

By the Commission.
Dated: July 27, 2010.

Elizabeth M. Murphy,
Secretary.

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BILLING CODE 8010-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary of Transportation

[DOT Docket No. DOT-OST-2010-0074]

The Future of Aviation Advisory Committee (FAAC) Aviation Safety Subcommittee; Notice of Meeting

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of the Secretary of Transportation.

ACTION: The Future of Aviation Advisory Committee (FAAC): Aviation Safety Subcommittee; Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Department of Transportation (DOT), Office of the Secretary of Transportation, announces a meeting of the FAAC Aviation Safety Subcommittee, which will be held August 24, 2010, in Chicago, Illinois. This notice announces the date, time, and location of the meeting, which will be open to the public. The purpose of the FAAC is to provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Transportation to ensure the competitiveness of the U.S. aviation industry and its capability to manage effectively the evolving transportation needs, challenges, and opportunities of the global economy. The Aviation Safety Subcommittee will receive a briefing from Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) officials on the agency's activities associated with the list of priority safety issues developed during the first meeting. The subcommittee will also develop a work plan for future meetings.

DATES: The meeting will be held on August 24, 2010, at 1 p.m. Central Daylight Time.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at The Boeing Company, 100 North Riverside Plaza, Chicago, Illinois 60606.

Public Access: The meeting is open to the public. (See below for registration instructions.)

Public Comments: Persons wishing to offer written comments and suggestions concerning the activities of the advisory committee or subcommittee should file comments in the Public Docket (Docket Number DOT-OST-2010-0074 at www.regulations.gov) or alternatively through the FAAC@dot.gov e-mail address. If comments and suggestions are intended specifically for the

Aviation Safety Subcommittee, the term "Aviation Safety" should be listed in the subject line of the message. To ensure such comments can be considered by the subcommittee before its August 24, 2010, meeting, public comments must be filed by close of business on Monday, August 16, 2010.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Under section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. 2), we are giving notice of an FAAC Aviation Safety Subcommittee meeting taking place on August 24, 2010, at 1 p.m. Central Daylight Time, at The Boeing Company, 100 North Riverside Plaza, Chicago, Illinois 60606. The subcommittee will—

1. Receive a briefing from the FAA on existing safety activities associated with the list of priority safety issues developed during the previous meeting.
2. Discuss any necessary revisions to the priority list.
3. Develop a work plan for future meetings.

Registration

Because of space constraints and planning considerations, persons desiring to attend must pre-register through e-mail to FAAC@dot.gov. The term "Registration: Safety Subcommittee" must be listed in the subject line of the message, and admission will be limited to the first 25 persons to pre-register and receive a confirmation of their pre-registration. No arrangements are being made for audio or video transmission, or for oral statements or questions from the public at the meeting. Minutes of the meeting will be posted on the FAAC Web site at <http://www.dot.gov/FAAC>.

Request for Special Accommodation

The DOT is committed to providing equal access to this meeting for all participants. If you need alternative formats or services because of a disability, please send a request to FAAC@dot.gov with the term "Special Accommodations" listed in the subject line of the message by close of business on August 13, 2010.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Tony Fazio, Deputy Director, Office of Accident Investigation and Prevention, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC; telephone (202) 267-9612; Tony.Fazio@FAA.gov.

Issued in Washington, DC, on July 27, 2010.

Pamela Hamilton-Powell,

Designated Federal Official, Future of Aviation Advisory Committee.

[FR Doc. 2010-18722 Filed 7-29-10; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

[Docket: DOT-OST-2010-0124]

Office of the Secretary: Notice of Order Soliciting Community Proposals

AGENCY: Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Notice of Order Soliciting Community Proposals (Order 2010-7-16, Docket: DOT-OST-2010-0124).

SUMMARY: The Department of Transportation is soliciting proposals from communities or consortia of communities interested in receiving a grant under the Small Community Air Service Development Program. The full text of the Department's order is attached to this document. There are two mandatory requirements for filing of applications, both of which must be completed for a community's application to be deemed timely and considered by the Department. The first requirement is the submission of the community's proposal, as described below; the second requirement is the filing of SF424 through <http://www.grants.gov>.

DATES: Grant Proposals as well as the SF424 should be submitted no later than August 27, 2010.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties can submit applications and the SF424 electronically through <http://www.grants.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Aloha Ley, Office of Aviation Analysis, 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE., W86-310, Washington, DC 20590, (202) 366-2347.

Dated: July 23, 2010.

Notice of Order Soliciting Community Proposals

AGENCY: Department of Transportation, Office of the Secretary.

ACTION: Notice of Order Soliciting Community Proposals (Order 2010-7-16).

Overview

By this order, the Department invites proposals from communities and/or consortia of communities interested in obtaining a federal grant under the Small Community Air Service Development Program (Small Community Program) to address air

service and airfare problems in their communities. Proposals, including a completed "Summary Information" schedule as shown in Appendix B of this order, must be submitted in the above-referenced docket no later than 5 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time (EDT), on August 27, 2010.

The Small Community Program was established under the Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21st Century (AIR-21), Public Law 106-181, and reauthorized under the Vision 100-Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act, Public Law 108-176 (Vision 100). The program is designed to provide financial assistance to small communities to help them enhance their air service. The Department provides this assistance in the form of financial grants that are disbursed on a reimbursable basis.¹ The FY 2010 Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act (Pub. L. 111-69) extends the authorization of appropriations through FY 2010. The Department was appropriated \$6 million to carry out the Small Community Program.² However, the Department will make \$7 million available for grant awards.³

The program is limited to a maximum of 40 grant awards, with a maximum of four grants per State, in each year the program is funded. There are no limits on the amounts of individual awards, and the amounts awarded will vary depending upon the features and merits of the proposals selected. Over the past nine years, the Department's individual grants have ranged from \$20,000 to nearly \$1.6 million. Authorized grant projects may include activities that extend over a multi-year period under a single grant award; however, because there is a priority established by statute for communities and consortia that show that they can use the assistance "in a timely fashion," applicants are advised to consider that criterion in making their proposals.

¹ For detailed background on the Small Community Program, see our Web site at: http://ostpxweb.dot.gov/aviation/X-50%20Role_files/smallcommunity.htm.

² Program funding for this year may be affected by a provision that directs the Secretary to transfer funds from any program within or administered by the Office of the Secretary to the Essential Air Service program if that program does not have sufficient funds to meet its statutory obligations. In addition, a portion of the funds available for the Small Community Program are used by the Department for grants-management purposes. As of June, Congress appropriated \$4,980,000 of the \$6 million in funding; however, the remaining \$1,020,000 is expected to be appropriated in the next reauthorization bill. If funds are not authorized by the time selections are made, grant funds will remain at the \$4,980,000 level.

³ The Department will be adding additional funds that can be reallocated from prior year recoveries.

Applicants *must* first register with <http://www.grants.gov> before submitting an Application for Federal Domestic Assistance (SF424), a standard federal government grant application form, and must include their proposals as an attachment to the SF424. An application will *not* be deemed complete until and unless all required materials are filed by the August 27, 2010, deadline.

Communities are reminded to register with Grants.gov early in the application period since the mandatory Grants.gov registration process can take up to three weeks to complete. Tutorials and other guidance for completing the required registration and application procedures are available at the "Applicant Resources" page of Grants.gov.⁴

Eligibility Information

Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

Basic criteria. Eligible applicants are those communities that (1) are served by an airport that was not larger than a small hub airport for calendar year 1997,⁵ and (2) have insufficient air service or unreasonably high airfares. Communities that do not currently have commercial air service are also eligible, but they must have met or be able to meet in a reasonable period all necessary requirements of the Federal Aviation Administration for the type of service involved in their grant proposals. Communities served by medium and large hubs are *not* eligible to apply.

Essential Air Service communities may apply. Small communities that meet the basic criteria and currently receive subsidized air service under the Essential Air Service (EAS) program are eligible to apply for funds under the Small Community Program. Indeed, a number of EAS-subsidized communities applied in past years and some have received grant awards. However, *grant awards to EAS-subsidized communities are limited to marketing or promotion projects that support existing or newly subsidized air services*. Grant funds will *not* be authorized for EAS-subsidized communities to support any *new* competing air service. Furthermore, no funds will be authorized to support additional flights by EAS carriers or changes to those carriers' existing schedules. These restrictions are necessary to avoid conflicts with the EAS program. Additional consideration for communities/members of consortia that have previously received a grant.

⁴ See http://www07.grants.gov/applicants/app_help_reso.jsp.

⁵ The hub classifications are based on the Federal Aviation Administration's CY 1997 enplanement data.

Communities or members of a consortia that were awarded grants in previous years and want to apply for a grant this year should be aware that (1) they are precluded from seeking new funds for projects for which they have already received an award under the Small Community Program and (2) they cannot accept a new grant while they are a party to an existing grant under the program, either as an individual community or as a member of a consortium.

Grant must be for a new project. No community may participate in the program in support of the same project more than once. 49 U.S.C. 41743(c)(4). In assessing whether a previous grantee's current proposal represents a new project, we would compare the goals and objectives of the earlier grant, including the key components of the means by which those goals and objectives were to be achieved, to the current proposal. For example, if a community received an earlier grant to support a revenue guarantee for service to a particular destination or direction, a new application for another revenue guarantee for the same service would be disqualified under § 41743(c), even if the revenue guarantee were structured differently or the type of carrier were different. However, we do not read § 41743(c) to disqualify a new application for service to a new destination or direction using a revenue guarantee, or for general marketing of the airport and the various services it offers. We recognize that not all revenue guarantees, marketing agreements, equipment purchases, etc. are of the same nature, and that if a subsequent proposal incorporates different goals or significantly different components, it may be sufficiently different to constitute a new project under § 41743(c).

In its application, a community that is a previous grant recipient should compare and contrast its proposed project with its previously funded one(s) to demonstrate why its latest proposal represents a new project. Communities should also note that in each of the prior eight years of the program, interest in participation exceeded both the funds available and the number of communities that could take part in any one year. For this reason, the fact that a community has already received one or more grants will be a consideration when comparing its new proposal with those of other applicant communities.

No concurrent grants are permitted. A community or member of a consortia may participate in the program a subsequent time only after its

participation in a prior grant has terminated. 49 U.S.C. 41743(c)(4). Simply stated, a community can have only one Small Community Program grant at any time. If a grant applicant is applying for a subsequent grant and its current grant has not yet expired, it must notify the Department of its intent to terminate the current grant prior to entering into the new grant. In addition, for grant applicants that are members of a consortia grant, permission must be granted from both the grant sponsor and the Department to withdraw from the current grant prior to being eligible to receive a subsequent grant.

Subsidies for a carrier to compete against an incumbent raise concerns. The Department is reluctant to subsidize one carrier but not others in a competitive market. For this reason, communities that propose to use the grant funds for service in a city-pair market that is already served by a carrier must explain in detail why the existing service is insufficient or unsatisfactory, or provide other compelling information to support such proposals. This information is necessary for the Department to consider the competitive implications of giving financial or other tangible incentives for one carrier that the other carrier is not receiving.

Subsidy proposals should reflect market analysis and a complementary marketing commitment. A thorough understanding of the target market is essential for the ultimate success of new or expanded air service. Likewise, the chances that such a service will become self-sustaining are enhanced when its implementation is supported by a well-designed marketing campaign. For these reasons, communities requesting funds for a revenue guarantee/subsidy/financial incentive are encouraged to include in their proposals an in-depth analysis evidencing close familiarity with their target markets. Such communities also are encouraged to designate in their proposals a portion of their requested funds for the development and implementation of a marketing plan in support of the service sought.

A consortium is more than a collection of communities. The statute permits individual communities and consortia of communities to apply for grant awards under this program. In some instances in the past, several communities in a State have filed a single application as a "consortium," but in effect the application was a collection of individual community requests involving different projects. We do not view this as a consortium. Rather, an application representing a consortium would be one that facilitates efforts of

communities working together toward a joint grant project. For example, several communities surrounding an airport may apply together to improve air services at that airport, or surrounding airports may work together to provide regional air service.

Multiple applications by a community will not be considered. The Department requests that communities file only one application for a grant. In the past, some communities have filed both individual applications and applications as part of a consortium. In many cases these applications have involved the same project at the same or different funding levels. We will not consider the stand-alone application if a community is also submitting a largely identical request as part of a consortium. To the extent that a community files separately and as part of a consortium for complementary projects—for example, one for a revenue guarantee and one for marketing—we will consider such proposals. However, communities should be aware that they can receive only one grant, either the stand-alone grant or as a member of a consortium, because no community can have concurrent grants.

Cost Sharing and Local Contributions Are Important Factors

The statute does not require communities to contribute toward a grant project, but those communities that contribute from local sources other than airport revenues are accorded priority consideration. One core objective of the Small Community Program is to promote community involvement in addressing air service/air fare issues through public/private partnerships. As a financial stakeholder in the process, the community gains greater control over the type, quality, and success of the air service initiatives that will best meet its needs, and demonstrates a greater commitment towards achieving the stated goals. The Department has historically received many more applications than can be accommodated and nearly all of those applications have proposed a community financial contribution to the project. Thus, proposals that propose a community financial contribution will be given priority consideration.

Types of contributions. Contributions should represent a *new* financial commitment or *new* financial resources devoted to attracting new or improved service, or addressing specific high-fare or other service issues, such as improving patronage of existing service at the airport. Contributions from already-existing programs or projects (e.g., designating a portion of an airport's existing annual marketing

budget to the project) are considered less favorably than contributions for new and innovative programs or projects. For those communities that propose to contribute to the grant project, that contribution can be in the following forms:

Cash from non-airport revenues. A cash contribution can include funds from the State, the County or the local government, and/or from local businesses, or other private organizations in the community. Contributions that are comprised of intangible non-cash items, such as the "value" of donated advertising, are considered "in-kind" contributions (see further discussion below).

Cash from airport revenues. This includes contributions from funds generated by airport operations. Airport revenues may not be used for revenue guarantees to airlines.⁶ Community proposals that include local contributions based on airport revenues do not receive priority consideration for selection.

In-kind contributions from the airport. This can include such items as waivers of landing fees, terminal rents, fuel fees, and/or vehicle parking fees.

In-kind contributions from the community. This can include such items as donated advertising from media outlets, catering services for inaugural events, or in-kind trading, such as advertising in exchange for free air travel. Travel banks and travel commitments/pledges are considered to be in-kind contributions,⁷ as are reduced fares offered by airlines.

Cash vs. in-kind contributions. Only local contributions made in cash are given priority consideration for selection. Contributions made in-kind or through other services may be valuable in helping to promote the objectives of the application, they are not afforded priority in the selection process.

Financial commitments must be fulfilled. Applicant communities should note that, as part of the grant agreement between the Department and the community, the community has legally committed itself to fulfilling its

⁶ 49 U.S.C. 47107, 47133.

⁷ A travel "bank" involves the actual deposit of funds from participating parties (e.g., businesses, individuals) into a designated bank account for the purpose of purchasing air travel on the selected airline, with defined procedures for the subsequent use or withdrawal of those funds under an agreement with the airline. Often, however, what communities refer to as a travel "bank" in reality involves travel "pledges" from businesses in the community without any collection of funds or formal procedures for use of the funds. As with other types of in-kind contributions, the Department views travel banks and pledges included in grant proposals as an indicator of local community support.

proposed financial contribution to the project and that its failure to meet this commitment could lead the Department to terminate the grant. Community participation in all aspects of the proposal, including the financial aspects, is critical to the success of the authorized project initiative. As with the grant awards in past years, receipt of the full federal contribution awarded will thus be linked to the community's fulfillment of its financial contribution. Furthermore, communities cannot propose a certain level of cash contribution from non-airport sources, and subsequent to being awarded a grant, seek to substitute or replace that contribution with either "in-kind" contributions or contributions from airport revenues, or both. Given the statute's priority for contributions from non-airport sources and the competitive nature of the selection process, a community's grant award could be reduced or terminated altogether if it is unable to replace the committed funds from non-airport revenue sources.

Reimbursements for Advance Payments: The Small Community Program is a reimbursable program therefore communities are required to make advance payments for funds expended in association with the project implementation under the program and then seek reimbursement. Reimbursement rates are calculated as a percentage of the total Federal funds requested divided by the Federal fund plus the local cash contribution (which is not refundable). Advance payments in forms other than cash (e.g. in-kind) are not reimbursable. If there is any question about whether a proposed payment would be considered as "in-kind" or cash, the applicant should contact the Department before submitting its proposal.

Application and Submission Information

Filing Deadline and Procedures

Grant applications are due by 5 p.m. EDT on August 27, 2010. As part of the submission process, an applicant must register as a grant applicant at <http://www.grants.gov> and complete the Application for Federal Domestic Assistance form SF424. An applicant must also include its grant proposal, including a completed "Summary Information" schedule (see Appendix B), as an attachment to its SF424. In addition, the cover page of each application should contain the information specified under "Cover page contents," below. Questions regarding the program should be directed to the

Office of Aviation Analysis on (202) 366-2347 or aloha.ley@dot.gov.

SF424. Communities not previously registered are encouraged to register with Grants.gov early during the application period because the registration and SF424 application process required by <http://www.grants.gov> can take up to three weeks to complete. A community may file its proposal anytime after the initial registration process has been completed on <http://www.grants.gov> as long as the entire application is filed by August 27, 2010. Communities are encouraged to contact the Grants.gov help desk for any technical assistance in filing their applications.

The Grants.gov "Applicant Resources" page (http://www07.grants.gov/applicants/app_help_reso.jsp) provides instructions and guidance on completing the registration and application processes. Further, grant proposals must be submitted as an attachment to the SF424. An application will NOT be deemed complete and will be ineligible for a grant award unless the SF424 and the attached proposal (including the completed "Summary Information" schedule) have been submitted through Grants.gov by the 5 PM EDT, August 27, 2010, deadline.

Cover page contents. The cover page for all applications should bear the title "Proposal Under the Small Community Air Service Development Program, Docket DOT-OST-2010-0124" and should include:

- (1) The name of the community or consortium of communities applying for the grant;
- (2) The legal sponsor and its Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number, including + 4; and
- (3) The 2-digit Congressional district code applicable to the sponsoring organization and, if a consortium, to each participating community.

Confidential treatment of information. Applicants will be able to provide certain information relevant to their proposals on a confidential basis. Under the Department's Freedom of Information Act regulations (49 CFR 7.17), such information is limited to commercial or financial information that, if disclosed, would either likely cause substantial harm to the competitive position of a business or enterprise or make it more difficult for the Federal Government to obtain similar information in the future.

Applicants seeking confidential treatment of a portion of their applications must segregate the confidential material in a sealed envelope marked "Confidential

Submission of X (the applicant) in Docket DOT-OST-2010-0124," and include with that material a request in the form of a motion seeking confidential treatment of the material under 14 § CFR 302.12 (Rule 12) of the Department's regulations. The applicant should submit an original and two copies of its motion and an original and two copies of the confidential material in the sealed envelope. The confidential material should *not* be included with the original of the applicant's proposal that is submitted via <http://www.grants.gov>. The applicant's original submission, however, should indicate clearly where the confidential material would have been inserted. If an applicant invokes Rule 12, the confidential portion of its filing will be treated as confidential pending a final determination. All confidential material must be received by August 27, 2010, and delivered to the Office of Aviation Analysis, 8th Floor, Room W86-310, 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE., Washington, DC 20590.

Types of Projects and Application Content

The statute is very general about the types of projects that can be authorized so that communities are provided flexibility in addressing their particular air service and airfare issues. Because circumstances may differ among communities, applicants have some latitude in identifying their own objectives and developing strategies for accomplishing them.

One objective of the Small Community Program is to help communities secure enhancements that will be responsive to their air transportation/air fare needs on a long-term basis after the financial support of the grant has ended. There are many ways that a community might enhance its current air service or attract new service, such as:

- Promoting awareness among residents of locally available service;
- Attracting a new carrier through revenue guarantees or operating cost offsets;
- Attracting new forms of service, such as on-demand air taxi service;
- Offering an incumbent carrier financial or other incentives to lower its fares, increase its frequencies, add new routes, or deploy more suitable aircraft, including upgrading its equipment from turboprops to regional jets;
- Combining traffic support from surrounding communities with regionalized service through one airport; or
- Providing local ground transportation service to improve access

to air service to the community and the surrounding area.⁸

Communities are encouraged to be innovative and to consider a wide range of initiatives and air transportation services in developing their proposals, such as intermodal or regional solutions. At the same time, proposals must *not* be general, vague, or unsupported. The more highly defined and focused the proposal, the more competitive it will be, particularly in light of the priority consideration afforded by the statute to those applicants that can use the funds in a timely manner. 49 U.S.C. 41743(c)(5)(E).

There is no set format that must be used in submitting grant proposals. At a minimum, however, a proposal must provide the following information:

- *A description of the community's existing air service*, including the carrier(s) providing service, service frequency, nonstop destinations offered, fares, and equipment types.

- *A synopsis of the community's historical service*, including destinations, traffic levels, service providers, and any extenuating factors that might have affected traffic in the past or that can be expected to influence service needs in the near to intermediate term.

- *A description of the community's air service development efforts over the past five years and the results of those efforts*. Many communities have been active on an on-going basis for many years in air service development efforts, while others are just beginning. To the extent that a community has previously engaged in other air service initiatives, including through public/private partnerships, it should describe those efforts and their results in its grant proposal. The description should include marketing and promotional efforts of airport services as well as efforts to recruit additional or improved air service and airfare initiatives.

- *A description of the community's air service needs or deficiencies*. A community should submit any information about (1) major origin/destination markets that are not now served or are not served adequately, and (2) fare levels that the community

deems relevant to consideration of its grant request, including market analyses or studies demonstrating an understanding of local air service needs.

- *A strategic plan for meeting those needs under the Small Community Program*, including the community's specific project goal(s) and detailed plan for attaining such goal(s). Plans should:

- ✓ Clearly identify the target audience of each component of the proposed transportation initiative, including all advertising and promotional efforts.

- ✓ Set forth a realistic timetable for implementation of the grant project including a timeline chart. Because the statute includes timely use of the grant funds as a priority consideration, a community must have a well-developed project plan and a detailed timetable for implementing that plan. In establishing the timetable, however, the community should be realistic about its ability to meet its project deadlines.⁹

- ✓ For proposals involving new or improved service, explain how the service will become self-sufficient. Under the statute, a community *cannot* seek grant funding in subsequent years in support of the same project. Moreover, in developing a proposal, it is important that a community seriously consider the scale of its proposed project and the timetable for achieving the stated goals. To the extent that a proposed project is dependent upon or relevant to the completion of other federally funded capital improvement projects, the community should provide a description of, and the construction time-line for, those projects, keeping in mind the statutory requirement to use Small Community Program funding in a timely manner.

- ✓ Fully and clearly outline the goals and objectives sought to be achieved; e.g., "to broaden the awareness by residents in the Tri-County area of the various services provided by passenger carriers at the Tri-County airport," or "to obtain new and affordable service to a hub airport in a direction where there is no such service." When an application is selected, these goals and objectives will be incorporated into the grant

agreement and define its basic project scope. Once an agreement is signed, if circumstances change and an amendment is sought to allow for different activities or a different approach, the Department will look to whether the change being sought is consistent with those fundamental project goals and objectives. Proposed changes that would alter those fundamental goals and objectives cannot be authorized, because doing so would undermine the competitive nature of the selection process.

Applicants are also encouraged to include in their proposals alternative or back-up strategies for achieving their desired goals and objectives. By incorporating such information into the grant agreement, desired changes may be accommodated.

- ✓ If the applicant received a Small Community Program grant in the past, explain how its proposed project differs from its earlier one by comparing and contrasting project goals, objectives and methods of achieving them.

- *A description of any public-private partnership that will participate in the project*. Full community involvement is a key aspect of the Small Community Program. The statute gives a priority to those communities that already have established, or will establish, a public-private partnership to facilitate air service to the public. The proposal should fully describe the public-private partnership that will participate in the community's proposal and how the partnership will *actively* participate in the implementation of the proposed project. In addition, applicants should identify each member of the partnership, the role that each will play, and the specific responsibilities of each member in project implementation. If the application does not include specific information on the partnership participation in the project, the Department will not be able to evaluate how well a community has met this consideration, and the applicant will *not* be deemed to have met this priority consideration in the Department's evaluation of the community's proposal.

- *A detailed description of the funding necessary for implementation of the community's project, including the federal and non-federal contributions*.

Proposals should clearly identify the level of federal funding sought. They should also clearly identify the community's cash contributions to the proposed project, "in-kind" contributions from the airport, and "in-kind" contributions from the community. Cash contributions from

⁸ These examples are illustrative only and are not meant as a list of projects favored by the Department. Interested communities can view actual proposals submitted in prior years. Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and, under "Search," enter one of the following depending on the desired filing year: DOT-OST-2002-11590, DOT-OST-2003-15065, DOT-OST-2004-17343, DOT-OST-2005-20127, DOT-OST-2006-23671; DOT-OST-2007-27370 and DOT-OST-2008-0100, DOT-OST-2009-0149 for proposals filed in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009, respectively.

⁹ The projected timetable will be an integral part of the grant agreements between the selected communities and the Department. Therefore, there is *no* advantage to a community in proposing an aggressive timetable that cannot be met, and there may be disadvantages if the community finds that it cannot meet its timetable or if its timeline is deemed unrealistic. Communities should carefully consider all factors affecting implementation of their projects and develop realistic timeframes for achieving those objectives.

airport revenues should be identified separately from cash contributions from other community sources. Similarly, cash contributions from the State and/or local government should be separately identified and described.

Applicant communities should be aware that, if awarded a grant, the Department will not reimburse the community for pre-award expenses such as the cost of preparing the grant application or for any expenses incurred prior to the community executing a grant agreement with the Department. In addition, ten percent of the grant funds will be withheld until the Department receives the final report of the grant project. See "Award Administration Information," below.

- *An explanation of how the community will ensure that its own funding contribution is spent in the manner proposed.*
- *Descriptions of how the community will monitor the progress of the grant project and the identity of critical milestones to be met during the life of the grant, including the need to modify or discontinue funding if identified milestones cannot be achieved. This is an important component of the community's proposal and serves to demonstrate the thoroughness of the community's planning of the proposed grant project.*

- *A description of how the community plans to continue with the project if it is not self-sustaining after the grant award expires.* A particular goal of the Small Community Program is to provide long-term, self-sustaining improvements to air service at small communities. A community cannot seek further grant funding in support of the same project. 49 U.S.C. 41743(c)(4). It is possible that new or improved service at a community will be well on its way to becoming self-sustaining, but not have reached that goal before the grant expires. Similarly, it is possible that extensive marketing and promotional efforts may be in process, but not have been completed at the end of the grant period and will require continued support.¹⁰ Therefore, in developing its proposal, the community should carefully consider and describe in detail its plans for providing continued financial support for the project after the grant funding is no longer available. This aspect of the application reflects on the community's commitment to the grant project and is an important component to the Department's

consideration of the community's proposal for selection for a grant award.

- *Designation of a legal sponsor responsible for administering the program.* The legal sponsor of the grant project *must* be a government entity. If the applicant is a public-private partnership, a public government member of the organization must be identified as the community's sponsor to receive program reimbursements. In this regard, communities can designate only a single government entity as the legal sponsor, even if applying as a consortium that consists of two or more local government entities. Private organizations cannot be designated as the legal sponsor of a grant under the Small Community Program.¹¹

Air Service Development Zone Designation

The statute authorizing the Small Community program also provides that the Department will designate one of the grant recipients in the program as an Air Service Development Zone (ASDZ). A current grant recipient—with its grant award period extending into FY2011—remains active as the ASDZ designee. As a result, at this time the Department is not soliciting applications for selection as an ASDZ designee.

Application Review Information

The Department will carefully review each proposal, and the staff may contact applicants if clarification is needed. The grant awards will be made as quickly as possible so that communities awarded grants can complete the grant agreement process and proceed to implement their plans. Pending unforeseen circumstances, the grant selection process should be completed by December 2010. Given the competitive nature of the grant process, the Department will not meet with grant applicants with respect to their grant proposals. The Department's selection of communities for grant awards will be based on the communities' written submissions.

Priority factors considered. The law directs the Department to give priority consideration to those communities or consortia where:¹²

- Air fares are higher than the national average air fares for all communities;
- The community or consortium will provide a portion of the cost of the activity from local sources other than airport revenue sources;

- The community or consortium has established or will establish a public-private partnership to facilitate air carrier service to the public;
- The assistance will provide material benefits to a broad segment of the traveling public, including business, educational institutions, and other enterprises, whose access to the national air transportation system is limited; and
- The assistance will be used in a timely manner.

Additional factors considered. Applications will be evaluated against the priority considerations listed above. Our experience has been that more applications are received than can be funded under the Small Community Program. Consequently, consistent with the criteria stated above, the selection process will take into consideration such additional factors as:

- The geographic location of each applicant, including the community's proximity to larger centers of air service and low-fare service alternatives;
- The proposed federal grant amount requested compared with the local share offered;
- Whether the applicant community has previously received a grant award under this program and, if so, whether its application includes an explanation of how the community's proposed project differs from its previously funded project;
- The community's demonstrated commitment to and participation in the proposed grant project;
- The relative size of each applicant community;
- The community's existing level of air service and whether that service has been increasing or decreasing;
- Whether the community's proposal, if successfully implemented, could serve as a working model for other communities;
- Current demographic indicators for the community, such as population, income and business activity;
- The grant amount requested compared with total funds available for all communities;
- Whether the community has a realistic plan to use the funds in a timely manner;
- The uniqueness of an applicant's claimed problems and whether the proposed project addresses those problems;
- The extent to which the applicant's proposed solution(s) to solving the problem(s) is new or innovative; and
- Whether the community's proximity to an existing grant recipient could impact its proposal.

Full community participation is a key goal of this program as demonstrated by

¹⁰ Project implementation costs are reimbursable from grant funds only for services or property delivered during the grant term.

¹¹ The community has the responsibility to ensure that the recipient of any funding has the legal authority under State and local laws to carry out all aspects of the grant.

¹² 49 U.S.C. 41743(c)(5).

the statute's focus on local contributions and active participation in the project. Therefore, applications that demonstrate broad community support will be more attractive. For example, communities providing proportionately higher levels of cash contributions from other than airport revenues will have more attractive proposals. Communities that provide multiple levels of contributions (state, local, airport, cash and in-kind contributions) also will have more attractive proposals. Similarly, communities that demonstrate participation in the development and execution of the proposed air service project will enhance the attractiveness of their proposals. In this regard, the Department welcomes letters of intent from airlines on behalf of community proposals that are specifically intended to enlist new or expanded air carrier presence. Such letters will be accorded greater weight when authorized by airline planning departments.

Proposals that offer innovative solutions to the transportation issues facing the community will be more attractive. Small communities have faced many problems retaining and improving their air services and in coping with air fares that are higher than typical for larger communities. Therefore, proposals that offer new, creative approaches to addressing these problems, to the extent that they are reasonable, will have their attractiveness enhanced. Proposals that provide a well-defined plan, a reasonable timetable for use of the grant funds, and a plan for continuation and/or monitoring of the project after the grant expires also will have greater attractiveness.

Award Administration Information

The Department will announce its grant selections in a selection order, which will be served on each grant recipient, all other applicants, and all parties served with this solicitation order. The selection order will also be posted in the Docket at <http://www.regulations.gov> and on the Department's webpage.

Grant agreement. Communities awarded grants are required to execute a grant agreement with the Department *before* they begin to spend funds under the grant award. Grant funds will be provided on a *reimbursable basis* only, with reimbursements made only for expenses incurred and billed during the period that the grant agreement is in effect and at the appropriate percentage rate, which is determined by: (SCASDP Grant Amount) ÷ (SCASDP Grant Amount + Local Cash Contribution + State Cash Contribution, if applicable).

Applicants should not assume they have received a grant, nor should they obligate or spend local funds prior to receiving and fully executing a grant agreement with the Department. Expenditures made prior to the execution of a grant agreement, including costs associated with preparation of the grant application, will *not* be reimbursed. Moreover, there are numerous assurances that grant recipients must sign and honor when federal funds are awarded. All communities receiving a grant under the Small Community Program will be required to accept the responsibilities of these assurances and to execute the assurances when they execute their grant agreements. Copies of the applicable assurances are available for review on the Department's webpage at http://ostpxweb.dot.gov/aviation/X-50%20Role_files/smallcommunity.htm (click on "SCASDP Grant Assurances").

Grantee reports. The grant agreement between the Department and each selected community will require the submission of quarterly reports on the progress the community has made during the previous quarter in implementing its grant project. In addition, the grant agreement will require the submission, on a quarterly or other time-specific basis, of other materials relevant to the grant project, such as copies of advertising and promotional material and copies of contracts with consultants and service providers. In addition, each community will be required to submit a final report on its project to the Department, and 10 percent of the grant funds will not be reimbursed to the community until such final report is received.

Cost reimbursement. Communities will be permitted to seek reimbursement of project implementation costs on a regular basis. The frequency of such requests will be at the community's discretion. In this regard, the Department will provide the grant recipient communities with details and procedures for securing reimbursements electronically.

Grant amendments. A grantee may wish to amend its agreement with the Department in the event of a change in circumstances after the date the agreement is executed. Typically, amendments involve an extension to the time period for completing the grant or a change in the types of activities authorized for reimbursement under the goals and objectives ("project scope") of the grant agreement. Grantees are cautioned, however, that the Department cannot authorize amendments that are incompatible with the scope of the agreement. For

example, a grant awarded solely for the purpose of developing an airport marketing plan cannot be amended to permit subsidization of an air carrier's startup costs, or a grant awarded solely for the purpose of attracting low-fare service cannot be amended to permit it to attract service from a legacy carrier, since the latter, in each example, was never contemplated by the original agreement.

Grantees are also advised that the Department will not extend the expiration date of an agreement simply to allow more time for a community to solicit air carriers for new air service. Many grants have been awarded for the purpose of subsidizing new or additional air service for a small community, with the goal of that service becoming self-sustaining by the end of the subsidy period. In virtually all cases, the community seeking the grant funds received expressions of interest from one or more air carriers. In some instances, these expressions of interest failed to materialize and the community was left without any immediate prospects, at which time it asked for a grant extension to allow more time to pursue other carriers. Because the Department is charged by law to consider timely use of funds when selecting grant recipients, the Department will grant an extension only when the community can provide strong evidence of a firm commitment on the part of an air carrier to deliver the desired service.

To avoid misunderstandings, grantees contemplating amendments to their agreements are urged to discuss their situations with the Small Community Program staff before requesting a formal amendment.

This order is issued under authority delegated in 49 CFR 1.56a(f).

Accordingly,

1. Community proposals for funding under the Small Community Air Service Development Program should be submitted via <http://www.grants.gov> as an attachment to the SF424 no later than August 27, 2010; and

2. This order will be published in the **Federal Register** and also will be served on the Conference of Mayors, the National League of Cities, the National Governors Association, the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO), County Executives of America, the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE), and the Airports Council International-North

America (ACI), and posted on <http://www.grants.gov>.

Susan L. Kurland,

Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs.

An electronic version of this document is available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Appendix A—Small Community Air Service Development Program

United States Code Annotated

Title 49. Transportation

Subtitle VII. Aviation Programs

Part A. Air Commerce and Safety

Subpart II. Economic Regulation

Chapter 417. Operations of Carriers

Subchapter II. Small Community Air Service

■§ 41743. Airports not receiving sufficient service

(a) Small community air service development program.—The Secretary of Transportation shall establish a program that meets the requirements of this section for improving air carrier service to airports not receiving sufficient air carrier service.

(b) Application required.—In order to participate in the program established under subsection (a), a community or consortium of communities shall submit an application to the Secretary in such form, at such time, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including—

(1) An assessment of the need of the community or consortium for access, or improved access, to the national air transportation system; and

(2) an analysis of the application of the criteria in subsection (c) to that community or consortium.

(c) Criteria for participation.—In selecting communities, or consortia of communities, for participation in the program established under subsection (a), the Secretary shall apply the following criteria:

(1) Size.—For calendar year 1997, the airport serving the community or consortium was not larger than a small hub airport, and—

(A) had insufficient air carrier service; or

(B) had unreasonably high air fares.

(2) Characteristics.—The airport presents characteristics, such as geographic diversity or unique circumstances, that will demonstrate the need for, and feasibility of, the program established under subsection (a).

(3) State limit.—Not more than 4 communities or consortia of communities, or a combination thereof, from the same State may be selected to participate in the program in any fiscal year.

(4) Overall limit.—No more than 40 communities or consortia of communities, or a combination thereof, may be selected to participate in the program in each year for which funds are appropriated for the program.

No community, consortia of communities, nor combination thereof may participate in the program in support of the same project more than once, but any community, consortia of communities, or combination thereof may apply, subsequent to such participation, to participate in the program in support of a different project.

(5) Priorities.—The Secretary shall give priority to communities or consortia of communities where—

(A) Air fares are higher than the average air fares for all communities;

(B) the community or consortium will provide a portion of the cost of the activity to be assisted under the program from local sources other than airport revenues;

(C) the community or consortium has established, or will establish, a public-private partnership to facilitate air carrier service to the public;

(D) the assistance will provide material benefits to a broad segment of the traveling public, including business, educational institutions, and other enterprises, whose access to the national air transportation system is limited; and

(E) the assistance will be used in a timely fashion.

(d) Types of assistance.—The Secretary may use amounts made available under this section—

(1) To provide assistance to an air carrier to subsidize service to and from an underserved airport for a period not to exceed 3 years;

(2) To provide assistance to an underserved airport to obtain service to and from the underserved airport; and

(3) To provide assistance to an underserved airport to implement such other measures as the Secretary, in consultation with such airport, considers appropriate to improve air service both in terms of the cost of such service to consumers and the availability of such service, including improving air service through marketing and promotion of air service and enhanced utilization of airport facilities.

(e) Authority to make agreements.—

(1) In general.—The Secretary may make agreements to provide assistance under this section.

(2) Authorization of appropriations.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2001, \$27,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2002 and 2003, and \$35,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2008 to carry out this section. Such sums shall remain available until expended.

(f) Additional action.—Under the program established under subsection (a), the Secretary shall work with air carriers providing service to participating communities and major air carriers (as defined in section 41716(a)(2)) serving large hub airports to facilitate joint-fare arrangements consistent with normal industry practice.

(g) Designation of responsible official.—The Secretary shall designate an employee of the Department of Transportation—

(1) To function as a facilitator between small communities and air carriers;

(2) To carry out this section;

(3) To ensure that the Bureau of Transportation Statistics collects data on passenger information to assess the service needs of small communities;

(4) To work with and coordinate efforts with other Federal, State, and local agencies to increase the viability of service to small communities and the creation of aviation development zones; and

(5) To provide policy recommendations to the Secretary and Congress that will ensure that small communities have access to quality, affordable air transportation services.

(h) Air Service Development Zone.—The Secretary shall designate an airport in the program as an Air Service Development Zone and work with the community or consortium on means to attract business to the area surrounding the airport, to develop land use options for the area, and provide data, working with the Department of Commerce and other agencies.

Appendix B—Small Community Air Service Development Program

Docket DOT–OST–2010–0124

Summary Information

All applicants *must* submit this information with their proposal, along with a completed form SF424 on <http://www.grants.gov>.

A. Applicant Information: (Check All That Apply)

- Not a Consortium Interstate Consortium Intrastate Consortium
- Community now receives EAS subsidy
- Community (or Consortium member) previously received a Small Community Grant

If previous recipient: Date of grant: _____
 Expiration date of grant: _____

B. Public/Private Partnerships: (List Organization names)

Public	Private
1. _____	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____
4. _____	4. _____
5. _____	5. _____

C. Project Proposal: (check all that apply)

- Marketing Upgrade Aircraft New Route
- Personnel Increase Frequency Low Fare Service
- Travel Bank Service Restoration Subsidy
- Surface Transportation Regional Service Other (specify)
- Revenue Guarantee Launch New Carrier _____
- Start Up Cost Offset First Service _____
- Study Secure Additional Carrier _____

D. Existing Landing Aids at Local Airport:

- Full ILS Outer/Middle Marker Published Instrument Approach
- Localizer Other (specify)

E. Project Cost:

1. Federal amount requested: _____
2. State *cash* financial contribution: _____
3. Local *cash* financial contribution. _____
 - 3a. Airport *cash* funds: _____
 - 3b. Non-airport *cash* funds: _____
 - 3c. Total local *cash* funds (3a. + 3b.): _____
4. TOTAL CASH FUNDING (1. + 2. + 3c.): _____
5. Local funds contributed from *already-existing* programs or projects included in line 3c. amount: _____
6. Local funds contributed from *new* commitments or *new* resources included in line 3c. amount: _____
7. Airport *In-Kind* contribution: _____
(amount & description)
8. Other *In-Kind* contribution: _____
(amount & description)
9. TOTAL IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION (7. + 8.): _____
10. TOTAL PROJECT COST (4. + 9.): _____

F. Enplanements:

	2004	2008
2000	_____	_____
2001	_____	_____
2002	_____	_____
2003	_____	_____

G. Is This Application Subject To Review by State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?

- a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on (date) _____
- b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372, but has not been selected by the State for review.
- c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.

H. Is the Applicant Delinquent on Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes", Provide Explanation)

- No Yes (explain) _____

[FR Doc. 2010-18731 Filed 7-29-10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-62-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Agency Information Collection Activities: Requests for Comments; Clearance of Renewed Approval of Information Collection(s): Verification of Authenticity of Foreign License, Rating and Medical Certification

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, FAA invites public comments about our intention to request the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval to renew an information collection. The information being collected is used to properly identify airmen to allow the agency to verify their foreign license being used to qualify for a U.S. certificate. The respondents are holders of foreign licenses wishing to obtain a U.S. certificate.

DATES: Written comments should be submitted by September 28, 2010.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carla Scott on (202) 267-9895, or by e-mail at: Carla.Scott@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

OMB Control Number: 2120-0724.

Title: Verification of Authenticity of Foreign License, Rating and Medical Certification.

Form Numbers: FAA form 8060-71.

Type of Review: Renewal of a currently-approved information collection.

Background: The information collected is used to properly identify airmen to allow the agency to verify their foreign license being used to qualify for a U.S. certificate. The respondents are holders of foreign licenses wishing to obtain a U.S. certificate. Per the General Aviation Operations Inspector's Handbook, Order 8700.1, a person who is applying for a U.S. pilot certificate/rating on the basis of a foreign-pilot license must apply for verification of that pilot license at least 90 days before arriving at the designated FAA FSDO where the applicant intends to receive the U.S. pilot certificate.

Affected Public: An estimated 5,400 respondents.

Frequency: The information is collected on occasion.

Estimated Average Burden per Response: Approximately 10 minutes per response.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: An estimated 900 hours annually.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to the FAA at the following address: Ms. Carla Scott, Room 712, Federal Aviation Administration, IT Enterprises Business Services Division, AES-200, 800 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20591.

PUBLIC COMMENTS INVITED: You are asked to comment on any aspect of this information collection, including (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for FAA's performance; (b) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (c) ways for FAA to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and (d) ways that the burden could be minimized without reducing the quality of the collected information. The agency will summarize and/or include your comments in the request for OMB's clearance of this information collection.

Issued in Washington, DC on July 26, 2010.

Carla Scott,

FAA Information Collection Clearance Officer, IT Enterprises Business Services Division, AES-200.

[FR Doc. 2010-18783 Filed 7-29-10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Agency Information Collection Activities: Requests for Comments; Clearance of Renewed Approval of Information Collection(s): Flight Standards Customer Satisfaction Survey

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, FAA invites public comments about our intention to request the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval to renew an information collection. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on the following collection of information was published on May 11, 2010, vol. 75, no. 90, page 26318. The FAA has initiated customer service surveys throughout the agency, requiring that every element have contact with their customers to assure that their needs are being met and that service is improved.

DATES: Written comments should be submitted by August 30, 2010.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carla Scott on (202) 267-9895, or by e-mail at: Carla.Scott@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *OMB Control Number:* 2120-0568.

Title: Flight Standards Customer Satisfaction Survey.

Form Numbers: There are no FAA forms associated with this collection.

Type of Review: Renewal of a currently-approved information collection.

Background: The FAA has initiated customer service surveys throughout the agency, requiring that every element have contact with their customers to assure that their needs are being met and that service is improved. Survey data collected from Flight Standards customers are analyzed by Flight Standards Service, Organizational Resources and Program Management Division, and the General Aviation, Commercial and Maintenance Divisions.

Affected Public: An estimated 5,000 respondents.

Frequency: The information is collected on occasion.

Estimated Average Burden per Response: Approximately 10 minutes per response.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: An estimated 542 hours annually.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the proposed information collection to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget. Comments should be addressed to the attention of the Desk Officer, Department of Transportation/FAA, and sent via electronic mail to oir_submission@omb.eop.gov, or faxed to (202) 395-6974, or mailed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Docket Library, Room 10102, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503.

Public Comments Invited: You are asked to comment on any aspect of this information collection, including (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for FAA's performance; (b) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (c) ways for FAA to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and (d) ways that the burden could be minimized without reducing the quality of the collected information. The agency will summarize and/or include your comments in the request for OMB's clearance of this information collection.