

US Forest Service TRIP program webinar series

Webinar I: TRIP Program Webinar

January 26, 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

Introductions



US Forest Service



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Research and Innovative Technology Administration

Agenda

Program overview

- Program objectives

Applicant and project eligibility

- Project types

How to get started

- Deciding to apply

Case study

- Matt Peterson, Inyo National Forest

Program resources

Q&A

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TRIP Program Overview

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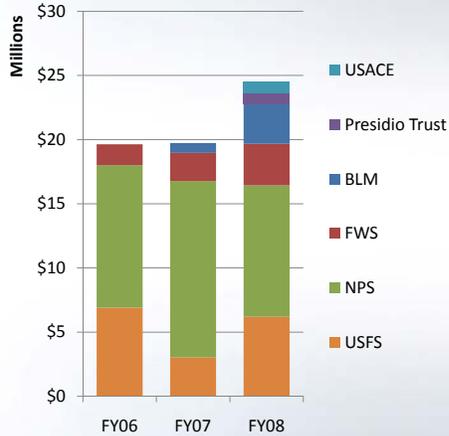
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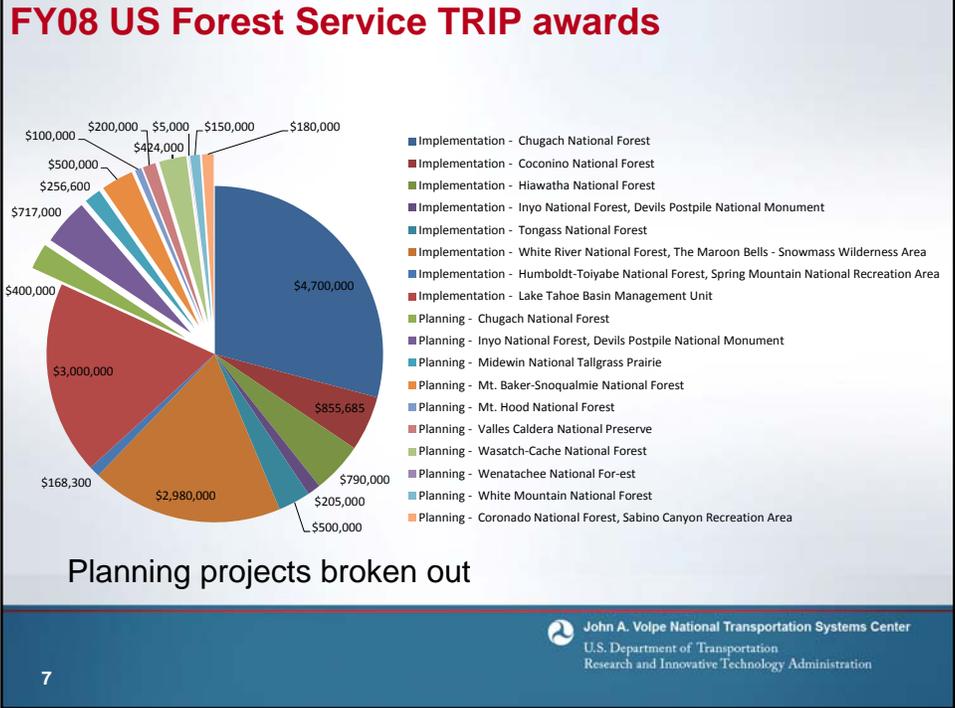
Paul S. Sarbanes Transit in Parks Program

- Formerly Alternative Transportation in Parks and Public Lands (ATPPL) program
- Grant funding for capital and planning projects for alternative transportation systems (ATS)
- Administered by Federal Transit Administration and Department of Interior
- \$97 million authorized between FY2006 and FY2009

TRIP accomplishments FY2006- FY2008

- Over \$63 million awarded to 139 public lands projects
- Over \$16 million awarded to 24 Forest Service projects in 16 different National Forests



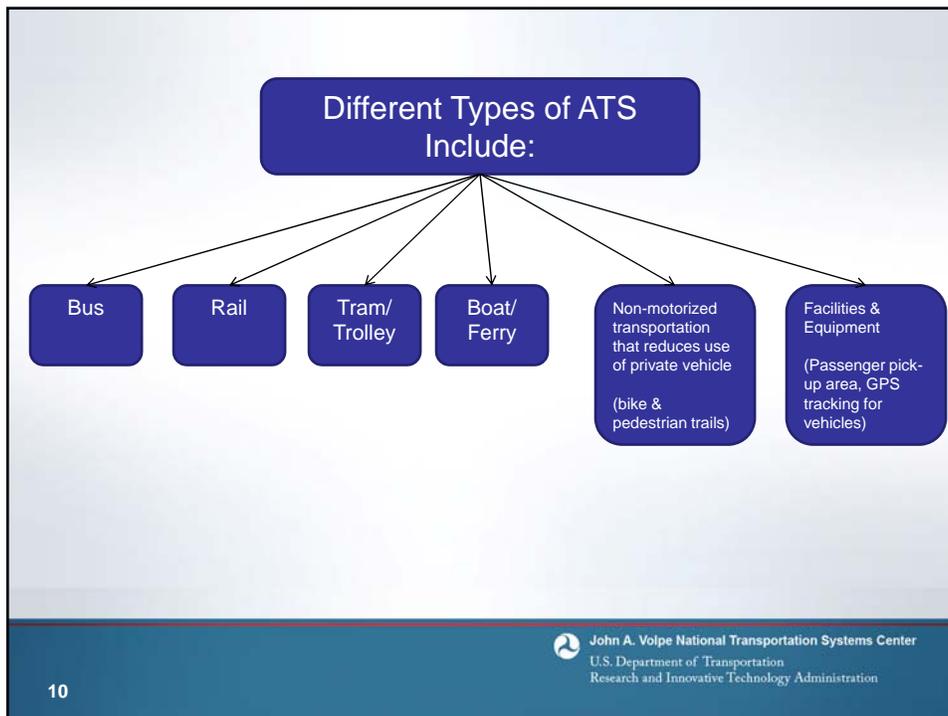


- ### TRIP program goals
- Conserve natural, historical, and cultural resources
 - Reduce congestion and pollution
 - Improve visitor mobility and accessibility
 - Enhance the visitor experience
 - Ensure access to all, including persons with disabilities
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What is an alternative transportation system (ATS)?

“...transportation by *bus, rail, or any other publicly or privately owned conveyance that provides to the public general or special service on a regular basis, including sightseeing service. The term also includes a non-motorized transportation system (including the provision of facilities for pedestrians, bicycles, and non-motorized watercraft).*”

TRIP Program Legislation http://www.fta.dot.gov/documents/SAFETEA-LU_Section_3021_49_USC_5320.pdf



Applicant and Project Eligibility

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Who is eligible to apply?

- **Any** federally owned or managed forest, park, refuge, or recreational area that is open to the general public
- **State, tribal, and local governments** with jurisdiction over eligible areas
 - Must submit a letter of support from the Federal land unit
- **Transit** agencies and authorities
 - Must submit a letter of support from the Federal land unit

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Applicant eligibility

Eligible								Not Eligible	
US Forest Service	Bureau of Land Management	Fish and Wildlife Service	Bureau of Reclamation	National Park Service	Army Corps of Engineers	State, Local, Tribal Government	Transit agencies	Private companies	State parks


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TRIP funds two project types

Planning

- Assessing the feasibility of an ATS
- Identifying how to implement an ATS

Implementation (“capital”)

- Purchase/construction of ATS facilities and equipment
- Capital investment projects (*not operating or maintenance assistance*)


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Planning projects



Evaluation

- Investigating possible routes and modes for an ATS
- Including a “no-build alternative”



Consultation

- Consulting with stakeholder and partner organizations
- Early project planning stages



Preliminary budget planning

- Determining financing needs for project (*long term*)



Compliance

- Complying with metropolitan and statewide planning requirements

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Implementation projects



Acquisition, construction, or inspection of ATS equipment or facilities

- Fixed guideway projects that have unique right-of-way
- Bus projects including purchase, rehabilitation, replacement of vehicle equipment
- Capital cost of service contracts



Rehabilitation or expansion of an existing ATS

- Modernization, rehabilitation, or expansion of existing fixed guideway system
- Construction of hubs for buses, trams, and other ATS



Other ATS

- Capital construction of non-motorized transportation systems (bicycle or pedestrian trails)
- Acquisition of water-borne access systems

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How to Get Started

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A few things to consider before applying

- **Project need**
 - Transportation problem
 - Transportation opportunity
- **Using a Transportation Assistance Group (TAG)**
- **Identifying partners**
- **Resource availability**
 - Staffing and time
- **Meeting evaluation criteria**

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Project need

- **Does the ATS resolve a transportation problem?**
 - Reduce traffic congestion
 - Reduce environmental impacts, such as greenhouse gas emissions or resource degradation
 - Solve parking shortages

- **Does the ATS offers a transportation opportunity?**
 - Increase accessibility for visitors
 - Better air quality
 - Add interpretive services

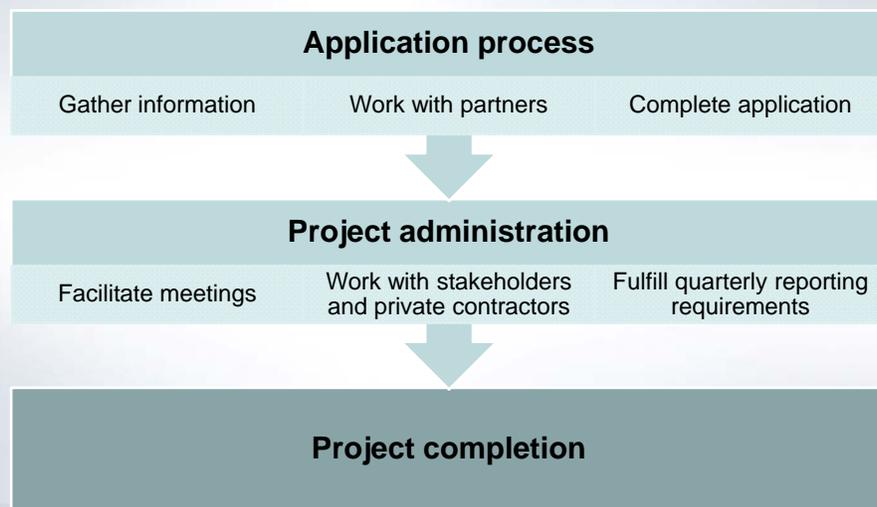
Transportation Assistance Group (TAG)

- Offered to the Forest Service and the Department of Interior

- Can assist in:
 - Determining and evaluating a project need
 - Developing a solution for a transportation problem
 - Developing a project scope, schedule, and budget for a project proposal
 - Providing a technical review of an on-going project

- Contact regional program coordinator to arrange

Resource availability



Identifying partners

- **Partners can apply for funding, with consent from forest service unit**
- Transit organizations
- State transportation agency
- Local government (county, municipal)
- Can assist in:
 - Data collection
 - Project coordination
 - Grant writing

Meeting proposal evaluation criteria

Demonstration of Need	Visitor Mobility & Experience Benefits of Project	Environmental Benefits of Project	Operational Efficiency & Financial Sustainability
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor mobility & experience • Environmental condition as result of ATS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced vehicle congestion • Enhanced visitor mobility, accessibility, and safety • Visitor education, recreation, health benefits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of sensitive natural, cultural, and historical resources • Reduced Pollution (air, noise, visual, greenhouse gases) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting management goals • Feasibility of budget • Cost effectiveness • Partnering, funding from other sources

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A checklist to help you determine whether to apply

You:

- ✓ Are an eligible applicant
- ✓ Have a planning or implementation project
- ✓ Have a transportation need/opportunity that an ATS can address
- ✓ Can secure resources to participate in program and application process
- ✓ Able to meet evaluation criteria

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Next steps

- Attend TRIP application guidance webinar on January 28th, 2010 (3:00 – 4:00 EST)
- Go to US Forest Service TRIP website
 - Past successful applications
- Review TRIP Guidance Documents
 - TRIP program overview
 - Best practices
 - Application instructions

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Case Study Inyo National Forest

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Inyo National Forest



Matt Peterson
 Recreation Planner
 Inyo National Forest
 Bishop, California

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Program Resources

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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/>

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Questions?

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