

TSGP Conference Call Summary
March 2, 2011
1:00PM EST

Opening Comments:

TSA: Hello, everyone. Thank you for calling in. This is our monthly conference call. We have a couple updates to share.

The House and Senate just passed another Continuing Resolution (CR) thru March 18, 2011 and the President is expected to sign it, as the current one expires this Friday. This will keep us funded for another two weeks. Until Appropriations are passed we won't know what the funding level will be for the fiscal year (FY) 2011.

We wanted to be sure everyone was aware of the H.R.1 proposal that suggests funding for Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP) to be \$100M for FY 2011. This is obviously a decrease from the \$300M in FY 2010. The \$100M proposal also has set aside \$20M for Amtrak and \$4.5M for FEMA Management and Administration, leaving \$75.5M for TSGP. While we do not know what the final appropriated amount will be, we wanted to make sure everyone was aware that \$100M for the FY 2011 TSGP is a possibility.

FEMA: At this time we are looking at the different possible funding levels and we are preparing different options. Once a budget is passed we will be ready relatively quickly to issue the FY 2011 TSGP Guidance. At this time applicants should be thinking about projects to be submitted. There is the possibility that the time frame for submittal will be shortened, and that we will be working on a compressed timeline. Unless these become multi-year awards, final awards must be made by September 30, 2011. We are already half way thru FY 2011 and FY 2012 is only six months away.

TSA: We also want to point out that the current language in the House version of the Bill (H.R.1) does not change the cap of 10% for Operational Costs.

We would now like to open up the line for any questions.

Questions and Answers:

Q1: Do we know if the Secretary might exercise her ability to waive the cap of 10%?

A: That is an option but it would only be exercised after Appropriations are passed. The Secretary is aware of the 10% Operational Cost issue. It is more of a request to Congress. The Secretary would inform Congress of the need to waive the 10% cap. In order for that to be a possibility we would still run the TSGP as appropriated in order to see the requests for operational projects. We would need to know the level of requests in order to justify waiving the cap.

Q2: FEMA mentioned that once Appropriations are passed that the guidance would be issued quickly. Is it ready to go right after Appropriations are passed?

A: We have been working on preparing the Guidance Kits in order for them to be ready to go. We want to have them ready whether we have a budget or another CR. Once we have Appropriations, we expect to have the TSGP Grant Guidance issued within days. Prior to being issued the TSGP Grant Guidance will need to be cleared by the Secretary and OMB. We have been working on this process for months. The application period may also be reduced to a 30 day timeframe versus the 45 business day timeframe everyone is used to. This is not final, however it has been discussed. We are trying to take the burden off applicants but must make sure we can do all of the review, approval, and award processing by September 30th, 2011.

Q3: We do face challenges between the release of the TSGP Grant Guidance and the submittal deadline. Will the guidance replicate those from the past or will there be new guidelines?

A: At this time, since we do not know what the FY 2011 TSGP amount will be, we do not know what the program will look like, as a \$100M program will likely look different from a \$300M program. However, we are looking at the same allowable project types as we have had in the past, but possibly with less money to work with.

Closing Comments:

Thank you for calling in and thank you for your questions.

If there is a change respective to the Appropriations Bill, we will update you through email and return to weekly calls. Until then we will continue to be on a monthly call status, the next call will be in one month on Wednesday, April 6, 2011 at 1:00PM EST. The call in number is 888-323-4702 and the passcode is Wednesday. Any changes to the conference call schedule will be sent out through ASKCSID@dhs.gov and TSAGrants@tsa.dhs.gov.

If you do have any questions, you may submit them via an email to ASKCSID (ASKCSID@dhs.gov) and carbon copy TSA Grants (TSAGrants@tsa.dhs.gov).

Thank you.

This concludes the call.