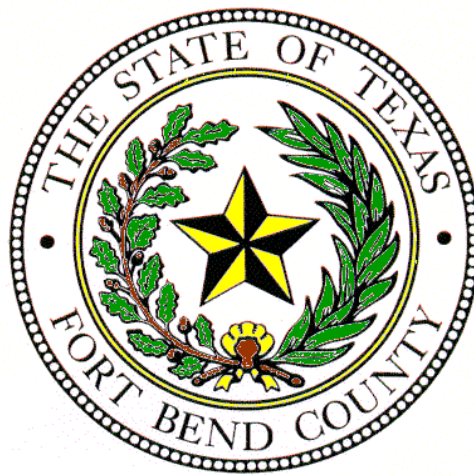


Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Air Quality Division
FY 2013 – 2014
Local Initiatives Projects



Fort Bend County
Public Transportation Department
Contract# 582-8-89960
Revised Submission to TCEQ
09/03/2013

**Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Air Quality Division**

**FY 2013-2014
Local Initiative Projects**

**Project Proposal/Project Summary Forms
Revised September 12, 2013**

INSTRUCTIONS

This document provides the forms for use by the Counties in submitting local initiative projects for funding to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). These forms must be used by the County to submit projects to the TCEQ for review and acceptance.

Project Summary Form and Certification Form

The forms should be used by the County to provide the TCEQ information on each project approved for funding by its governing body. The *Project Summary Form* outlines the format for the County to provide the TCEQ with the necessary information concerning each project selected. The *Project Summary Form* will serve as the project proposal, as required by Section IV: Project Approval of the contract with the TCEQ.

A *Certification Form* serves as written certification by the County that the projects were reviewed for eligibility and found to meet the minimum criteria. It must be submitted with the project summary forms. The County may submit a resolution from its governing body indicating the support for the projects selected, but a certification form must still be submitted with the project summary forms.

The project summaries and certification form should be provided to the TCEQ for all projects. If, at a later date, additional projects are proposed for funding, additional project summary forms and certification forms must be submitted. Changes to existing projects must also be documented on a revised project summary form and submitted to the TCEQ.


The TCEQ will review the project summaries and will notify the County in writing of any projects that the TCEQ determines may not meet project eligibility criteria under the terms of the grant agreement, or for which there may be a question about the project. The County is requested to respond to any request from the TCEQ for additional information concerning a project. The County may not proceed with funding a project until notified that it may do so by the TCEQ.

**FY 2013-2014 Local Initiative Projects
Project Summary**

County Certification

Fort Bend County makes the following certifications regarding the projects included with the accompanying Project Summaries:

1. The projects were selected in accordance with the procedures set forth in the grant agreement with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ);
2. The project proposals have been fully evaluated and determined to fit within the minimum criteria and standards established by TCEQ for this program, as well as more specific standards established for the project categories by the County;
3. The project proposals are consistent with and directly support implementation of the Texas Health and Safety Code, 382.220; and
4. The governing body of *Fort Bend County* officially approved the selection of these projects on _____.



Authorized Certifying Official

10-22-13

Date

Typed/Printed Name and Title: Robert Hebert, County Judge

**FY 2013/2014 Local Initiative Projects
Project Summary Form**

☒ New ☐ Revised

County: Fort Bend	Fiscal Year: 2013-2014
Date: September 12, 2013	Revision Date:
Contact Person and Phone Number: Paulette Shelton 281-633-7433	

Brief Project Title: Commuter Services	Total Grant Funding: \$39,728
Counties to be Served: Fort Bend and Harris	Matching/In-Kind Services: \$39,728
Project Dates: Start Date: Date Notice to Proceed Signed End Date: August 31, 2014	If contracting with another entity, list name and contact person: Houston-Galveston Area Council; Shelly Whitworth 713-627-3200

BUDGET CATEGORY	FUNDING AMOUNT	MATCHING/SOURCE
Personnel / Salaries <i>List personnel, # of hours, salary charged to grant</i>		
Fringe Benefits		
Travel <i>List & itemize travel expenditures</i>		
Supplies <i>List & itemize detailed travel expenditures</i>		
Equipment <i>List & itemize equipment expenditures (must have a unit cost of \$5,000 or more)</i>		
Construction <i>List & itemize construction expenditures</i>		
Contractual <i>List & itemize contractual expenditures (other than construction)</i>		
Other		

<i>List & itemize other expenditures</i>		
Purchase of Service - TMC	\$33,772	\$ 33,772
Purchase of Service - GRH	\$135	\$ 135
Marketing	\$5,317	\$ 5,317
Fuel	\$504	\$ 504
Indirect Charges		
TOTAL FUNDING	\$39,728	\$39,728

In-Kind Match:

(If in-kind match is used, include a detailed description and estimated value of the property or professional services to be donated to the project.)

Project Description:

(Provide a detailed description on this project, including the following information if applicable. Why is this project necessary and a good use of funds? Who will directly benefit from the project? What exactly will the funds be used for? Where will equipment be stored and how often will it be used? What is the target emitting source or sources? What technologies or methods will be implemented to reduce emissions? Explain the anticipated air quality benefits to the county/region. Describe how the air quality benefits or emission reductions are enforceable, permanent, quantifiable, and other documentation, (if available.)

The LIP allocations for this proposal will be used to provide assistance for the service costs associated with the Texas Medical Center Commuter services. The proposed project supports commuter park and ride transit services linking Fort Bend County residents with Houston's Texas Medical Center (TMC) area in Harris County by way of US Highway 59. The service starts in Fort Bend County, in the City of Rosenberg and travels approximately 40 miles to stops within the medical center area. There are connections to existing park and ride services provided from Sugar Land into the Greenway Plaza and Galleria Areas of Houston as well. Many potential riders are hesitant to consider public transportation due to the potential need for a way home outside of the scheduled route service times. In response to this deterrent, a Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH) program is also offered. The GRH program provides a free one way trip home in the event of a midday emergency or in the event an employee is asked to work overtime unexpectedly. Up to 3 free rides are provided each year to passengers utilizing the commuter services.

The transit service targets morning and afternoon peak time travel, uses the HOV lanes on US Highway 59, and provides a reverse commute option for Harris County residents needing transit to Fort Bend County. The service is primarily designed to benefit employees living in Fort Bend County and working within the Texas Medical Center. Along with stops near most of the major hospitals and professional services facilities, there are stops near Rice University, The University of Houston Medical Branch and a direct stop at the Veterans Hospital Complex. These stops have resulted in the service benefitting individuals going to medical appointments as well as students attending classes at the universities.

The transit service has created immediate and long term emission and congestion benefits for the Houston-Galveston Non-Attainment Area by removing SOV trips from a heavily congested corridor. Currently, the service averages 388 trips per day. Over the past year, an average of 25 or more trips are added each service day. One less cold start on a personal vehicle is

achieved with each trip added netting a continued reduction in emissions for the region. With the one-way distance of the route being close to 40 miles, on-road emission reduction benefits are also realized. All of the buses used have diesel engines designed to run on ultra low sulfur diesel fuel. All the buses meet current Federal and State emission standards, and are stored at Fort Bend County's Public Transportation Department located at 12550 Emily Court, Sugar Land, Texas 77478 when not in use. Services are not operated on county holidays.

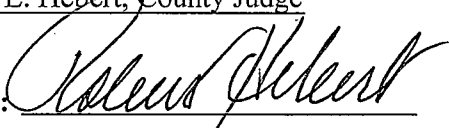
The budget includes the costs to provide the bus service and market the service. Fort Bend County does not provide any of its bus services directly; they are contracted to the private sector. These costs are recognized on the budget and identified as Purchase of service costs. The costs are based on our service contract costs with a third party provider. The current rate for this contract is \$40.62/hour for county provided buses, and \$51.32/hour for contractor provider buses. The flat rate covers dispatch, drivers, route supervisions, bus maintenance, etc. Fort Bend County's third party contractor also provides the guaranteed ride home program. Based on the above hourly rates and excluding marketing and fuel costs, the TCEQ portion of the LIP grant is paying for \$33,907 of operational time. At \$40.62 per hour, that equates to approximately 835 operating hours. At \$51.32 per hour, that equates to approximately 661 operating hours.

Marketing of the service will be consolidated through employee notification processes, distributions by employers in the TMC area, advertising, brochures and ticket sales. The area's Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Houston-Galveston Area Council makes funding available for projects designed to reduce emissions and congestion. Known as the Commute Solutions program, federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding is passed on to eligible partners via a proposal process. Fort Bend County was successful in receiving funding under this program and has utilized TCEQ funding with the program since it was awarded. The CMAQ funding is limited to the first three years of service. For Fort Bend County, the three year period ended in the second quarter of 2013. Service costs were then switched to the County's public transportation funding streams for the urbanized area.

The project was an outgrowth of transportation planning in the region. In 2005, Fort Bend County and the Houston-Galveston Area Council created and published the Fort Bend Transportation Plan (FBTP). This plan provides an in-depth study of both intra-county and inter-county daily commutes based upon information from the U.S. Census 2000 and the top nine employers in Harris County. The FBTP concluded that an increase in transit options in Fort Bend County would reduce emissions in the area by reducing the number of SOV trips. The study estimated that approximately 3,420 daily commutes to the TMC occur from Fort Bend County. At its current level, the TMC commuter service is capturing approximately 11% of these trips. Currently, the service generates approximately 194 passengers or 388 daily trips to the TMC.

Since inception of the LIP program, Fort Bend County has received \$266,732.90 in FY 2009, \$135,850.57 in FY 2010 and \$135,850.57 in FY 2011 for a total of \$538,434.04 in TCEQ grant funds received to date to help operate the TMC Commuter Service. Approval of this proposal will allow continuation of a very successful program that continues to expanding its ridership.

Name & Title: Robert E. Hebert, County Judge

Authorized Signature: 

Date: 10-22-13