

FISCAL YEAR 2010 APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS

GENERAL QUESTIONNAIRE -- REP. Michael Burgess (TX-26)

Must be completed and submitted NO LATER than COB February 27, 2009

Please submit completed questionnaire to matt.johnson@mail.house.gov

PLEASE NOTE: ALL REQUESTS MUST INCLUDE A FORMAL LETTER OF REQUEST ON OFFICIAL LETTERHEAD EXPLAINING THE PROJECT. THIS QUESTIONNAIRE SHOULD ACCOMPANY, NOT REPLACE, A FORMAL LETTER OF REQUEST AND ANY OTHER QUESTIONNAIRE

I. PROJECT BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

1. Please provide a formal name for this project:

DCTA Bus and Bus Facilities

2. Please describe the project and its purpose:

 By improving bus transit service in one of the nation's fastest growing counties, this bus and bus facility project will serve to improve the entire region's quality of life by relieving traffic congestion, improving air quality and providing more efficient access for commuters and especially patrons of the region's major educational and health care facilities who depend on public transportation.

3. Please outline the project plan, including the finance plan:

 Bus and Bus Facility improvements will include 1) the purchase of five heavy-duty low-emission transit buses to replace vehicles that have exceeded their useful life; 2) design and construction of a bus transfer center in Lewisville that will provide climate controlled passenger waiting and ticketing services that currently are not available; 3) construction of an eight-mile bicycle and pedestrian trail that would connect existing trails in Lewisville and Highland Village with DCTA transit facilities; 4) purchase of bus operations and maintenance equipment necessary for efficient bus transit service; 5) purchase of intelligent transportation systems (ITS) hardware and software to enhance transit management and service, including mobile data terminals; enhanced paratransit scheduling software, electronic fare boxes, automated passenger counters and automatic vehicle location systems. The timeline to complete these purchases is within FY 2010:

DCTA Bus and Bus Facilities

<u>Capital Need</u>	<u>Federal(80%)</u>	<u>Local(20%)</u>	<u>Total</u>
Bus Transfer Center	\$2,000,000	\$500,000	\$2,500,000
Bus Fleet Replacement	\$1,300,000	\$325,000	\$1,625,000
Bike and Pedestrian Trail	\$1,200,000	\$300,000	\$1,500,000
Bus Operations/Maintenance Equipment	\$400,000	\$100,000	\$500,000
Bus Hardware and Software	\$160,000	\$40,000	\$200,000
Total	\$5,060,000	\$1,265,000	\$6,325,000

II. BENEFIT TO THE 26th DISTRICT AND/OR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

1. Please explain how this project will improve life, the economy or the general welfare of the 26th District and/or the country at-large. Please be specific (i.e. outline number of jobs created, savings to economy or taxpayers, improve national security):

_____ This project will improve the efficiency and capacity of public transportation throughout Denton County and the 26th District, which is one of the fastest growing areas in the state and in the country. Better bus and transit service will help relieve traffic congestion and save travel time for commuters, workers, students, and health care patients especially, many of whom rely on public transportation.

2. Please explain why this project should be considered a priority:

_____ Federal support for Bus and Bus Facilities has been a mainstay of Federal Transit Administration authorized funding for many years. DCTA's bus program enhancements will serve to improve quality of life in one of the Nation's fastest growing metropolitan regions by improving air quality, relieving traffic congestion, and accommodating the increasing demand for public transportation by commuters and by patrons of the region's vital health care and educational institutions and facilities. The DCTA bus program creates jobs, and serves the vital employment hubs in communities throughout North Texas.

III. REQUEST

1. Amount of money you are requesting:

_____ \$5,060,000 _____

2. Agency from which you are requesting funds:

_____ Department of Transportation / Federal Transit Administration _____

3. Account from which you are requesting funds:

_____ FTA Section 5309 Bus and Bus Facilities _____

IV. FUNDING HISTORY

1. What is the total project cost and can you provide a federal-state/local-other funding breakdown?

_____ Total Cost: \$6,325,000 _____

2. Has the project ever received federal funds before? If so, please elaborate.

_____ No _____

3. Has the project received state, local or private funds before? If so, please elaborate.

_____ No _____

4. Can you demonstrate a commitment for future funds from state, local, or private sectors? If so, please elaborate to the extent possible.

_____ Yes. DTCA, with its own dedicated sales tax-based funding sources, is fully prepared to provide the necessary local matching funds and related future funds as needed. _____

5. How do you intend to spend federal funds for this project (operating, construction, studies, equipment purchase, salaries, other)?

_____ Equipment purchases and construction. _____

6. Does the project request stem from a currently-funded federal program (i.e., an already existing congressional authorization)? If so, please explain and be as specific as possible.

_____ Yes: SAFETEA-LU-authorized bus and bus facilities program. _____

V. PROJECT HISTORY

1. Please briefly explain the level of support for the project in the local and any other community (if letters of support exist, please attach to this form).

_____ Strong unified local community support. (Letters attached.) _____

2. Has the project encountered any objections within the local or other interested communities? If so, please describe (if letters or official records exist noting objections to the project, please attach to this form).

_____ No _____

3. Please briefly explain the current stage and expected timeline of the project in a great a detail as possible.

_____ This project is ready-to-go as soon as funds are available, and all funds can be obligated in FY 2010.

VI. CONTACTS

1. Who is the primary point of contact for the request?

_____ Dee Leggett (DCTA) _____ Gary Hoitsma (Washington DC Rep) _____

2. Contact information (telephone and e-mail):

_____ 972-221-4600 / dleggett@dcta.net _____ 202-218-4192 / hoitsmag@carmengroup.com _____

3. Mailing address of entity that would receive the funding?

_____ DCTA, 1660 S. Stemmons, Suite 250, Lewisville, TX 75067 _____

VII. TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

1. How much of this request can be spent in fiscal year 2009?

_____ 100% can be spent in FY 2010 _____

2. If this is a highway, transit, rail, or aviation request, did you check eligibility with the state DOT, FTA, FRA, or FAA?

_____ Yes _____

2a. If yes, did the agency indicate the project is eligible under the account requested?

_____ Yes _____

3. If this is an FHWA request, is the project considered by the state and/or regional transportation officials as critical to their needs?

_____ N/A _____

4. If a highway request, is the project on the state's transportation improvement plan?

_____ N/A _____

PRIORITY PROJECT REQUEST CRITERIA

CERTIFICATION:

I, F. Charles Emery, ATTEST THAT THIS PROJECT REQUEST MADE ON BEHALF OF

DCTA MEETS THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

1. All appropriations requests must be a priority for the 26th District and/or the country-at large as defined as enhancing life, liberty, or the general welfare.
2. All requests must be a proper and wise use of federal taxpayer dollars and must be justified as such. Projects that include a commitment to match federal funds will receive priority consideration.
3. All requests will be immediately posted on the website and supporting documentation made available to press outlets and interested individuals.
4. None of the funding requested will be used for a building, program, or project that has been named for Congressman Michael C. Burgess, M.D. No request will be made that Congressman Burgess or his spouse has any financial interest.
5. All requests shall be made in accordance with House of Representatives rules, and within Appropriations Committee deadlines. No funding request will be submitted after the deadline established by the Committee

Name of person certifying F. Charles Emery

Title of person certifying Chairman

Project name as it will appear in the bill DCTA Bus and Bus Facilities

Legal name of entity making request Denton County Transportation Authority

Address 1660 S. Stemmons, Suite 250, Lewisville, TX 75067

Signature

Date