

State Match Advantage for Rural Transportation (AZ SMART) Fund Program

2024 Program Revisions

State Transportation Board

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Objectives

- Public Comments Overview
 - RFGAA, a Comprehensive Document
- Major Public Comments - Four Themes
- Priority Criteria
- Webinar/Public Comments Review Meeting
- AZ SMART Pilot Program
- AZ SMART Next Steps
- Requested Action

Public Comment

- Aug. 28 through Sept. 11, 2024
- COGs/MPOs, League, RTAC, Transit and Tribal Stakeholders etc.
- Met with 11 stakeholders to elicit public comment
- Received 53 total comments from 11 external commenters
- Numerous duplications
- Commenters have received individual responses

Public Comment - Themes

Four primary themes:

- The 3 month application cycle is too long
- Priority Criteria do not reflect federal grant programs
- Upfront requirements makes the process more difficult
- Process is too cumbersome

AZ SMART Priority Criteria

53 Possible Points

Priority Criteria, Order of Importance and Scores	
Priority Criteria	Scores
Project includes safety improvement(s)	15
Evidence of public support for the Project	15
Population of city/town or county in which Project is located	10
Long-term Impacts	5
Percent of cash monies provided by the Applicant	3
Applicant will partner with other entities to deliver the Project	5

AZ SMART Public Comments Review

- Webinar/Public Comments Review Meeting
- Reviewed the Revised RFGAA with the Stakeholders
- Internal and External Stakeholders Attended
- Over 40 People Attended
- Over 15 Entities Attended
- Received Positive Feedback on the Revisions

AZ SMART Pilot

Pilot Proposal

- Implement RFGAA for 1 year pilot
- Questions and Answers page for flexibility:
 - Will include RFGAA revisions
 - Authorized Rep will certify the page has been reviewed
 - Will be included as part of contract
- Major revision to RFGAA will trigger Board approval
- Public Supported the Pilot Proposal

AZ SMART Next Steps

- If Board approves on 10/18, applications will be accepted beginning 11/1/24
- Must observe 6 week period in Grant statute
- Pre-application webinar at least 21 days before 12/15/24
- Will review Applications during 6 weeks but not score
- Earliest applications will go to PPAC and Board is January
- After 12/15/24, applications accepted, reviewed and sent to PPAC/STB continuously (no waiting period)

Requested Action

- Approve the AZ SMART Request for Grant Application and Agreement (RFGAA), allowing ADOT to make clarifications, updates and revisions as needed