July 21, 2010

TO: Commissioners, Director and Deputy Directors

FROM: Ryan Head, Transportation Funding Coordinator

SUBJECT: Forthcoming Grant Opportunities needing Commission Direction

Staff Report for Information for July 21, 2010 Commission Meeting

Overview
A number of grant opportunities have recently been released by the US Department of Transportation (DOT), Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as part of a broader Federal Livability Initiative. The federal agencies are working together to implement six livability principles:

- Provide more transportation choices.
- Promote equitable, affordable housing.
- Enhance economic competitiveness.
- Support existing communities.
- Coordinate policies and leverage investment.
- Value communities and neighborhoods.

COMPASS is developing the applications for the region; with some projects including work involving ACHD. Pre-applications for the grants are due July 26, 2010. Full applications are due by August 23, 2010. Grants applicable to ACHD include:

TIGER II (Construction) - Meridian Interchange -
This grant program is to fund surface transportation capital infrastructure projects larger than $10 million. The Idaho Transportation Department is applying to replace Meridian Interchange on Interstate 84. Estimated grant application is $35M with an undetermined match of at least 20% provided by ITD. The new interchange will increase capacity, add bicycle and pedestrian pathways, improve transit access, and serve as the final piece to connect other, already completed, local and regional roadway improvements. ACHD is being asked to provide a letter of support and possibly local matching funds. ACHD may also be asked consider improving access to the park and ride lot on the south side of the interchange, including funds for such design. This will be better defined before the August 23, 2010 application submission. ACHD match would be on top of the required 20%, but would increase the likelihood of the grant receiving funds.

Sustainable Communities Grant –
Project is estimated at $5M, with amount of the grant request still being finalized. COMPASS is proposing to update Communities in Motion (CIM) to develop a regional plan for sustainable development and achieve “Preferred Sustainability Status”. This includes multijurisdictional planning for all six of the livability principles indicated above, specifically including housing, economic development and environmental issues into the Plan. It would also present a more specific implementation strategy for CIM and would prioritize transportation
improvements as they coordinate with the other livability principles. If the region can achieve “Preferred Sustainability Status” through this CIM update, the region would be more likely to receive Federal competitive grant dollars in the future, as more grant opportunities are expected to base project selection on this status. ACHD is being asked to provide a letter of support and estimate in-kind staff time and associated overhead for ACHD’s work on the transportation components of the CIM update to be used as match. COMPASS has time allocated in the next three years’ UPWP to updating CIM to cover the majority of the match amount.

Community Challenge/TIGER II (Planning) Grant –
Project will be in the range of $2M with a required match (mix of in-kind and cash match depending on the component) of AT LEAST 20%. Non-transportation components of the project require leverage resources (similar to in-kind match). The transportation components require non-federal cash match. City of Boise directed staff today to identify sources of cash match for the project. Other public and private project partners are determining the amount of cash and in-kind match they can provide. The transportation portion of the project is expected to be between $750K-$1M, with a required CASH match of AT LEAST 20%, or in the range of $200K. While 20% is the minimum required match, in order to be competitive for funding, the provision of more than 20 percent in match will be necessary.

This grant that would further implement the original 2005 State Street plan and the early findings from the State Street Traffic and Transit Operations Plan (TTOP). The scope includes a series of projects along State Street, from Middleton to the proposed multi-modal center in Downtown Boise.

- State Street Master Plan – Prepare an overall land use and housing strategy for the corridor, including evaluation and modification to local zoning ordinances, and an economic development strategy specific to the State Street Corridor. (City lead)
- Transit-Oriented Development Site Plans – Develop three specific transit-oriented development site plans along the corridor. The plans would also prepare implementation and financial plans. (City lead)
- Pedestrian Improvements – Design, including environmental analysis, on bike and pedestrian facilities on State Street from Collister Drive to Glenwood Road and on up to four neighboring streets to increase access along the corridor. Once the improvements are designed, CAHD could apply for federal aid for construction or build with local funds. (ACHD lead)
- Intersection Improvements – Concept design at the major intersections within the ACHD jurisdiction along State Street. This would include the intersections of 30th Street, Veterans Memorial Parkway, Collister, and Pierce Park. (ACHD lead)

ACHD staff has identified the following potential sources of local match for the transportation components:

- Community Programs - $100,000 for design of pedestrian projects on State Street from Collister to Glenwood – Could be budgeted in FY2011-2013. Staff is seeking confirmation from DOT as to whether use of federal design funds on the project would require the project to be constructed to Federal standards. DOT requirements differ from FHWA requirements. State Street and Collister Drive Intersection Project - $75,000 – Concept design phase is currently programmed in FY2015 in the FYWP. Program funding would need to be moved up by FY2013 in the FYWP.
- State Street and Veterans Memorial Parkway Intersection Project - $50,000 – Concept design phase is currently programmed in FY2012 of the FYWP

Many details on how the grant application will come together are still to be worked out at this point. Only basic information is needed for the pre-application. One issue still being discussed is the interaction between adoption of the land use master plan and ordinances and the intersection concept design and pedestrian design plans. Certain land use requirements may be essential to ensure the feasibility of an intersection concept and the proper location for pedestrian facilities. It is important to have these outcomes formally adopted by the
respective land use agencies to aid with eventual right of way acquisition and implementation of the pedestrian improvements. Our intention is to have this spelled out and committed in the grant scope.

Once the project components and other match sources are confirmed, staff will return to the Commission for a documentation and letter to commit match for the final application which is due August 23rd.

At this point, staff is looking for direction from the Commission to proceed with preparing the application and their interest in providing the match for our transportation components from the above discussed sources as well as our use of staff time for in-kind match.