criteria and Scoring Methodology; Grant Guidance/Investment Justification (IJ) Template; Security Partner Outreach/Communications; Timelines/Processes; Post-Award Grant Implementation; Environmental and Historic Preservation Review; and How to Write an IJ.

Representatives from the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will be facilitating the discussions and taking notes during the sessions in order to collect and organize your feedback. Leadership from both organizations will be in attendance to listen to your thoughts on the entire grants process. It is our sincere goal to provide an organized forum to solicit feedback, internalize that feedback, and make changes, where appropriate, to our grants process in order to best leverage our relationships with our security partners while funding projects with a high efficacy in reducing risk.

Additional information about the AAC can be found on our website at www.tsa.gov/grants. To register for the AAC, or to ask any questions, please send an email to TSAgrants@tsa.dhs.gov.

We look forward to engaging with each and every one of you this September!

New TSA Grants Website and Blog Has Been Launched!

You are hopefully all aware that the TSA Grants Team is launching a new website and a blog for our security partners. The website and blog were officially launched on August 20th and you can access them both at www.tsa.gov/grants. The new website is intended to be more user-friendly and better organized than the old site. In addition, several new features are evident: a closed community blogging forum that will enable the discussion of issues relevant to the transportation security grant programs; process diagrams that put the vast amounts of grants information into context; interactive menus that allow for streamlined navigation and logically organized content; and a news and events area that houses the newsletter, featured projects, and other important news.

In conjunction with the new website, we have launched a grants blog for our security partners. For those of you unfamiliar with blogs, we encourage you check out the blog that TSA has developed to discuss issues pertaining to aviation security with the public at www.tsa.gov/blog. While the Aviation Security Blog is open to everyone, the TSA Grants Blog will be focused on eligible grantees and sub-grantees that have a stake in transportation security grants, as further explained in the blog's access policy. The access policy is posted on the TSA Grants website at http://www.tsa.gov/what_we_do/grants/engage/access.shtm. You may have received an e-mail in the registration phase for the TSA Grants Blog. You may also receive another e-mail with your username so you can begin engaging us online. If you have not received an email notifying you of the blog, specific individuals at your agency/company (Chief

Executive Officer or General Manager, Chief of Police and/or Security Director, Grants Program Administrator or their designee) can request access for additional employees according to the access policy.

We are always interested in your feedback, including your opinions on the new website. In order to ensure the site is as user-friendly as possible we will need your input on how we can continue to make it better. Please feel free to send us feedback at TSAGrants@tsa.dhs.gov. We sincerely hope you enjoy the new site and blog and find them useful – let the virtual interactions and conversation begin!

Congressional Activity

On June 23, 2008, Senator Robert C. Byrd (WV) introduced **Senate Bill 3181**, entitled “Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2009”. Information related to the transportation security grant programs (TSGP, IBSGP, FRSGP, and TSP) is included under the State and Local Programs section. To keep up to date on potential changes in the grant programs, such as eligibility and match requirements, please go to <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and search for S.3181 under Bill Number.

Feature Article

Coach USA, Inc. Implements Security Measures

The Intercity Bus Security Grant Program (IBSGP) is one of five grant programs that constitute the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) infrastructure protection activities. The vast bulk of America's critical infrastructure is owned and/or operated by State, local, and private sector partners. The funds provided by the IBSGP are primarily intended to support the work

of operators of fixed route intercity and charter bus services.

Since 2003, Coach USA, Inc. (Coach USA) and its two dozen operating companies have received annual funding under the IBSGP to address a variety of security vulnerabilities in its Northeast and North Central operations. Coach USA's initial grant award in 2003 focused on anti-terrorist training for all employees in its Northeast Region, and security facility assessments of its major bus facilities in the Northeast. With a detailed understanding of the security deficiencies and gaps at each of Coach USA's yards, offices, garages and terminals, a detailed program and plan were developed to systematically address the vulnerabilities on a priority basis.



In 2005, Coach USA received grant awards for three key facilities in New Jersey with operations into New York City via the Lincoln Tunnel and the George Washington Bridge. The facility security enhancement

projects in Elizabeth, Hoboken and Westwood, New Jersey addressed vulnerabilities identified by the security facility assessments. To improve the overall security at these facilities, Coach USA focused on fencing, lighting, surveillance cameras and controlling vehicle/employee access to the bus yards and buildings.

“With several threats and security incidents over the past several years at our New Jersey facilities, it is critical that we take steps to ensure that our bus yards, buildings and offices and overall operations are as secure as possible. [IBSGP] funding has allowed us to implement a comprehensive security program to close the key security gaps at these facilities. Bus services operating throughout the New York City/Newark Metropolitan area are obviously a potential terrorist target and what we have done to date and what we will do in the future will significantly reduce that risk on Coach USA's network” stated Don Carmichael, Senior Vice President, Operations & Safety, Coach USA Inc., Paramus New Jersey.

As part of future newsletters, we will be highlighting different projects from our grantees. If you would like to submit a project for consideration for a feature article, please email us at TSAGrants@tsa.dhs.gov. For more information on all of the DHS transportation security grant programs, please visit: www.tsa.gov/grants.