MPTA Break-Out: Grants for Transit Systems
Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA)
PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

AGENDA

- Introduction to MVTA
- Success Story: BBG Modernization
- Preparation, Tools, and Resources
- Funding Trends, Program Themes
MVTA INTRODUCTION
**INTRODUCTION**

**MVTA SERVICE AREA**

- **Dakota County**
  - Apple Valley
  - Burnsville
  - Eagan
  - Rosemount

- **Scott County**
  - Savage
  - Prior Lake
  - Shakopee

**Fast Facts**
- 170+ Buses
- 200 Operators
- 25 Routes
- 7 days/week
- 2 Garages
- On-Demand Service, Connect
- Owns, maintains, operates Transit Stations, Park & Rides, Shelters
PRE-AWARD GRANT TEAM
PRIMARY TEAM, FUNCTIONS

Core Grant Team
- Vicky Loehrer, Program Manager
- Mackenzie Ray, Grant Research Intern

MVTA Pre-Award Grant Work Includes...
- Keeping a pulse on MVTA needs, project priorities
- Monitoring funding opportunities, NOFO releases
- Application preparation, writing, submittal
- Coordination with technical leads, subject matter experts, consultants
- Monitoring award announcements
- Requesting feedback
BURNSVILLE BUS GARAGE
MODERNIZATION PROJECT
**Burnsville Bus Garage (BBG) History, Challenges**

- Constructed in 1977 as a manufacturing facility
- Located in an industrial park
- Repurposed as a Bus Garage in 1996
- Tightly constrained space, limited on street parking
- Surrounding streets, source of heavy truck traffic
- Worst building conditions of any transit facility in the region according to a state-of-good-repair (SOGR) assessment led by Metropolitan Council
- MVTA hired consultant in 2018 to put together Reconfiguration Report
- Significant safety and operational challenges

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**SUCCESS STORY**

**BBG Modernization Funding**

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[Image of MVTA document about Burnsville Bus Garage Reconfiguration Report]
SUCCESS STORY

BBG MODERNIZATION FUNDING

Applications Submitted
FTA Buses and Bus Facilities Program
- 2018
- 2019
- 2020
- 2021

Metropolitan Council Regional Solicitation Program
- 2018
- 2020

BBG Funding Awarded
- Phase I: $2.8M Awarded
  2020 FTA Buses & Bus Facilities Program
- Phase II: $2.8M Awarded
  2020 Metropolitan Council Regional Solicitation Program
- Phase III: $4.96M Awarded
  2021 FTA Buses & Bus Facilities Program
SUCCESS STORY

BBG MODERNIZATION FUNDING

Phase I: Funded by the 2020 FTA Buses and Bus Facilities Program

- State-of-good-repair items
- Single story building addition, expanding indoor bus storage, pavement apron
- New single-story bus wash building
- Mechanical and electrical updates
- Update west loop drive to accommodate bus and fire lane requirements
- Improved site drainage
- New screening and security fencing
- Alternate scope items
SUCCESS STORY

BBG Modernization Funding

Phase II: Funded through the 2020 Metropolitan Council Regional Solicitation Program
- Mechanical features and add-on state-of-good repair
- Relocation and addition of fueling tanks
- Establish fare collection space
- Install overhead door
- Repurpose and relocate existing spaces for more practical utilization
- Building additions maintenance bays and shop area

Phase III: FTA 2021 Buses and Bus Facilities Program
- Remaining mechanical features and add-on options for state-of-good-repair not supported by Phase I and II funding
- Energy efficiency and sustainability improvements
- Security upgrades
- Employee parking transformation
- Electrification initiatives
- Technology enhancements
- Development of a mezzanine-level workforce center
TOOLS AND RESOURCES
TOOLS & RESOURCES

BUILDING A TOOLKIT, OPPORTUNITY PREP

NOFO Notifications
- Subscribe for updates and announcements
  - FTA, USDOT, MnDOT, etc.
- Word out to full agency, everyone keeping a pulse on opportunities

Preparations
- Application system access
- Due dates
- Special requirements (ex. ZEB Plan)
- Consultant on retainage

Establish Tools and Templates
- Grant program repository
- Timeline template
- Support letter template, outline
- Project library
- Narratives and statistics hub
  - Introductory scripts
  - Support letter template, outline
  - Demographic information, stats: region, transit station area, route reach, etc.
  - Customer surveys, input, stats
**MOVING FORWARD**

**MAKING MEANINGFUL REQUESTS**

**Emphasis**
- Building, strengthening partnerships
- Letters of Support, advocacy (state and federal)
- Collaboration with consultants, industry experts
- Seeking feedback, award themes

**Funding Trends, Themes**
- Shovel-ready, and shovel worthy projects
- Increased focus on value-add for communities, versus quantity of riders
- Justice40 initiative
Thank you.