



U.S. Department
Of Transportation
**Federal Transit
Administration**

Headquarters

1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington DC 20590

To: Office of Management and Budget

March 16, 2009

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) established funding for the Tribal Transit Program (TTP) as a set-aside off of the Transit Capital Assistance (Nonurbanized Area Formula) Grant Program. The ARRA TTP is a \$17,000,000 discretionary grant program to support capital investments for public transit services that serve Indian tribes and Alaska Native villages. In order to ensure these grants are awarded in an expeditious manner and in the timeframes established by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requests approval to use OMB's emergency processing system to meet Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) requirements.

FTA is required to undertake PRA for the ARRA TTP as this is a program not explicitly covered by FTA's existing Section 5311 Nonurbanized Area Formula program's submittal. FTA is forwarding this request at this late date because FTA anticipated this program being covered by the current PRA submittal for the Section 5311 Nonurbanized Area Formula program since the Tribal program is a subsection of that program. FTA intends to collect information consistent with FTA and government-wide practices for grant applications and reporting requirements, including such elements as collected in Standard Form 424, project descriptions, budgets, Financial Status Reports and Progress Reports.

OMB has established a March 19, 2009 deadline for all discretionary programs in the ARRA to post full announcements requesting applications. Concurrent with posting the announcement in grants.gov, FTA will also publish in the Federal Register (FR) a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for this program. In order for publishing to take place on March 19, FTA needs a waiver of normal OMB processing requirements. In an attempt to meet the OMB established deadline, FTA is requesting approval by March 18, 2009. Without a waiver of OMB's normal approval process, FTA will not meet the requirements set by OMB for announcing grant applications and funds will not be awarded before the end of the fiscal year, delaying their impact as part of America's recovery.

Sincerely,

Susan E. Schruth
Associate Administrator for
Program Management