



## WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Division of Public Transit

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Earl Ray Tomblin  
Governor

Paul A. Mattox, Jr., P. E.  
Cabinet Secretary

#### Expressions of Interest

May 23, 2012

The West Virginia Division of Public Transit is soliciting Expressions of Interest for the expansion of **rural** general public transit services. Public transportation means surface transportation by a conveyance that provides regular and continuing general or special transportation to the public, but does not include school bus, charter, or intercity bus transportation or intercity passenger rail transportation provided by AMTRAK.

If selected, federal funding for operating assistance will be provided under the Federal Transit Administration's nonurbanized (**rural**) Section 5311 program at a 50 percent federal and 50 percent local matching basis. Capital equipment such as vehicles is funded on an 80 percent federal and 20 percent local matching basis under the program.

Interested **rural** counties or communities are invited to submit a two to three page expression of interest addressing the following:

- need public transportation will address in your community;
- generally describe any preliminary routes and hours of operation;
- projected ridership;
- how this project would be coordinated with any current transportation providers;
- whether or not you have explored partnering with neighboring public transit operators (existing transit authorities or current 5311 providers) to provide the service or provide maintenance services including letter of support or agreement/letter to partner;
- whether or not the project or project sponsor is willing to form a transit authority under Chapter 8, Article 27 of the State Code;
- an estimated budget including operating assistance at 50% federal and 50% local and a capital budget at 80% federal and 20% local matching basis. Matching funds must be available on an ongoing basis. Various funds including some federal funds but not fares are eligible matches under this program. Please contact the Division at 304-558-0428 if you wish to discuss this further. Sources of ongoing local and/or state (not provided by the Division of Public Transit) financial resources available to support the project should be indicated;
- Level of legal, financial, technical capabilities and staffing resources to carry out the project on an ongoing basis;
- letters of support of county commissioners and communities in the proposed service area; and

After a review of the expressions of interest, 2 to 3 counties/communities may be selected for a transportation study. As part of the selection process, counties may be asked to make a presentation or meet with the Division of Public Transit to discuss the project. The Division is most interested in multi-county or regional projects or projects that build on existing general public transportation services. Additionally, the Division may make site visits to the potential areas.

The Division reserves the right not to pursue any submissions or cancel this solicitation at any time. For further information, please contact Susan O'Connell: [Susan.L.OConnell@wv.gov](mailto:Susan.L.OConnell@wv.gov) or Cindy Fish: [Cindy.E.Fish@wv.gov](mailto:Cindy.E.Fish@wv.gov).

**All expressions of interest are due by 4:00pm, Friday, August 3, 2012.**