

and use the revenue from a PFC at Tri-Cities Regional Airport under the provisions of the Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 (Title IX of the Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1990) (Public Law 101-508) and Part 158 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR Part 158).

On August 19, 1999, the FAA determined that the application to impose and use the revenue from a PFC submitted by Tri-Cities Airport Commission was substantially complete within the requirements of section 158.25 of Part 158. The FAA will approve or disapprove the application, in whole or in part, no later than December 3, 1999.

The following is a brief overview of the application.

PFC Application No: 99-02-C-00-TRI.

Level of the proposed PFC: \$3.00.

Proposed charge effective date: November 1, 2005.

Proposed charge expiration date: August 1, 2013.

Total estimated PFC revenue: \$5,829,873.

Brief description of proposed project(s): Extend Runway 5 Safety Area and Terminal Concourse Expansion.

Class or classes of air carriers which the public agency has requested not be required to collect PFCs: None.

Any person may inspect the application in person at the FAA office listed above under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

In addition, any person may, upon request, inspect the application, notice and other documents germane to the application in person at the Tri-Cities Airport Commission.

Issued in Memphis, Tennessee on August 19, 1999.

LaVerne F. Reid,

Manager, Memphis Airports District Office, Southern Region.

[FR Doc. 99-22292 Filed 8-26-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Assistance Program for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Other Minority Institutions of Higher Education (MIHE)

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of restricted eligibility for a competitive assistance program.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is considering the establishment of a competitive

assistance program which will be limited to HBCUs and MIHE. Under the assistance program envisioned, these schools and universities would be competing amongst themselves for grants and cooperative agreements that are relevant to one or more of the FHWA's five strategic goals. This notice seeks Expressions of Interest from HBCUs and other MIHE that would like to participate in such a program.

DATES: Expressions of Interest must be received on or before November 10, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Your Expressions of Interest may be mailed or hand-carried to the Federal Highway Administration, Office of Acquisition Management, 400 7th Street, SW., Room 4410, Washington, DC 20590-0001, Mail Stop HAAM-20, or submitted electronically to: Debbie.Ridgely@fhwa.dot.gov in WordPerfect 6.1 or higher.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Debbie Ridgely, Office of Acquisition Management, HAAM-10, (202)-366-4233, or Mr. Wilbert Baccus, Office of the Chief Counsel, HCC-32, (202) 366-1396, Federal Highway Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. Office hours are from 7:45 am to 4:15 pm, e.t., Monday through Friday except Federal Holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Electronic Access

An electronic copy of this document may be downloaded using a modem and suitable communications software from the Government Printing Office's Electronic bulletin Board Service at (202) 512-1661. Internet users may reach the Office of the **Federal Register's** home page at: <http://www.nara.gov/fedreg> and the Government Printing Office's database at: <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara>.

Internet users may access the FHWA Strategic Plan by going to: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov> (select Major Program Areas, then FHWA Strategic Plan). Users may also review major program areas of the FHWA from this home page.

Internet users may also access the pertinent Executive Orders for HBCUs and MIHE at www.whitehouse.gov (select Virtual Library, then Executive Orders).

Background

The National Task Force on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and other Minority Institutions of Higher Education (MIHE) was formed to make recommendations to the Administrator which would facilitate, enhance and

increase the participation of these schools in all phases of the FHWA Federal and Federal-aid programs with a special emphasis on research and technology programs. The Task Force made numerous recommendations to the Acting Federal Highway Administrator in December 1997. As a result of those recommendations, the Office of Acquisition Management has proposed the establishment of the assistance program as a viable method of matching the capabilities of the HBCUs and MIHE, with the needs of the FHWA. The purpose of this program is to foster the HBCUs/MIHE* research and development activities which contribute substantially to the FHWA's mission and to prepare the faculty and students at HBCUs/MIHE to successfully participate in the competitive research arena.

*A HBCUs is defined in 34 CFR 608.2 as an accredited college or university, established prior to 1964, whose principle mission was and is, the education of African-Americans.

An Indian Serving Institution, which includes Tribal Colleges, as well as, Bureau of Indian Affairs affiliated institutions must have a student body of at least 51% American Indian to acquire and maintain Tribal College status.

A Hispanic Serving Institution, as defined by the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), must have at least a 25% Hispanic student body. This entitles the school to a full membership in HACU. The HACU accepts associate memberships from institutions with a smaller percentage, of not less than 10% Hispanic students.

Under the program envisioned by the FHWA, all assistance program awards would be required to be relevant to one or more of the FHWA's five strategic goals of mobility, safety, productivity, human and natural environment, and national security. The *mobility* goal concerns the continual improvement of the public's access to activities, goods, and services through the preservation, improvement, and expansion of the highway transportation system and enhancement of its operations, efficiency, and intermodal connections. The *safety* goal concerns continual improvement of highway safety by reducing the number of fatalities and injuries. The *productivity* goal concerns the continual improvement of the economic efficiency of the Nation's transportation system to enhance America's position in the global economy. The *human and natural environment* goal concerns the protection and enhancement of the natural environment and communities affected by highway transportation. The

national security goal seeks the improvement of the capacity and operation of the highway system to support defense mobilization.

The assistance program envisioned would be an annual program under which awards would be made on a competitive basis, predicated on merit review, typically for a period of three years. Funding beyond the first year would be based on an annual evaluation of documented progress, availability of funds, and the amount of funds reported as unexpended by the awardee at the end of each year's period of performance. A preliminary estimate of total award amounts would be approximately \$100,000 on an annual basis.

The HBCUs and the MIHE that are interested in participating in such an assistance program are invited to submit an "Expression of Interest." Your submission should include:

1. Full name and address of school/university, point of contact, phone number, fax number and E-Mail address,
2. Specific FHWA goal(s) that your institution would be interested in participating under and your actual recent (past three years) experience in the area,
3. A list of your institution's current curriculum/majors as they relate to the FHWA strategic goals,
4. Any laboratories/research facilities that you currently have access to, and
5. Any specific future plans you have for expanding your curriculum and or research facilities.

Provided that a sufficient number of relevant "Expressions of Interest" are received in response to this notice, the FHWA would issue a program-based solicitation calling for submission of applications. The application process would be open to all HBCUs and MIHE and is not dependent upon submitting an initial "Expression of Interest." Applications would be assessed according to specific criteria that relate to the goals of the FHWA's National Strategic Plan and would be awarded to a limited number of applicants according to the merit of the application and the availability of funds in each fiscal year. The target date for initial awards would be FY 2000.

Authority: 23 U.S.C. 307 and 403; E.O. No. 12876, 58 FR 58735, 3 CFR, 1994 Comp., p. 671; E.O. No. 13021, 61 FR 54929, 3 CFR, 1997 Comp., p. 221; 49 CFR 1.48.

Issued on August 18, 1999.

Gloria J. Jeff,

Federal Highway Deputy Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration

Directional Drilling and Other Trenchless Technology Operations Conducted in Proximity to Underground Pipeline Facilities

AGENCY: Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice; issuance of advisory bulletin.

SUMMARY: RSPA is issuing this advisory bulletin to owners and operators of natural gas and hazardous liquid pipeline systems to advise them to review, and amend if necessary, their written damage prevention program to minimize the risks associated with directional drilling and other trenchless technology operations near buried pipelines. This action follows several pipeline incidents involving trenchless technology operations which resulted in loss of life, injuries, and significant property damage. It also corresponds to National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) Safety Recommendation P-99-1, which suggests that RSPA

*** ensure that the operators' damage prevention programs include actions to protect their facilities when directional drilling operations are conducted in proximity to those facilities.

This advisory bulletin emphasizes the importance of having procedures to mitigate the risks of directional drilling and other trenchless technology.

ADDRESSES: This document can be viewed at the Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) home page at: <http://ops.dot.gov>.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Eben M. Wyman, (202) 366-0918, or by email at eben.wyman@rspa.dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

RSPA revised its inspection form for hazardous liquid pipelines to examine how operators monitor directional drilling and other trenchless technology operations in the vicinity of underground pipelines. The pipeline safety regulations require pipeline operators to carry out a written damage prevention program for buried pipelines. The revised inspection form considers whether a pipeline operator's damage prevention program includes actions to protect their facilities when directional drilling operations are conducted in proximity to the pipeline. RSPA will make similar changes to the natural gas pipeline inspection form in its next revision. In light of recent accidents involving trenchless

technology operations, RSPA is encouraging operators to carefully review their damage prevention program and make modifications as appropriate. RSPA also notes the importance of accurately locating underground piping and ensuring the qualifications of personnel performing this work.

Additionally, NTSB Safety Recommendation P-99-1 (April 28, 1999) directs that RSPA

[w]hen reviewing pipeline operator safety programs, ensure that the operators' damage prevention programs include actions to protect their facilities when directional drilling operations are conducted in proximity to those facilities.

This recommendation reflects NTSB's investigation into the rupture of a natural gas pipeline near Indianapolis, Indiana. The ignition of the escaping gas caused a fatality and an injury. NTSB determined that the probable cause was the failure of the pipeline operator to ensure that safe directional drilling operations were conducted in proximity to underground facilities.

RSPA believes that this Advisory Bulletin will encourage operators to recognize the dangers associated with directional drilling and other trenchless technology operations and to take appropriate action to ensure that underground facilities are adequately located and protected when these activities take place near pipelines these facilities.

II. Advisory Bulletin (ADB-99-04)

To: Owners and Operators of Hazardous Liquid and Natural Gas Pipelines

Subject: Directional Drilling and Other Trenchless Technology Operations Conducted in Proximity to Underground Pipeline Facilities.

Purpose: To ensure that pipeline operators take actions to recognize the dangers associated with directional drilling and other trenchless technology operations, and to ensure that underground pipeline facilities are adequately located and protected from inadvertent damage.

Advisory: RSPA urges all owners and operators of gas and hazardous liquid pipelines to review their operations, maintenance, and damage prevention programs to include effective actions to protect their underground facilities from the dangers posed by directional drilling and other trenchless technology operations. Operators should take actions to ensure that both company and contractor personnel are following safe practices.

Trenchless technologies, including directional drilling, are effective