

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:

Answer: The T Engineering/Design SW to NE Commuter Rail Project

2. Please describe the project and its purpose:

Answer: The Fort Worth Transportation Authority (The T) is currently developing plans for a rail line in the Southwest-to-Northeast Rail Corridor across Tarrant County. The Southwest-to-Northeast project is a 37-mile-long commuter rail project linking southwest Fort Worth with downtown Fort Worth (with an interface with the existing Trinity Railway Express commuter rail service to downtown Dallas), northeast Tarrant County, and DFW Airport (including an interface with the DART light rail system at the airport.

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

(Alternatives Analysis \$931,000; Environmental Impact Statement/ Engineering \$9,600,000; Construction and Rolling Stock \$470,000,000)

Detailed cost breakdown available upon request

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):

Answer: Federal funding of this project will continue the advancement of affordable mobility for transit users while continuing to reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality. Federal support is crucial to public transit and allows transit authorities across the nation to continue to provide quality public transportation services to meet changing mobility needs of transit passengers. The federal funding also leverages local and regional dollars.

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

Answer: This project should be considered a priority to address our region's traffic congestion, air pollution and growing mobility needs.

III. REQUEST

1. Amount of money you are requesting:

Answer: \$4,000,000 (50%) federal share

2. Agency from which you are requesting funds:

Answer: Federal Transit Administration

3. Account from which you are requesting funds:

Answer: Program: 5307 New Rail Starts Account

IV. FUNDING HISTORY

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

Answer: The Southwest to Northeast Commuter Rail Corridor is a multiyear commuter rail project. It is anticipated that the following sources will be used to fund the project: Federal Funding (CMAQ, STP-MM), Federal Funding (New Starts), Texas Mobility Funds, Tarrant County, The T dedicated local sales tax funds, and City of Grapevine local sales tax funds.

(Alternatives Analysis \$931,000; Environmental Impact Statement/ Engineering \$9,600,000; Construction and Rolling Stock \$470,000,000) Detailed cost breakdown available upon request

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

Answer: Yes, Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funding has been used for a portion of this project.

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

Answer: The Southwest to Northeast Commuter Rail Corridor is a multiyear commuter rail project. It is anticipated that the following sources will be used to fund the project: Federal Funding (CMAQ, STP-MM), Federal Funding (New Starts), Texas Mobility Funds, Tarrant County, The T dedicated local sales tax funds, and City of Grapevine local sales tax funds.

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

Answer: The T is a recipient of dedicated local sales tax funding from its member cities of Fort Worth, Richland Hills, and Blue Mound. There are also committed funds for this project from Tarrant County and the City of Grapevine.

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

Answer: Engineering/Design services for the Southwest to Northeast Commuter Rail project will be procured with this funding.

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.

Answer: Program: 5307 New Rail Starts Account

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).

Answer: This project is supported by the North Central Texas Council of Governments, the Tarrant Regional Transportation Coalition, The Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce, various minority chambers of commerce, and others in recognition of the importance of transit to the region's air quality and economy.

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).

Answer: No

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

Current Project Schedule:

- March/April 2009: Submit New Starts application to FTA; submit request to FTA to enter Preliminary Engineering.
- May-August 2009: Conduct Preliminary Engineering, prepare Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).
- September 2009: Release FEIS, request Record of Decision from FTA.
- November/December 2009: Receive Record of Decision, permission to enter advanced design stages.
- 2010: Final Design
- Late 2010/early 2011: Initiate construction
- 2013: Complete construction, initiate revenue service

VI. CONTACTS

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

Answer: Richard Ruddell, President

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

Answer: (817) 215-8704 (voice) (817) 300-1008 (cell) druddell@the-t.com

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

Answer: 1600 E. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth , TX 76102

VII. TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

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

Answer: 100% of the funding could 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?

Answer: Yes, The project is eligible with FTA. _____

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

Answer: Yes, The project is eligible with FTA. _____

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

Answer: N/A _____

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

Answer: N/A _____

PRIORITY PROJECT REQUEST CRITERIA

CERTIFICATION:

I, Richard Ruddell, ATTEST THAT THIS PROJECT REQUEST MADE ON BEHALF OF

The T 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: Richard Ruddell

Title of person certifying: President

Project Name as it will appear in the bill: The T Engineering/Design SW to NE Commuter Rail Project

Legal name of entity making request: Fort Worth Transportation Authority (The T)

Address: 1600 E. Lancaster Avenue, Fort Worth, TX 76102



February 20, 2009

Signature

Date



FORT WORTH TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

1600 E. Lancaster Avenue ❖ Fort Worth, Texas 76102 ❖ (817) 215-8709 ❖ (817) 215-8700

February 20, 2009

Office of Congressman Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
U.S. House of Representatives
229 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Burgess:

The Fort Worth Transportation Authority (The T) formally seeks your support our FY 2010 appropriations request for the engineering/design phase of the Southwest -to-Northeast Commuter Rail Corridor.

The T is developing plans for the Southwest-to-Northeast Commuter Rail Corridor across Tarrant County. The Southwest-to-Northeast project is a 37-mile-long commuter rail project linking southwest Fort Worth with downtown Fort Worth (with an interface with the existing Trinity Railway Express commuter rail service to downtown Dallas), northeast Tarrant County, and DFW Airport including an interface with the DART light rail system at the airport.

The Southwest-to-Northeast Rail Corridor will link major residential and employment centers while addressing our region's traffic congestion, air pollution and growing mobility needs. Your support of this project allows The T to better provide seamless public transportation for the North Texas region.

Please contact us if you need any additional information about this request. We appreciate your efforts on our behalf and on behalf of the citizens of North Texas.

Respectfully,

Richard L. Ruddell
President/Executive Director