FY 2011 Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP)
Emailed Questions and Answers (Q&A)

The below questions and answers were emailed to TSAGrants.

Q: We have a security plan in place, but we want to do a comprehensive update to the plan this year. Are we allowed to apply for other projects, or just for the security plan enhancement?

A: Since you already have a plan in place and are doing an update/enhancement, you can apply for other project types as well.

Q: Is there a format or specific template for the remediation plan for projects dealing with assets on the Top Transit Asset List (TTAL)?

A: There is not a specific format for a Remediation Plan, because we didn't want to force a specific template/structure for the plan, when agencies may already have documents that will include the information we need. Rather, the agency needs to show that they have:

- An asset-specific assessment that covers the entire facility and identifies vulnerabilities.
- A plan that lies out how those vulnerabilities will be mitigated (or if they will go un-mitigated, why).
- A (near-complete) design that includes the costs and timelines for the mitigation strategies identified through the assessment/plan.

If an agency has all of those components in 1 document, or in 5 or 6 documents, that's fine, but they need to have those components in order to have a "complete" plan. The Remediation Plan Guideline that starts on page 44 of the grant guidance has a series of questions that agencies can use. Basically, if an agency can answer "yes" to all of those questions with information from 1 or more documents, then they have the necessary information required, and should submit all related documents in order to verify/validate how they can answer "yes" to those questions.

Q: The guidance describes Anti-Terrorism Teams as made up of four individuals, and has a recommended cost as well. What if we want a five or six-person team, and as a result, our projected costs are higher than those listed in the grant guidance?

A: The descriptions and associated costs presented in the grant guidance are guidelines only. We recognize that different agencies will have different needs, and you should put together an application that reflects your needs and what makes the most sense for your agency and situation. But be clear to explain why the five or six-person team makes more sense for your agency/situation, and justify the additional costs.

Q: If we want to put in an Investment Justification (IJ) for station hardening, can we use elements of both capital and operational security? For example, could we apply for capital elements like CCTV, intrusion detection, and lighting, and operational elements like a K-9 team or specific patrols for a certain station in the same IJ?

A: Yes, that is a good example of a layered approach to security having both physical and operational security elements in place. Further, the capital elements of the IJ would take some time to implement due to normal procurement and installation timelines; however, the operational elements could be implemented much more quickly, and therefore have an immediate impact while the capital elements are being completed.

Q: Should we indicate how our project is scalable in the IJ submission, or would you come back to us after the reviews are done to figure out scalability/partial funding?

A: As this is a fully competitive program, there is no opportunity to "go back" for further discussions with the applicants. Therefore, you should indicate all levels of scalability in your IJ write up.

Q: As part of their Investment Justifications (IJ), transit agencies are required to submit that they have either undergone a security assessment conducted by DHS, or developed and/or updated their security plan within the last three years. If an agency has not updated their plan for three years, and have not had an assessment conducted by DHS, does this mean they are ineligible?

A: Yes, this is correct, an agency may use their own security plan, or one conducted by DHS, however, whichever is used, it must have been done within 3 years. To further clarify, an agency can also submit their BASE as a DHS-conducted review, providing it occurred less than 3 years ago, and this would satisfy the security assessment review requirement.

Additionally, updates to an agency's security plan are an eligible project type for TSGP (Funding Priority A, Operational Projects). Such an update would be voluntary and would not affect grant fund eligibility, as the requirement would have been filled by the BASE review (above), as long as it is not more than 3 years old.