

2017 Commuter Discretionary Call for Projects

Commuter Discretionary Program:

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) is seeking applications from transit providers interested in starting or expanding a general public commuter service that enhances or promotes innovative and sustainable commuter services within the State of Kansas.

The KDOT Public Transit Program dedicates \$825,000 annually to the commuter program. KDOT elected to combine five years of that dedicated funding into one call for projects yielding approximately \$4.2 million in available funds. These funds will be specifically for capital and/or operating expenses associated with a commuter transit service. The available funding must be utilized for start-up expenses or the innovative expansion of an existing commuter service. The applicant must demonstrate user need, capability to operate the route, and long-term sustainability of the service. Projects selected for funding will require a 20% local cash match.

Eligible Applicants:

All local governments, transit providers, tribal nations, and non-profit organizations within the State of Kansas are eligible to apply for funding. Non-profit organizations will need to provide a statement of financial soundness. Private entities can demonstrate support for the project, but will not be direct recipients of the state funding.

Applications must include the following:

- A. **A description of the proposed service** - This should specify the route, service times and any innovative aspects. Examples of innovative practices may be those that address secondary needs or build on coordination or partnerships with existing services or operations.
- B. **A description of the applicant's grant request** - This should include vehicle needs, stations, stops, and other capital and operating expenses.
- C. **An estimation of demand** - This should include present demand for the service as well as projected long-term demand.
- D. **Plan for sustainability after funds have been expended** - Applications should include a plan for the long-term sustainability of the commuter service. This should be supported by projected demand, identified future funding sources, committed partners, and documented community support.

- E. **Financial commitment** - Include the funding request for this call for projects, certification of local matching dollars, and a five-year budget for capital and operating expenses.
- F. **Project timeline** - Include a proposed timeline for implementation and operation of the proposed service.

Evaluation Criteria:

Applications will be scored on the following criteria:

- A. Documented Demand
- B. Project Scope
 - a. Appropriate Scale
 - b. Reasonable Costs
- C. Applicant's Experience with Similar Services
- D. Innovation
- E. Sustainability

Please submit applications by **January 12th, 2018** to:

Cory Davis
Comprehensive Transportation Planning Manager
Kansas Department of Transportation
Eisenhower State Office Building
700 SW Harrison St.
Topeka, KS 66603-3745
Cory.Davis@ks.gov

Any questions can be directed to:

Cory Davis (785) 296-7984, Cory.Davis@ks.gov

or

Mike Spadafore (785) 296-4907, Mike.Spadafore@ks.gov