



## GO! TRANSIT CAPITAL PROGRAM (GOTCP) Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is the GO! Transit Capital Program?**

The GO! Transit Capital Program is a competitive funding program designed to address some of the critical capital-related public transportation needs throughout Georgia. During the 2015 Legislative Session, the Georgia General Assembly designated \$75 million in General Obligation bond funds for the program and identified the State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA) to administer it.

### **Who will serve as the point of contact for questions/clarifications in preparing the application?**

Please refer all questions to [gotransit@georgiatolls.com](mailto:gotransit@georgiatolls.com).

### **Is the purchasing of shuttle buses and vans an eligible project?**

Shuttle buses and vans are potentially eligible projects since they are capital projects. However, capital projects must also meet the minimum GO! Transit Capital Program ten year useful life. The applicant should refer to FTA definitions of useful life to determine eligibility for specific vehicle types. Please refer to FTA C 5010.1D, Chapter IV, Section 3. Where FTA has not established a minimum useful life for a vehicle or capital asset, the applicant may make the case to GOTCP staff that the asset can be operated and maintained for at least 10 years (see FTA C 5010.1D, Chapter IV, Section 3.f.(1).(a)-(h) for potentially acceptable methods). The determination of useful life in such a case will be at the sole discretion of GOTCP staff.

### **Would an area/district circulator program qualify?**

The capital needs associated with the project may qualify. Please provide more details on the exact project to be submitted. If vehicles are being considered by the applicant, please refer to FTA C 5010.1D, Chapter IV, Section 3. Where FTA has not established a minimum useful life for a vehicle or capital asset, the applicant may make the case to GOTCP staff that the asset can be operated and maintained for at least 10 years (see FTA C 5010.1D, Chapter IV, Section 3.f.(1).(a)-(h) for potentially acceptable methods). The determination of useful life in such a case will be at the sole discretion of GOTCP staff.

### **Are technology projects eligible?**

This depends on whether technology projects can meet the minimum 10 year useful life for capital projects. GOTCP staff will use FTA definitions for useful life, where one is provided, in determining minimum useful life for GOTCP projects. Please refer to FTA C 5010.1D, Chapter IV, Section 3. Where FTA has not established a minimum useful life for a vehicle or capital asset, the applicant may make the case to GOTCP staff that the asset can be operated and maintained for at least 10 years (see FTA C 5010.1D, Chapter IV, Section 3.f.(1).(a)-(h) for potentially acceptable methods). The determination of useful life in such a case will be at the sole discretion of GOTCP staff.

### **If FTA does not provide a definition for the minimum useful life of a capital project, how can applicants "make the case" that an asset meets the 10 year minimum useful life requirement?**

Acceptable methods to make the case for useful life include, but are not limited to:

- a) Generally accepted accounting principles.
- b) Independent evaluation.
- c) Manufacturer's estimated useful life.
- d) Internal Revenue Service guidelines.
- e) Industry standards.
- f) Applicant experience.
- g) The applicant's independent auditor who needs to concur that the useful life is reasonable for depreciation purposes.
- h) Proven useful life developed at a Federal test facility.
- i) Historical data.

The determination of useful life in such a case will be at the sole discretion of GOTCP staff.

### **Are feasibility studies allowed as capital expenditures?**

Transit studies may be capital expenses. However, the State of Georgia cannot establish an ownership interest in studies; therefore, they are not eligible. However, under the fourth option to distribute funds (as shared in the GOTCP Informational Webinars and explained on Slide 24 of the Informational Webinar document), an applicant could propose to sell the State an eligible existing transit asset (i.e., an eligible capital asset with a minimum 10 year useful life that the State can establish an ownership interest in) and use the proceeds to fund transit studies. If an applicant desires to do this, please reach out to GOTCP staff at [gotransit@georgiatolls.com](mailto:gotransit@georgiatolls.com) to discuss options.

### **Will CID's be able to directly apply?**

CID's are eligible to apply. In the event that a CID is not an existing public transportation operator, the CID will need to identify an existing public transportation operator to operate and maintain the asset. Written and signed document support from this operator, along with a commitment to operate and maintain the asset according to manufacturer's guidelines throughout its use, must accompany the application.

**Are there specified fund amounts for urban or rural projects?**

There is no predetermined amount of funding for projects by geography.

**Is there a minimum fund request threshold?**

No.

**Is there a preferred and/or anticipated level of match? Will In kind be eligible?**

There is no preferred level of match. Greater total match and local match amounts will be given greater consideration. In kind match (e.g., right of way) is eligible but will be given less consideration than a hard match of funds (e.g., pledged money from federal, state or local sources).

**Will the match have to be in place at the time of the application submission? What happens if a match partner falls short?**

Matching funds do not have to be in place at the time of application, however, these projects will be given less consideration under the cost efficiency and readiness evaluation. Matching funds should be in place by the time the Advisory Panel reviews the project.

If a funding partner falls short on funding during the application review process, the applicant has an affirmative obligation to inform GOTCP staff. GOTCP staff will then reevaluate the project. If a funding partner falls short after an applicant has been awarded funds and no alternative funding source is identified, the award may be rescinded.

**Should applicants address all criteria under the technical evaluation or only those that are weighted high?**

Applicants should address all criteria as each criterion contributes to the applicant's ranking.

**When do applicants have to begin drawing down funds (from the date of award) and when do they have to expend all funds?**

Applicants should begin drawing down funds within 3 years of award, and should expend funds within 5 years.

**Will there be reporting requirements with the awards of funds?**

Yes, there will be reporting requirements. The contract will specify those requirements.