

DATE: October 2, 2008
TO: CMAP Human Services Committee
FROM: Janelle Brown
Re: Input on Selection Criteria Guide for FFY 09 JARC/NF Application

At the upcoming October 20th CMAP Human Services Committee meeting RTA staff will seek input on the criteria used to select Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom projects. Prior to each call for projects, the RTA reviews the criteria in consultation with the Human Services Committee and the Human Service Transportation Plan (HSTP) Project Advisory Committee to determine how the criteria may be improved upon in accordance with HSTP.

The criteria, designed to affirm project eligibility and to gauge the relative strength of the projects, address:

- Consistency with the HSTP
- Project Readiness/Ability to Implement
- Sustainability
- Need
- Efficiency

At the meeting we will discuss how the attached FFY 2008 Selection Criteria Guide may be revised for use in the selection of the FFY 2009 JARC/NF Program of Projects.

FFY 2008 SELECTION CRITERIA GUIDE

The attached series of tables categorize the specific criteria that will be used to assess the applications in accordance to:

- Eligibility (Table 1)
- Consistency with the HSTP (Table 2)
- Project Readiness/Ability to Implement (Table 3)
- Sustainability (Table 4)
- Need (Table 5)
- Efficiency (Table 6)

The Criteria Guide matches the criteria to those questions in the application that are primarily designed to elicit information specific to each criterion. The set of evaluation criteria was developed based on the federal requirements and on the goals set forth in Section 4.3 of the Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP) and revised in accordance with input from the CMAP Human Services Committee and HSTP Project Advisory Committee.

TABLE 1: Project Eligibility Screening Criteria	Relevant Application Questions	Relevance to Type of Project	Point Value of Criteria
1. Proposed project addresses unmet needs of welfare recipients, eligible low-income persons and other individuals in urbanized areas seeking employment or employment-related activities in suburban areas (JARC) OR addresses unmet transportation needs of persons with disabilities seeking integration into the workforce and full participation in society (New Freedom).	2, 3, 4 and 8	All	Eligible / Not Eligible
2. Project application identifies and addresses an unmet need identified in Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP). This should include (1) a description of the project (2) identification of the unmet needs (which is/are addressed by the project), (3) how the project will address the unmet need(s), e.g., in terms of serving new riders, a new area, a new day and/or times, a higher frequency, less advance notice, more driver assistance, etc.; and (4) an estimated quantification of benefits. Any additional obligations, e.g., the provision of ADA complementary paratransit as a result of implementing a new fixed bus route in a previously unserved area, should be noted.	2, 11 and 12	All	Eligible / Not Eligible
3. Local Match will be supplied.	30 and 31	All	Eligible / Not Eligible
4. Project is consistent with FTA guidelines on eligible JARC and New Freedom projects and activities.	All	All	Eligible / Not Eligible

TABLE 2: HSTP Consistency Criteria	Relevant Application Questions	Relevance to Type of Project	Point Value of Criteria
5. Project employs one or more strategies that provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional service/linkage/coordination = 20 points • Multi-county service/linkage/coordination = 10 points • Multi-municipality (but intra-county) service = 5 points • No service/linkage/coordination beyond municipality or program = 0 points 	2,3,11,and 12	All	0, 5, 10 or 20
6. Degree to which project employs one or more strategies included in the HSTP or otherwise demonstrates innovation.	2, 11,and 12	All	0, 5,10, 15 or 20
7. Degree to which project utilizes strategies proven successful elsewhere.	2,11,12, and 24-28	All	0, 5, 10, 15, or 20
8. Degree to which project utilizes or coordinates with existing public transportation providers.	9, 21, 22 and 24-28	All	0, 5, 10, 15, or 20

9. Degree to which project utilizes or coordinates with existing public and private human service agency transportation providers; or reflects partnerships with non-transit entities and/or private non-profit / for-profit operators.	10, 21, 22 and 24-28	All	0, 5, 10, 15, or 20
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TABLE 3: Project Readiness / Ability to Implement Criteria	Relevant Application Questions	Relevance to Type of Project	Point Value of Criteria
10. Project starts providing services within a short time-frame. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within 6 months =20 Points • 6-12 months=10 Points • longer than a year=0 Points 	13	All	0, 10 or 20
11. Agency and/or agency contractor(s) qualifications and experience (including key personnel) demonstrate that they have managed similar projects. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have experience with similar projects = 5 Points • Have managed projects funded through federal grants = 5 Points 	15, 16 and 17	All	0, 5 or 10

TABLE 4: Sustainability Criteria	Relevant Application Questions	Relevance to Type of Project	Point Value of Criteria
12. Project is sustainable past identified project period. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant-identified sources have committed to continue their levels of funding and have stated that their levels of support may increase if project is successful = 20 Points • Applicant has in place plans to monitor and evaluate project = 10 Points 	14, 30 and 31	All	0, 10, 20 or 30
13. Significant support is demonstrated for the project. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project applications include letters of support from key stakeholders-10 Points • Key stakeholders letters delineate specific nature of participation in project-10 Points 	Letters Submitted	All	0, 10, or 20

TABLE 5: Need Criteria	Relevant Application Questions	Relevance to Type of Project	Point Value of Criteria
14. Project is an existing successful pilot project or otherwise provides continued operating funding for a project which is already in operation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing project achieved projected ridership = 20 points • Ridership has increased but not achieved projected ridership (compared to pre-project ridership) or has met other significant objectives = 10 points 	2,6,18,and 23	Continuation of Project	0, 10 or 20

<p>15. Severity of need addressed by new or expanded project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No such service/linkage/coordination currently exists in area = 30 points or 20 points when two of the following attributes are present or 10 points when one of the following attributes is present. Service/linkage/coordination exists but not in time period Service/linkage/coordination exists for area/time period but not for specific trip purposes and/or specific programs Service/linkage/coordination exists for area/time period and for most trip purposes/programs, but does not accommodate riders requiring high-level of service and/or same-day service 	<p>2,6,11,12, 19,20,22 and 24-28</p>	<p>New or Expansion of Existing Project</p>	<p>0, 10, 20, or 30</p>
<p>16. For JARC projects the degree to which economic opportunities may be created for persons with disabilities. For NF projects the degree to which economic opportunities may be created for persons with low incomes.</p>	<p>2, 8 and 21</p>	<p>All</p>	<p>0, 10, or 20</p>
<p>17. Estimated number of lower income individuals able to access jobs as a result of the project (JARC) OR persons with disabilities served as a result of the project (New Freedom). Rail, transit (fixed-route and flex) projects and paratransit projects will be ranked separately. Highest number gets 20 points, next highest 18 points, lowest gets 2 points. If more than 10 applications, those ranked lower all get 0 points.</p>	<p>2,8,14,and 21</p>	<p>All</p>	<p>Max 20 (relative ranking by service type)</p>
<p>18. Project also addresses unmet needs of older adults.</p>	<p>2 and 7</p>	<p>All</p>	<p>0 or 20</p>

TABLE 6: Efficiency Criterion	Relevant Application Questions	Relevance to Type of Project	Point Value of Criteria
<p>19. Operations cost ranking on service consumed – measured in cost per trip. For operational projects only; rail, bus (fixed-route, flex, shuttle) projects and paratransit projects will be ranked separately. Lowest unit cost gets 20 points, next lowest 18 points, etc. If more than 10 applications, those ranked lower all get 0 points.</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>Operating</p>	<p>Max 20 (relative ranking by service type)</p>