
From: Charles Lattuca <CLattuca@gotriangle.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 11:10 AM
To: Doug Plachcinski <Doug.Plachcinski@dchcmo.org>
Cc: Katharine Eggleston <KEggleston@gotriangle.org>
Subject: Grant Co-applicant Opportunity

Doug,

As we have indicated recently, the GoTriangle Board of Trustees has endorsed a long-term vision for hourly or better regional passenger rail service between West Durham and Garner or Clayton, and they have directed staff to pursue grant opportunities in support of that vision, including USDOT's Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Regional Partnerships Challenge grant program.

This program will provide up to \$450 million dollars, through 3-5 grant awards, to incentivize stronger regional partnerships between local governments, MPOs, State DOTs, non-profit organizations, and communities that can help address persistent regional challenges related to equitable access, mobility, and greenhouse gas emissions.

In order for the grant application to be successful, we will need to demonstrate strong partnerships with all of the various governments, agencies, authorities, educational institutions, and non-profit organizations involved in work related to the development of a truly regional rapid transit system. For this reason, GoTriangle is requesting that CAMPO, DCHC MPO, and NCDOT join us as co-applicants for the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Regional Partnerships Challenge grant we are seeking, and we will be seeking support from range of other organizations as well.

A grant award from this program could afford:

- Development of a strategic plan for collaboration with partners to deliver a program of incremental improvements that would support a long-term vision for hourly or better regional passenger rail service.
- Needed negotiations and rail network modeling with host railroads including freight service providers in the corridor owned by the North Carolina Railroad Company (NCRR).
- Preliminary design and related environmental planning required for project elements prioritized in the strategic plan.
- Neighborhood access, community cohesion, and economic development planning for areas near the railroad corridor and disadvantaged communities.
- Support for land use and affordable housing planning that would bring together ongoing local planning efforts to help support a larger regional transit vision.

- Station area planning that would support transit-oriented development near transit stations.
- And transportation integration planning for connecting the regional rail service to the larger transportation network, including Raleigh-Durham International Airport.

Being a co-applicant requires no financial commitment. In the event the grant is awarded, there are no obligations to repay the grant award should construction of the project exceed a given time horizon. While we are still working with our consultants on refining the budget for the activities outlined above, we believe a grant award in the range of \$20-30 million is reasonable. This would likely require a local match of \$4-6 million, given that the funding split for the program is 80% federal, 20% local. GoTriangle will be able to demonstrate the financial capacity required for the grant application. Should the grant be awarded, GoTriangle will discuss with co-applicants how funding for the local match should be shared. For purposes of the grant application, co-applicants are not required to seek an action from their respective boards. Co-applicants will not need additional staff resources. The only requirement of co-applicants is that they be supportive of activities funded by the grant, in the same way that you have supported work completed for the feasibility study, by participating in meetings and reviewing relevant deliverables.

The Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Regional Partnerships Challenge program will be highly competitive, and we believe that having as many co-applicants as possible will enhance our ability to compete with larger regions throughout the country. In the coming days, you will receive a letter template that can be used to signify your support of the long-term vision for regional passenger rail in the Triangle through your participation in the grant application as a co-applicant. Co-applicants will also have the opportunity to review the proposed scope and budget for the grant-funded work, and should the grant be awarded, they will be able to benefit from funding related to their particular authority.

Applications for the grant program are due on September 28th. Please respond to this message by Friday, September 15th to indicate whether or not your organization is able to support the long-term vision for regional passenger rail as a co-applicant for a Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Regional Partnerships Challenge grant. We will provide a template letter for your consideration and use.

Thank you for your consideration of this exciting opportunity. Please let us know if you have any questions. We look forward to working together with you to sustain the long-term vision for regional passenger rail in the Triangle.

Chuck

Charles E. Lattuca
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***GoTriangle is an organization that values character, integrity
and concern for our colleagues & community***