

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 CNG Replacement Buses

2. Please describe the project and its purpose:

Answer: The Fort Worth Transportation Authority (The T) is seeking \$4,000,000 in federal funding to purchase 12 coaches to replace the oldest vehicles in The T's fleet. Approximately 20,000 passengers travel on The T's bus system each weekday and they ride a fleet of vehicles that accumulate over 1,000,000 revenue miles per year. Wear and tear on each bus is substantial which leads to the need for timely replacement to avoid service interruptions and increasing maintenance and repair costs.

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

Answer: Acquisition 12 CNG Replacement Buses \$5,000,000 total budget \$4,000,000 (80%) federal share \$1,000,000 (20%) local (non-federal share)

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 (80%) federal share

2. Agency from which you are requesting funds:

Answer: Federal Transit Administration

3. Account from which you are requesting funds:

Answer: Section 5309 Buses and Bus Facilities

IV. FUNDING HISTORY

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

Answer: Acquisition 12 CNG Replacement Buses

\$5,000,000 total budget

\$4,000,000 (80%) federal share

\$1,000,000 (20%) local (non-federal share)

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

Answer: FY02: \$1,237,500

FY03: \$2,711,036

FY04: \$1,473,390

FY05: \$3,012,613 (includes bus passenger shelter earmark of \$680,245)

FY06: \$1,500,000 (included ITS earmark of \$500,000)

FY07: None

FY08: \$300,000

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

Answer: This has been matched by local sales tax funding as a part of The T's annual Capital Budget.

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.

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

Answer: Equipment purchase

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: Yes, FY'10 DOT Appropriations Bill Act: 5309 Bus and Bus Replacement

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.

Answer: The T's fleet plan is available upon request

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 CNG Replacement Buses

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 of an FY 2010 appropriations request for twelve buses that will enable us to modernize and expand the fleet in a way that will reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality and support economic development.

Increasing ridership continues to be a key strategic goal for The T. The T was recognized nationally in 2008 by the Federal Transit Administration for successfully implementing strategies to boost ridership. Approximately 20,000 passengers travel on The T's bus system each weekday and they ride a fleet of vehicles that accumulate over 1,000,000 revenue miles per year. Wear and tear on each bus is substantial which leads to the need for timely replacement to avoid service interruptions and increasing maintenance and repair costs.

This bus purchase will replace twelve vehicles that are beyond their useful life. These vehicles will be used on our highest ridership routes. This is especially important in an air quality non-attainment area, such as North Texas.

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