



Downwinders

reducing toxic air pollution in north texas *at risk*

Applicant Information Form Sue Pope North Texas Pollution Reduction Program

Organization:	City of Arlington
Organization type	Municipal Government
Organization Street Address:	101 West Abram Street
City, State, Zip	Arlington, TX 76010

Project Officer (Title, First, MI, Last, Suffix):		Fiona Allen, P.E.			
Phone— extension	817-459- 6108	Fax	817-459-6671	Email	fiona.allen@arlingtontx.gov
Project Name		Arlington-Fort Worth Commuter Bus Service			
Location of Project		Arlington, TX			
Project Start (MM/DD/YYYY)	Date	09/03/2009			
Project End Date (MM/DD/YYYY)		09/03/2010			

BUDGET: Please summarize your budget request in the space provided. You should also provide a more detailed budget in your preproposal.

Line Item	Requested Funds	Matching Funds
Salaries and Benefits		\$44,119
Equipment		\$71,105
Other:	\$105,754	\$15,940
Total:	\$105,754	\$131,164

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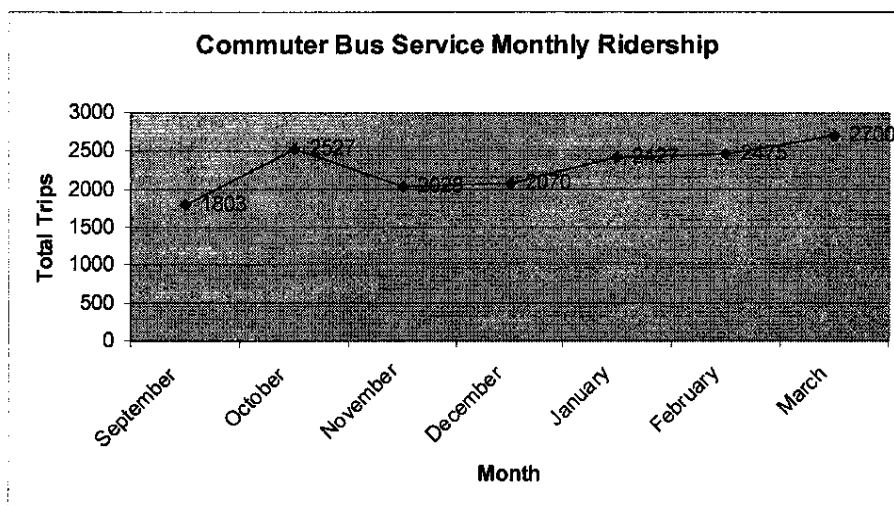
Preproposals shall be no longer than five pages, and should include a description of the activities for which the applicant requests funding, the deliverables and environmental results, a detailed budget, and project timeline. Applicants should specifically address the two review criteria and identify the project activities that will address each of these criteria. All preproposals should also include the applicant information form (attached to this program announcement).

Arlington-Fort Worth Commuter Bus Service**Description of activities:**

Through a partnership with the City of Arlington made possible by a generous grant from the Sue Pope Fund, the Fort Worth Transportation Authority (the T) has been able to offer non-stop commuter bus service from the Arlington North Park and Ride (at I-30 and Cooper/Lamar) and the Arlington South Park and Ride (at I-20 and Park Springs) to the Fort Worth Intermodal Transportation Center (ITC) in Downtown Fort Worth since September 2, 2008. Three morning peak-period trips to Fort Worth and three evening peak-period trips back to Arlington are currently made each day, Monday through Friday. From the downtown Fort Worth ITC, commuters can connect to area employment centers, schools, cultural and entertainment districts, and downtown attractions across the Metroplex. The ITC is the transportation hub of the T, where riders can connect to over 20 bus routes, Amtrak, and the Trinity Railway Express.

The commuter bus program has been very popular in the seven months it has been in operation. Many Arlington residents who work or attend classes in Fort Worth depend on the service for their daily work and school trips. Other Arlington residents who don't normally commute to Fort Worth use the service occasionally to travel to the Tarrant County Courthouse or to the Fort Worth Medical Center. Arlington resident Diane Chew explains how the service has affected Arlington riders: "I have been using the South Arlington bus system since its inception. It has proved to be a godsend. Everybody who uses it speaks very highly of it and is very appreciative as well." A full list of comments from service customers has been attached to this application.

Over 15,790 total one-way trips have been made on the service between September 2, 2008 and March 31, 2009. An average of 106 trips per day are taken via the commuter service, helping to remove approximately 265 cars from North Texas roadways each week—reducing air pollution and traffic congestion in the process. Ridership has increased steadily each month since November, as shown in the graph below. The full ridership tracking spreadsheet has been attached to this application.



Both the City of Arlington and The T have promoted the service regularly through a variety of media. Promotional efforts included a kick-off media event in August featuring Arlington Mayor Cluck, several Arlington Council Members, leadership from The T, and members of the Sue Pope Fund Board. This event was covered on local news channel NBC 5 as well as on the local access cable channel in Arlington. In addition to the kick-off event, promotional efforts have included ads on the local access cable channel; newspaper ads; water bill inserts; posters at libraries recreation centers, and other City of Arlington facilities; and direct email advertising to Fort Worth employers. An example of the posters that are in place at City facilities is attached to this application.

If the program is funded for a second year, The T will be making slight schedule adjustments to better accommodate passenger requests and behavior. At the North Park and Ride, due to historically lower ridership (only about 22% of passengers use the North Park and Ride), The T will offer two morning trips to Fort Worth and two evening trips back to Arlington. At the South Park and Ride, where 78% of the commuter passengers catch the bus, The T will preserve the three morning trips to Fort Worth currently in place and add a fourth trip in the evening back to Arlington to better serve the demand at that location. The City of Arlington also plans to discuss the potential for coordination with the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA). The City would like for a UTA shuttle to transport students between the Park and Ride lots and the University to allow students to reverse commute from Fort Worth into Arlington for class.

It is vital to keep this important service in place for residents of Arlington. The commuter service provides a transportation choice in the largest city in the United States without public transportation. It helps serve low-income and disadvantaged populations by allowing them access to jobs in Fort Worth. It allows the elderly and others who cannot drive to access important services in Fort Worth. The commuter bus service helps students reach classes and commuters reach employment, all while removing cars from our roadways and improving air quality. The continued success of this service will encourage Arlington residents to support implementation of more transit options in the future. However, due to the current economic recession, the City of Arlington faces a large budget shortfall. Without the continuance of grant funding for this program, the service will end.

Environmental Results:

The Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex is an air-quality non-attainment area as designated by the EPA. Every vehicle removed from our roadways reduces the NOx and VOC emissions released into our air. Each reduction is a step toward improving our air quality and reaching our attainment goal. As mentioned above, the Commuter Bus Service has resulted in an average of 264 cars being removed from North Texas roadways each week. In addition, the commuter buses themselves are powered via compressed natural gas (CNG) technology, resulting in reduced emissions.

Through the use of a custom emissions reduction formula developed by air quality experts at the North Central Texas Council of Governments, we have been able to track and quantify the emissions reduction of Nitrous Oxides (NOx) and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) achieved through the Commuter Bus Service. Since the service began in September of 2008, it has resulted in a reduction of over one ton of NOx emissions and 1,200 pounds of VOC emissions. The full emissions reduction tracking spreadsheet is attached to this application.

Detailed Budget:

BUDGET: Please summarize your budget request in the space provided. You should also provide a more detailed budget in your preproposal.		
Line Item	Requested Funds	Matching Funds
Salaries and Benefits		\$44,119 ¹
Equipment		\$71,105 ²
Other:	\$105,754 ³	\$15,940 ⁴
Total:	\$105,754⁵	\$131,164⁶

Line Item Descriptions:

- 1: \$44,119 includes all staff time dedicated to the commuter service. \$42,619 is dedicated from The T, and \$1,500 is dedicated from the City of Arlington
- 2: \$71,105 includes equipment maintenance and operation funding dedicated to the commuter service by The T.
- 3: \$105,754 includes all program operational costs that are not covered by The T.
- 4: \$15,940 includes all fare revenue from the commuter service.
- 5: \$105,754 is the total amount of requested funding for the commuter service.
- 6: \$131,164 is the total amount of matching funds provided by The T and the City of Arlington for the commuter service.

Project Timeline:

The project will provide daily commuter service on weekdays from September 2009 to September 2010.