



February 1, 2012

AGENDA ITEM 7

TO: Citizen Advisory Committee

FROM: Tina H. T. Wu, AICP
Senior Transit Planner

SUBJECT: Job Access/Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom (NF) Projects Update

RECOMMENDATION

Acknowledge receipt of update.

SUMMARY

With the passage of SAFETEA-LU (*Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users*) in 2006, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) moved §5316 (Job Access/Reverse Commute or JARC) and §5317 (New Freedom) from discretionary funding to formula funding. As a result, RTC became eligible for \$94,204 in JARC funds and \$61,379 in New Freedom funds in FY 2012.

The goal of the JARC program is to improve access to job sites and employment-related activities for people who are transitioning from welfare to work or for others with limited incomes. The New Freedom program provides funding for transportation programs and services that go above and beyond what is required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Eligible sub-recipients of JARC and New Freedom funding include state and local government agencies, public transportation providers, private non-profit transportation providers, non-profit organizations and private for-profit companies. Individuals may not apply.

Examples of JARC Projects:

- Brochure for Low-Income Commuters on Transportation Options
- Low-Interest Loans to low-income individuals to purchase cars
- Expanded Guaranteed Ride Home Program
- Expanded Shuttle Service to Employment Sites

Examples of New Freedom Projects:

- Accessible Taxis
- Sensitivity Training for Front-Line Employees (for bus drivers, taxi cab drivers, etc.)
- Personalized Travel Training on how to use the fixed-route system
- Same-Day Service for RTC ACCESS Users
- Escorted Transportation or “Door-through-Door” Service
- Accessible Pedestrian Infrastructure at Bus and Rail Stations

A Project Selection Committee will conduct the review and selection of projects. Membership of the Selection Committee is comprised of representatives from the Cities of Reno and Sparks and Washoe County, representatives of senior citizens, persons with disabilities, those with low income and human service agencies. The Selection Committee will select projects for funding based on the competitive selection criteria. These criteria are:

1. To what extent does the project respond to the federal evaluation criteria?
2. To what extent does the project demonstrate coordination among various entities?
3. To what extent does the project demonstrate a new or innovative idea that can be replicated elsewhere in the region?
4. To what extent does the project meet a regional transportation need?
5. To what extent does the project involve the private sector? What is the project's overall cost-effectiveness?
6. How many persons with disabilities and/or with limited incomes does the project propose to serve or benefit? How many trips will this project provide?
7. To what extent does the application identify reasonable strategies for on-going funding?
8. How feasible is the project? What is project's ability to meet/comply with federal reporting requirements?

The FY 2012 draft project schedule is attached for your reference. Staff will continue to update the committee on the projects' status in the next several months.

JARC & NF Draft Schedule	
<u>Action</u>	<u>Date</u>
RTC Board Approval of Project Selection Committee	02-17-2012
Project Application Available	02-20-2012
Project Notice Published	02-22-2012
Questions and Clarifications Requests Due	02-29-2012
RTC Responses Due	03-05-2012
Funding Applications Due (2:00 pm)	03-12-2012
Project Selection with Project Selection Committee	03-21-2012
Interviews (Optional)	03-27-2012
Site Visits (Optional)	03-23-2012
Proposed Project Award Notifications	03-29-2012
Updated Coordinated Transportation Plan (CTP) Available for Public Comment and published on www.rtcwashoe.com	03-29-2012
Project Recommendations to TAC & CAC	04-04-2012
Updated CTP with Project Recommendations for RTC Board Adoption	04-06-2012
Amendment RTIP to include JARC & NF Projects	05-18-2012
Amendment STIP to include JARC & NF Projects	06-2012
Update Project Management Plan	06-15-2012
Submit JARC & NF Grant Applications to FTA	07-2012
Grant award for JARC & NF Projects	09-2012
Execute Project Agreements	09-2012
FFY 2012 Projects Begin	10-01-2012