

# STATE OF COLORADO

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**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****Division of Transit and Rail**

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TO: Transportation Commission  
FROM: Mark Imhoff  
DATE: January 4, 2013  
SUBJECT: Recommendations for FY 2014 and 2015 FASTER Transit Projects

**Purpose:** The Division of Transit and Rail is submitting for Commission review its recommended list of FASTER Transit projects for Fiscal Years 2014, and “tentative” projects for 2015. Attached are the lists of statewide and local projects recommended for funding, as well as supporting materials. The Commission will be asked to approve these materials at its February meeting. We are submitting these materials in advance for your review, and in the hope that any concerns about the recommended awards are discussed prior to the February Commission action.

**Background:** The FASTER legislation provides CDOT with \$10 million per year in FASTER Transit Statewide funds for transit-related purposes. These funds are awarded to statewide, inter-regional or significant regional projects. FASTER also provides \$5 million per year for FASTER Local grants for local (and regional) transit projects.

The Commission in 2010 established general guidelines to be followed in offering, distributing and awarding the FASTER Transit Statewide and Local funds. DTR issued a call for FY 2014 and 2015 projects throughout the state in July and received a total of 84 applications from 43 organizations. DTR then conferred with the Engineering Regions regarding which applications were best suited for consideration for the FASTER Transit Statewide funds and which were best suited for FASTER Transit Local funds.

**Evaluation:** DTR staff, along with staff from the Division of Transportation Development (DTD) and the Office of Policy and Government Relations, evaluated and scored the applications considered best suited for the Statewide funds, using five evaluation criteria. The CDOT Engineering Regions evaluated and scored the applications considered best suited for FASTER Transit Local funds.

**Recommended Lists:** Attached is Table A, which lists the recommended FASTER Transit Statewide pool projects. Table B lists the recommended FASTER Local pool projects. Table C lists the key evaluation factors for projects not recommended for full FASTER Transit funding. It should be noted, however, that many of the unfunded rural projects will be awarded FTA funding administered by DTR, utilizing unspent funds

from prior years as well as the new FTA Section 5339 program; Section 5339 converts Section 5309 from a discretionary program to one providing formula capital funding to the states. Table D lists any special conditions, contingencies or caveats to awards that must be met by a project applicant.

DTR is requesting final Commission approval of the lists for FY 2014. In addition, we are requesting approval of a **tentative** list for FY 2015. The FY 2015 list would remain tentative in order to ensure that applicants on that list demonstrate, by next summer, that their project remains ready to proceed in FY 2015, will have the required local match, has completed final design, etc. This arrangement allows local agencies to proceed with planning and assures them FY2015 funding, but only so long as they are able to keep their commitments related to readiness, local match, design, etc.

It is not necessary to commit all the FY 2015 funds at this time. DTR will accept requests for FASTER funding using a “rolling” application process, accepting applications for a two-year period, and do so every year. This summer (2013) DTR will issue a call for FY 2015 and 2016 projects. Next fall, during the evaluation process, new FY2015 project applications will be considered and could be recommended for award, but they would not displace funding awarded tentatively to projects with FY 2015 funding unless any of those projects could not demonstrate the ability to meet their commitments, as described above.

**Notes:**

- DTR is requesting approval from the Office of State Controller for a process that will allow FASTER Transit projects to receive advance budgeting. If that happens, DTR will include a budget plan and justification to the Commission in February for any projects that clearly demonstrate a need to do so and an ability to begin implementation prior to July 1.
- CDOT is an eligible applicant for funds, but only from the Statewide pool, since the Local pool funds come from the local share of HUTF and are intended for local agencies.
- All FASTER recipients (other than CDOT) must provide a 20% local match.