

US Forest Service TRIP Program Webinar Series

Webinar II: TRIP Application Best Practices

January 28, 2010

SERVING THE NATION AS A LEADER IN GLOBAL
TRANSPORTATION INNOVATION SINCE 1970



 **John A. Volpe National Transportation Systems Center**
U.S. Department of Transportation

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Introductions



US Forest Service



John A. Volpe National
Transportation Systems Center

 **John A. Volpe National Transportation Systems Center**
U.S. Department of Transportation
Research and Innovative Technology Administration

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Agenda

- Overview (10 min)
 - Purpose
 - Methods
 - Review of TRIP
- Application best practices (10 min)
 - How to apply
 - How to address / meet criteria
 - Timeline
- White River NF case study (10 min)
- Conclusion
 - Links and Q&A (15 min)

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OVERVIEW

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Purpose

- Engage Forest Service staff and partners new to TRIP
- Provide guidance to Forest Service staff
 - Defining transportation challenges
 - Identifying alternative transportation solutions
 - Applying to TRIP

Purpose (continued)

- This presentation is 2nd of 2 webinars
 - First webinar provided an introduction to the TRIP program and the application
 - Second webinar prepares USFS staff for the application process
 - Sets expectations with respect to time and resources
 - Shares best practices and lessons learned
 - Includes case studies from previous USFS grant recipients

Methods

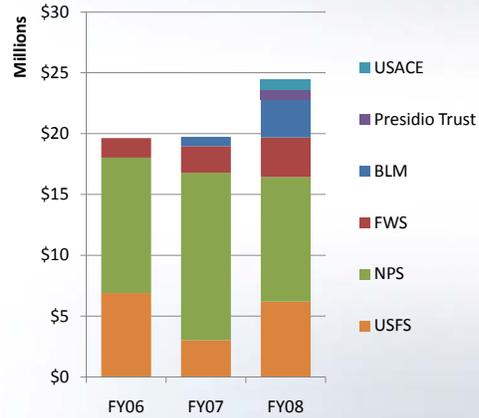
- Reviewed 15 documents related to TRIP program rules and applications
- Reviewed 24 Forest Service applications from FY06, FY07, and FY08
- Interviewed individuals from 3 National Forests
- Volpe Center first-hand knowledge

Review of TRIP

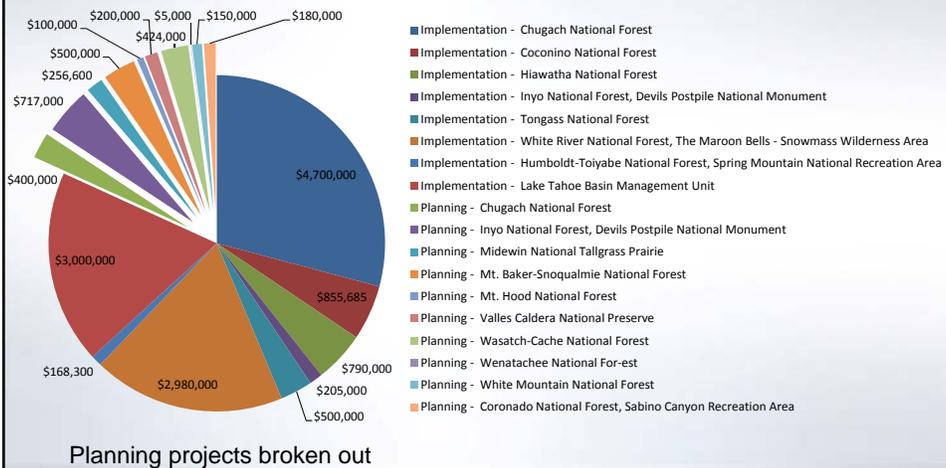
- Grant administered by FTA
- Funds *alternative transportation systems (ATS)* projects on or associated with public lands
 - ATS must provide “a to b” transportation
 - ATS must reduce number of trips in personal automobiles
- Projects may be *planning* or *implementation* projects

TRIP accomplishments, FY06-FY08

- 139 public lands ATS projects over \$63 million in funding
- 24 USFS ATS projects in 16 National Forests, over \$16 million in funding

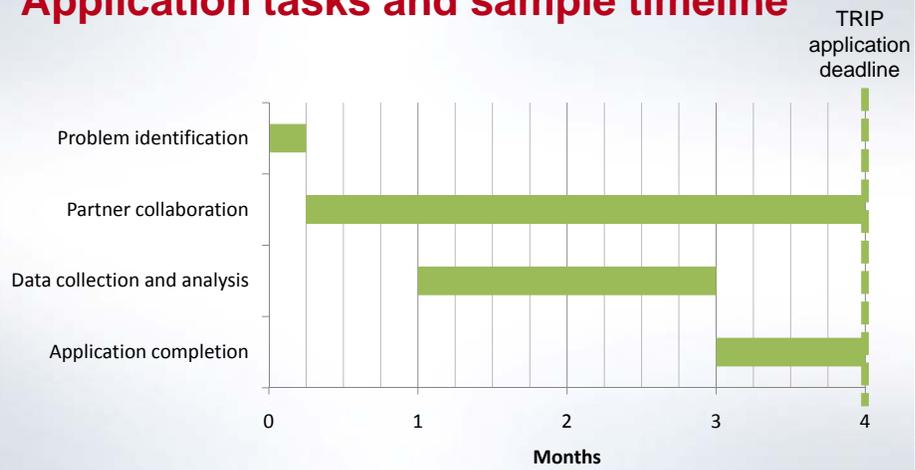


FY08 USFS TRIP Awards



BEST PRACTICES

Application tasks and sample timeline



Problem identification, 1 week

- What are our problems related to the movement of people or goods?
- Can any be solved with an alternative transportation system?
- Would such a system provide “a to b” transportation?
- Would such a system result in fewer trips in private vehicles?

- To answer these questions
 - Make first-hand observations
 - Speak with Forest Service staff at your unit
 - Review Forest and local planning documents
 - Tap local knowledge
 - Organize a Transportation Assistance Group (TAG)
 - Engage relevant stakeholders, attend their meetings

Problem identification (continued)

- In general, parking projects have not been approved unless they are part of larger ATS strategies
- Walking paths to provide access to parking lots have not been approved
- Interpretive tours must provide transportation from A to B

Partner collaboration, 4 months

- Potential partners
 - Federally owned or managed park, forest, refuge, or recreational area that is open to the general public
 - State, tribal, regional, or local governmental authorities with jurisdiction over land in the vicinity of an eligible area
 - Transit agencies
- Partners can help
 - Collect data
 - Write the application – many transit agencies have grant-writing experience

Data collection, 2 months

- Types of key data
 - Characteristics of existing transportation system
 - Supported modes, road-miles, parking spots, condition,
 - Existing transportation system usage
 - Daily or hourly car counts, parking utilization, illegal parking, congestion, accidents
 - Transportation system costs, both quantitative and qualitative
 - Capital costs, annual operations and maintenance costs, travel time wasted or saved, environmental costs
 - Visitation
 - Number of visitors, visitor use, visitation patterns (annual, seasonal, daily)

Data collection (continued)

- Collection methods
 - Field measurement
 - Consult Forest Service subject matter experts
 - Contact related partners
 - Review Forest, state, regional, and local planning documents

Planning vs implementation

Criteria	Points	Weight (Planning)	Weight (Implementation)
1. Demonstration of Need			
a. Visitor mobility & experience	(1-5)	50%	25%
b. Environmental condition as result of existing transportation system	(1-5)		
2. Methodology for Assessing: Visitor Mobility & Experience Benefits of Project			
a. Reduced traffic congestion	(1-5)	15%	25%
b. Enhanced visitor mobility, accessibility, and safety	(1-5)		
c. Improved visitor education, recreation, and health benefits	(1-5)		
3. Methodology for Assessing: Environmental Benefits of Project			
a. Protection of sensitive natural, cultural, and historical resources	(1-5)	15%	25%
b. Reduced pollution	(1-5)		
4. Methodology for Assessing: Operational Efficiency and Financial Sustainability of Alternatives			
a. Effectiveness in meeting management goals	(1-5)	20%	25%
b. Financial plan and cost effectiveness	(1-5)		
c. Cost effectiveness	(1-5)		
d. Partnerships and funding from other sources	(1-5)		

General best practices

- Pre-plan (if time permits)
- Include pictures, maps, and diagrams
- Include specific examples
- Use quantitative data
- Leverage past applications
- Establish legitimacy
 - Work with partners
 - Reference public documents

FY2009 Planning application



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration

Paul S. Sarbanes Transit in Parks Program (Transit in the Parks Program)
Project Proposal for Fiscal Year 2009 Funds – Planning Project

BASIC PROJECT INFORMATION			
Project Name (Please provide a 1-2 sentence description of the project):			
Proposed Funding Recipient:			
Public land unit(s) involved:		Location of Project	
		City:	
		County:	
		State:	
		Congressional District:	
Federal Land Management Agency managing the above unit(s):		Type of Planning Project: (Implementation projects, please use the alternate form)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bureau of Land Management <input type="checkbox"/> Bureau of Reclamation <input type="checkbox"/> Fish and Wildlife Service <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Service <input type="checkbox"/> National Park Service <input type="checkbox"/> Other (e.g. Federal Trust)		<input type="checkbox"/> Planning	
Describe:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Proposal is to plan for a possible new alternative transportation system where none currently exists. <input type="checkbox"/> Proposal is to plan for a possible expansion or enhancement of an existing alternative transportation system.			
Transit in Parks Program Funding Requested during FY 2009		Total Cost of Planning Project at Completion (All sources)	
\$		\$	
Were you awarded Transit in Parks Program funds for this project in the past? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
If answer "Yes," please provide amount awarded: \$			
Do you plan to request additional Transit in Parks Program funds in future years? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
(Note: If you wish to compete for future Transit in Parks Program fiscal year funds you must reapply.)			
If answer "Yes," please specify Transit in Parks Program proposed funding levels for out years below:			
FY 2010 \$	FY 2011 \$	FY 2012 \$	
FY 2009 Funding Amounts from sources other than Transit in Parks Program funds? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
If answer "Yes," please specify funding levels per source below:			
State \$	Local \$	Federal (other than Transit in Parks Program) \$	Private sources \$

Project name



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration

Paul S. Sarbanes Transit in Parks Program (Transit in the Parks Program)
Project Proposal for Fiscal Year 2009 Funds – Planning Project

BASIC PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name (Please provide a 1-2 sentence description of the project):

Proposed Funding Recipient:

Public land unit(s) involved: <input type="text"/>	Location of Project City: <input type="text"/> County: <input type="text"/> State: <input type="text"/> Congressional District: <input type="text"/>
Federal Land Management Agency managing the above unit(s): <input type="checkbox"/> Bureau of Land Management <input type="checkbox"/> Bureau of Reclamation <input type="checkbox"/> Fish and Wildlife Service <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Service <input type="checkbox"/> National Park Service <input type="checkbox"/> Other (e.g. Federal Trust) Describe: <input type="text"/>	Type of Planning Project: (Implementation projects, please use the alternate form) <input type="checkbox"/> Planning

Proposal is to plan for a possible new alternative transportation system where none currently exists.
 Proposal is to plan for a possible expansion or enhancement of an existing alternative transportation system.

Transit in Parks Program Funding Requested during FY 2009 \$ <input type="text"/>	Total Cost of Planning Project at Completion (All sources) \$ <input type="text"/>
--	---

Were you awarded Transit in Parks Program funds for this project in the past? Yes No
If answer "Yes," please provide amount awarded: \$

Do you plan to request additional Transit in Parks Program funds in future years? Yes No
(Note: If you wish to compete for future Transit in Parks Program fiscal year funds you must reapply.)

If answer "Yes," please specify Transit in Parks Program proposed funding levels for out years below:

FY 2010 \$ <input type="text"/>	FY 2011 \$ <input type="text"/>	FY 2012 \$ <input type="text"/>
---------------------------------	---------------------------------	---------------------------------

FY 2009 Funding Amounts from sources other than Transit in Parks Program funds? Yes No
If answer "Yes," please specify funding levels per source below:

State \$ <input type="text"/>	Local \$ <input type="text"/>	Federal (other than Transit in Parks Program) \$ <input type="text"/>	Private sources \$ <input type="text"/>
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Be able to summarize the entire project in 1-2 sentences.

“Purchase 2 hybrid-electric low-floor buses and advance ITS technology initiatives to make transit within Maroon Bells, Snowmass Wilderness Area, and White River National Forest more efficient and user-friendly.”



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Proposed recipient



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration

Paul S. Sarbanes Transit in Parks Program (Transit in the Parks Program)
Project Proposal for Fiscal Year 2009 Funds – Planning Project

BASIC PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name (Please provide a 1-2 sentence description of the project):

Proposed Funding Recipient:

Public land unit(s) involved: <input type="text"/>	Location of Project City: <input type="text"/> County: <input type="text"/> State: <input type="text"/> Congressional District: <input type="text"/>
Federal Land Management Agency managing the above unit(s): <input type="checkbox"/> Bureau of Land Management <input type="checkbox"/> Bureau of Reclamation <input type="checkbox"/> Fish and Wildlife Service <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Service <input type="checkbox"/> National Park Service <input type="checkbox"/> Other (e.g. Federal Trust) Describe: <input type="text"/>	Type of Planning Project: (Implementation projects, please use the alternate form) <input type="checkbox"/> Planning

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FY 2010 \$ <input type="text"/>	FY 2011 \$ <input type="text"/>	FY 2012 \$ <input type="text"/>
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FY 2009 Funding Amounts from sources other than Transit in Parks Program funds? Yes No
If answer "Yes," please specify funding levels per source below:

State \$ <input type="text"/>	Local \$ <input type="text"/>	Federal (other than Transit in Parks Program) \$ <input type="text"/>	Private sources \$ <input type="text"/>
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Choose an appropriate funding recipient.

Recipients may be National Forests, or other local, state, or federal lands, resource, or transit agencies.



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Funding amounts from other sources



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration

Paul S. Sarbanes Transit in Parks Program (Transit in the Parks Program)
Project Proposal for Fiscal Year 2009 Funds – Planning Project

BASIC PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name (Please provide a 1-2 sentence description of the project): _____

Proposed Funding Recipient: _____

Public land unit(s) involved: _____

Location of Project:
City: _____
County: _____
State: _____
Congressional District: _____

Federal Land Management Agency managing the above unit(s):
 Bureau of Land Management
 Bureau of Reclamation
 Fish and Wildlife Service
 Forest Service
 National Park Service
 Other (e.g. Federal Trust) _____

Type of Planning Project (Implementation projects, please use the alternate form):
 Planning

Describe: _____

Proposal is to plan for a possible new alternative transportation system where none currently exists.
 Proposal is to plan for a possible expansion or enhancement of an existing alternative transportation system.

Transit in Parks Program Funding Requested during FY 2009 \$ _____

Total Cost of Planning Project at Completion (All sources) \$ _____

Were you awarded Transit in Parks Program funds for this project in the past? Yes No
 If answer "Yes," please provide amount awarded: \$ _____

Do you plan to request additional Transit in Parks Program funds in future years? Yes No
 (Note: If you wish to compete for future Transit in Parks Program fiscal year funds you must reapply.)

If answer "Yes," please specify Transit in Parks Program proposed funding levels for out years below:
 FY 2010 \$ _____ FY 2011 \$ _____ FY 2012 \$ _____

FY 2009 Funding Amounts from sources other than Transit in Parks Program funds? Yes No
 If answer "Yes," please specify funding levels per source below:
 State \$ _____ Local \$ _____ Federal (other than Transit in Parks Program) \$ _____ Private sources \$ _____

Assemble a portfolio of funding sources.

Applying for TRIP funding as part of a larger portfolio of funding sources demonstrates collaboration and buy-in from other organizations and agencies



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Project sponsors and requirements

CONTACT PERSON

Name: _____ Phone: _____
 Position: _____ E-mail: _____
 Address: _____

OTHER PROJECT SPONSORS (in addition to funding recipient)

REQUIREMENTS

If a State, Tribal, or local government entity is proposing the project, the applicant has contacted the manager of the Federal land unit(s) and has the consent of the Federal land management agency or agencies affected.
 The project is consistent with the metropolitan and statewide planning process.
 The project is consistent with agency plans.
 The planning project will analyze all reasonable alternatives, including a non-construction option.

BASIC PROJECT DATA

Number of Visitors (Annual): _____ Daily Number of Visitors (Peak season): _____

Average Number of Vehicles per Day at Peak Visitation: _____

Current Road Level of Service at Peak Visitation: _____
 (Please consult guidance where available on determining this variable. You may use observational accounts or pictures to provide an assessment of this datum for FY 2009 proposals.)

What time of the year does your land unit experience Peak Visitation?
 Spring Summer Fall Winter

Current Carrying Capacity of Existing Roads: _____ (vehicles/day)

What percent of that capacity is the site operating at during peak periods? _____ %

Current parking shortages during peak visitation: _____

Leverage partnerships.

Applying for TRIP consistent with agency and statewide plans and having support of partners demonstrates collaboration and establishes project legitimacy.



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Research and Innovative Technology Administration

Basic project data

CONTACT PERSON	
Name: <input type="text"/>	Phone: <input type="text"/>
Position: <input type="text"/>	E-mail: <input type="text"/>
Address: <input type="text"/>	
OTHER PROJECT SPONSORS (in addition to funding recipient)	
<input type="text"/>	
REQUIREMENTS	
<input type="checkbox"/> If a State, Tribal, or local government entity is proposing the project, the applicant has contacted the manager of the Federal land unit(s) and has the consent of the Federal land management agency or agencies affected. <input type="checkbox"/> The project is consistent with the metropolitan and statewide planning process. <input type="checkbox"/> The project is consistent with agency plans. <input type="checkbox"/> The planning project will analyze all reasonable alternatives, including...	
BASIC PROJECT DATA	
Number of Visitors (Annual): <input type="text"/>	Daily Number of Visitors (Peak season): <input type="text"/>
Average Number of Vehicles per Day at Peak Visitation: <input type="text"/>	
Current Road Level of Service at Peak Visitation: <input type="text"/> <small>(Please consult guidance where available on determining this variable. You may use observational accounts or pictures to provide an assessment of this datum for FY 2009 proposals).</small>	
What time of the year does your land unit experience Peak Visitation?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Spring <input type="checkbox"/> Summer <input type="checkbox"/> Fall <input type="checkbox"/> Winter	
Current Carrying Capacity of Existing Roads: <input type="text"/> (vehicles/day)	
What percent of that capacity is the site operating at during peak periods? <input type="text"/> %	
Current parking shortages during peak visitation: <input type="text"/>	

Collect and include supporting data.

Data in this section is the minimum required. The entire application should be supported with numeric figures that describe accurate use, funding, visitation, transportation, and environmental characteristics.

Executive summary

Current Number of Persons who use the alternative transportation system (if one already exists) at peak visitation: <input type="text"/> <small>(average number of visitors/daily at peak)</small>
Estimated Annual Number of Persons who will use the alternative transportation system at project completion: <input type="text"/> <small>(anticipated number of riders or users/annually)</small>
Average number of auto collisions with wildlife in the area? <input type="text"/> collisions/year

Executive Summary

Please provide an executive summary of your proposal that is **no more than one page** in length.

Project Description

What activities would be funded by the requested Transit in Parks Program financial assistance? Please provide a project description that is **no more than one page** in length. You may attach up to two pages of maps or other illustrations that do not count towards the page limit.

Be brief, descriptive, and focused.

Sell your project at a high level. Make a compelling argument. Include costs and benefits. Supporting information is appropriate in later sections

Project description

Current Number of Persons who use the alternative transportation system (if one already exists) at peak visitation: (average number of visitors/daily at peak)

Estimated Annual Number of Persons who will use the alternative transportation system at project completion: (anticipated number of riders or users/annually)

Average number of auto collisions with wildlife in the area? collisions/year

Executive Summary

Please provide an executive summary of your proposal that is no more than one page in length.

Project Description

What activities would be funded by the requested Transit in Parks Program financial assistance? Please provide a project description that is no more than one page in length. You may attach up to two pages of maps or other illustrations that do not count towards the page limit.

Include maps, diagrams, and photographs.

Maps, diagrams, and photos highlight needs, provide context to transportation problems, and provide visual overviews of areas and infrastructure to readers.



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Criteria and page limit

Alternative Transportation in the Parks and Public Lands Planning Evaluation Criteria

(There are separate evaluation factors for implementation projects. Use the implementation project proposal template for implementation projects.)

Criteria	Points	Weight
1. Demonstration of Need		50%
a. Visitor mobility & experience	(1-5)	
b. Environmental condition as result of existing transportation system	(1-5)	
2. Methodology for Assessing Visitor Mobility & Experience Benefits of Project		15%
a. Reduced traffic congestion	(1-5)	
b. Enhanced visitor mobility, accessibility, and safety	(1-5)	
c. Improved visitor education, recreation, and health benefits	(1-5)	
3. Methodology for Assessing Environmental Benefits of Project		15%
a. Protection of sensitive natural, cultural, and historical resources	(1-5)	
b. Reduced pollution	(1-5)	
4. Methodology for Assessing Operational Efficiency and Financial Sustainability of Alternatives		20%
a. Effectiveness in meeting management goals	(1-5)	
b. Financial plan and cost effectiveness	(1-5)	
c. Cost effectiveness	(1-5)	
d. Partnerships and funding from other sources	(1-5)	

Planning Justification

Your responses to these questions must total no more than eight pages.

1. Demonstration of Need

a. **Visitor mobility and experience:** Describe the site's current and/or anticipated transportation problem or opportunity for improvement. You should include information on issues such as traffic congestion, traffic delays, parking shortages, difficulty in accessing destinations, safety issues, lack of access for persons with disabilities, lack of access for individuals with lower incomes or without cars, and visitor frustration. Please cite reports, plans, studies, and other documentation to support your description.

b. **Environmental condition as a result of the existing transportation system:** Describe the site's current or anticipated problem or opportunity for improvement of the environment in this area. You should include information on current or anticipated problems such as air pollution, noise pollution, run-off, water quality, harm to vegetation and wildlife, and other impacts or stressors on natural, scenic, cultural and/or historic resources caused by the existing transportation system. Please cite documentation in agency plans, studies, reports and other documentation that will help to support your description.

8 pages!

Past applications created a separate document so that the questions did not take up space.

Most applications met or marginally exceeded 8 pages.



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Demonstration of need

Alternative Transportation in the Parks and Public Lands Planning Evaluation Criteria

(There are separate evaluation factors for implementation projects. Use the implementation project proposal template for implementation projects.)

Criteria	Points	Weight
1. Demonstration of Need		
a. Visitor mobility & experience	(1-5)	50%
b. Environmental condition as result of existing transportation system	(1-5)	
2. Methodology for Assessing: Visitor Mobility & Experience Benefits of Project		
a. Reduced traffic congestion	(1-5)	15%
b. Enhanced visitor mobility, accessibility, and safety	(1-5)	
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3. Methodology for Assessing: Environmental Benefits of Project		
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b. Reduced pollution	(1-5)	
4. Methodology for Assessing: Operational Efficiency and Financial Sustainability of Alternatives		
a. Effectiveness in meeting management goals	(1-5)	20%
b. Financial plan and cost effectiveness	(1-5)	
c. Cost effectiveness	(1-5)	
d. Partnerships and funding from other sources	(1-5)	

Include quantitative data.

Include data tables if appropriate.

Demonstrate "need" in a variety of ways.

Refer to previous planning documents, TAG reports, and Forest Service studies.

Planning Justification

Your responses to these questions must total no more than 4000 words.

1. Demonstration of Need

- a. Visitor mobility and experience: Describe the transportation problem or opportunity for improvement. You should include information on issues such as traffic congestion, traffic delays, parking shortages, difficulty in accessing destinations, safety issues, lack of access for persons with disabilities, lack of access for individuals with lower incomes or without cars, and visitor frustration. Please cite reports, plans, studies, and other documentation to support your description.
- b. Environmental condition as a result of the existing transportation system: Describe the site's current or anticipated problem or opportunity for improvement of the environment in this area. You should include information on current or anticipated problems such as air pollution, noise pollution, run-off, water quality, harm to vegetation and wildlife, and other impacts or stresses on natural, scenic, cultural, and/or historic resources caused by the existing transportation system. Please cite documentation in agency plans, studies, reports and other documentation that will help to support your description.

Visitor mobility and experience benefits

Scope of Work and Methodology
The planning project's scope of work and methodology should include tasks that will assess the areas below in a thorough and professional manner. The planning project should have a scope of work and methodology at this proposal phase, although it may be refined later.

2. Methodology for Assessing - Visitor Mobility & Experience Benefits of Project

- Please address how the planning project's scope and methodology will assess the visitor mobility & experience benefits of a potential alternative transportation system improvement in the following areas:
- a. **Reduced traffic congestion:** This criterion includes: reduced average number of daily motorized vehicle trips during peak visitation, time lost to traffic delays, visitor frustration, and the area's current capacity of the existing transportation system.
 - b. **Enhanced visitor mobility, accessibility, and safety:** This criterion includes enhanced intermodal interconnectivity, improved public access to resources, improved access for those with disabilities and low incomes, traffic safety, pedestrian/bicycling safety, and safety in the case of catastrophic events (i.e., forest fires or security threats).
 - c. **Improved visitor education, recreation, and health benefits:** Describe how the project's scope and methodology will assess improved visitor education, recreation and health benefits?

Describe conditions, past present, and future.

Focus on quantity and variety of uses supported.

Suggest potential ramifications if the project is not selected for TRIP funding.

Environmental benefits

3. Methodology for Assessing - Environmental Benefits of Project

Please address how the planning project's scope and methodology will assess the environmental benefits of a potential alternative transportation system improvement in the following areas:

a. **Protection of sensitive natural, cultural, and historical resources:** This criterion includes energy conservation, energy efficiency, ecosystem sustainability, preservation of archeological and/or historical resources, watershed and waterbody preservation, reduced auto-wildlife collision rates, improved habitat connectivity, ensuring that violation does not exceed an area's ability to handle increased levels of visitation or the "carrying capacity" of the land unit, and other protection benefits where applicable.

b. **Reduced pollution:** This criterion includes air pollution, water pollution, noise pollution, and visual pollution.

FY 2009 Transit in Parks Program Planning Project Proposal
Page 5 of 6

Explain benefits of action and no action.

Include environmental performance measures.

Address carrying capacity.

Operational efficiency and financial sustainability

4. Methodology for Assessing - Operational Efficiency and Financial Sustainability

Please address how the planning project's scope and methodology will assess the operational efficiency and the financial sustainability of a potential alternative transportation system improvement in the following areas:

a. **Operational efficiency:** This criterion includes considerations of how a potential alternative system may (or may not) meet identified management goals and objectives for this site, including consideration of multiple alternatives.

b. **Financial feasibility:** This criterion includes the development of a financial plan that will incorporate a potential alternative transportation system, including the evaluation of multiple alternatives.

c. **Cost effectiveness:** This criterion includes the development of an analysis of cost effectiveness considerations that includes multiple alternatives.

d. **Partnerships and funding from other sources:** This criterion includes planning projects that would be carried out or funded in partnership with other entities in addition to the sponsor and will receive points depending on the level of partnership. Documentation (e.g., partnership agreements, letters of partnership support, letters of confirmation of financial contribution, letters of in-kind contributions, etc.) that supports and verifies involvement of partners and level of partnership must accompany this proposal.

Reference past studies and reports.

For implementation projects, explain and justify the budget table with a narrative.

For multi-phase projects, demonstrate later phases complement earlier phases.

Maroon Bells – Snowmass Wilderness Area
White River National Forest and
Roaring Fork Transportation Authority

CASE STUDY

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White River National Forest and Roaring Fork Transportation Authority

- Over 100,000 visitors annually to Maroon Bells
- Private motor vehicle access has been restricted since late 1970s
- Mandatory shuttle bus system operates during peak season
- Roaring Fork Transit Authority (RFTA) operates shuttle
- In 2005, shuttle service
 - Provided over 71,000 rides
 - Reduced approximately 270,800 vehicle miles traveled
 - Conserving a net 8,100 gallons of fuel that year.
- RFTA shuttle service was nearly at capacity, and there was a clear need for Maroon Bells to expand and improve its existing shuttle system



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White River NF and RFTA: The Six P's PPPPPP!

- **P**artnerships to make this successful
- **P**atience with CIP program and changes
- **P**ublic Challenges – from design to fees
- **P**ay with Fee Demo to REA program
- **P**rogram focus of sustainability in the new millennium
- **P**ersistence and Public Support!

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White River NF and RFTA: Lessons learned

- Several meetings between RFTA and USFS were key
 - compiling all the necessary information
 - filling out the application correctly
- The line officer / decision maker needs to sanction the time commitment
- Make sure Regional Transportation coordinator is aware you are applying since they will have to review the TRIP application



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CONCLUSION

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Conclusion

- Pre-plan (if time permits)
- Include pictures, maps, and or diagrams
- Include specific examples
- Use quantitative data
- Leverage past applications
- Establish legitimacy
 - Work with partners
 - Reference public documents

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Program resources

Primary contact:

Floyd A. Thompson, III
National Program Leader
USDA Forest Service
(202) 205-1423
ftompson02@fs.fed.us

Technical contact:

Alan Yamada
Engineering Program Leader
USDA Forest Service
(909) 599-1267
ayamada@fs.fed.us

Volpe Center contact:

Ben Rasmussen
U.S. DOT Volpe Center
(617) 494-2768
benjamin.rasmussen@dot.gov

FTA TRIP Program website: *(be sure to click "Read More")*
http://www.fta.dot.gov/funding/grants/grants_financing_6106.html

USFS TRIP Program website:
<http://publiclands.volpe.dot.gov/usfs-trip-guidance/index.shtml>

U.S. DOT Volpe Center, Public Lands Team website:
<http://publiclands.volpe.dot.gov/>

The Paul S. Sarbanes Transit in Parks Technical Assistance Center website:
<http://www.triptac.org/>

Q&A