

SECRETS TO SUCCESS: How to Compete for UTCM Funding



September 1, 2010



= The University Transportation Center for Mobility

- UTC Program
- Designated in SAFETEA-LU
- \$1.5 million for 4 years
 - This is the fifth year (in extensions)
- “Improving the quality of life by enhancing mobility”
- more info: utcm.tamu.edu





How to Get UTCM Funding

- PP due by September 20, 2010
- Types of Projects
 - Research (inc. Education, Tech Transfer)
 - Education
 - Technology Transfer



Research Focus Areas

- Coast-to-coast and border-to-border mobility
- Rural public transportation
- Congestion management and mitigation
- Innovative financing



Helpful Hints

Preliminary Proposals

Follow the Format!

- utcm.tamu.edu/funding
 - 2 page limit
1. Project Name:
 2. Participants
 - List the name and complete contact information of the PI and all co-PIs.
 - Only one PI.
 - Must show time for the PI and all co-PIs on the budget.



Helpful Hints

Preliminary Proposals

3. Is this a research, education, or technology transfer project, or a combination?
 - Research - student involvement, T2 component
 - Education - check on feasibility
 - T2 - outreach, conferences, etc.
 - Approximate % for each activity



Helpful Hints Preliminary Proposals

4. Who are the project participants? Which agencies, departments or academic units are involved?
 - Build relationships with TTI/academic units
 - Provide \$\$ for participants (leveraged or UTCM)
 - Realistic participants list



Helpful Hints

Preliminary Proposals

5. Focus Area? Why important? Long-term implications?

- CLEAR LINK to one or more FOCUS AREA(s)
- Potential for activity beyond grant
- Does it build on existing programs or partnerships?
- Does it create new programs or partnerships?
- What are the related projects?
- How is it novel / complementary to existing research/education/T2 on this topic?



Helpful Hints Preliminary Proposals

6. Have you done a basic search of the literature to determine that this project is unique, i.e. that it will extend (and not duplicate) the body of knowledge on this topic?



Helpful Hints Preliminary Proposals

7. What are you going to do? How will each project participant be involved?
 - Who does what and when?



Helpful Hints

Preliminary Proposals

8. How will project results be used?
9. How will you tell or show your results to others? Include a description of project deliverables and the timeline for delivery.
 - **Make sure you have a reasonable timeline!!!**





Helpful Hints

Preliminary Proposals

Make sure you have a reasonable timeline!!!
(cont.)

- Grant is in extensions
- UNLESS reauthorized, ends with FY12
- ALL projects MUST conclude by 5/31/12
- Earliest start date – 1/1/11 (17 months)





Helpful Hints

Preliminary Proposals

10. How will you involve students?

- Meaningful student involvement

11. How much will you spend (including indirect costs)? Will additional sources of funds (leveraging) be available? If yes, how much and from what sources? Indicate whether leverage will be in cash or in kind.

- UTCM encourages leveraging
- What is / is not leverage
- Difference between leverage / related research
- Budget form



Helpful Hints

Preliminary Proposals

12. Suggested project dates

- Earliest is 1/1/11
- Latest termination date is 5/31/12
- Total of ____ months

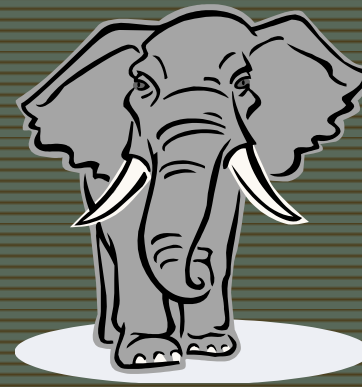
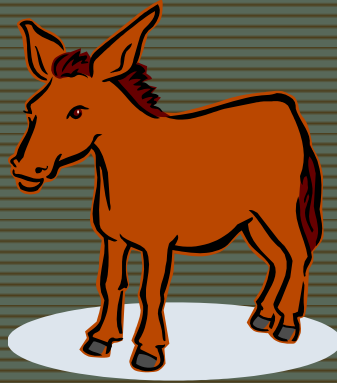
Approximate budget distribution

- % in FY11 (Jan 1, 2011 – Aug 31, 2011)
- % in FY12 (Sept 1, 2011 – May 31, 2012)



Helpful Hints: Political Reality

- Earmark considerations



- Do what you say you will do



Helpful Hints Budgets

- Budget Worksheet on RFPP web page
 - utcm.tamu.edu/funding/rfpp.stm
- Suggested for use on Preliminary Proposals
- Do not submit the budget form; use for estimation only
- Help in completing a budget estimate:
 - TTI RDO – (Susan Adams) 5-9862



Budget DOs

- Include time (direct or leveraged) for every person named on the project
- Graduate and undergraduate salary support is encouraged
- Use the going rate for assistantships in your department
- Tuition automatically included as a separate item, pro-rated for the % effort on the project
- Show alternate sources of funding for a student as leverage



Budget DON'Ts

- No Computers, Printers, etc.
- No Permanent Equipment
- No Foreign Travel



Timeline (utcm.tamu.edu/funding)

- **Sept 20** PP Submission Deadline
 - **Sept 27 - Oct 18** Executive Committee and Advisory Board Reviews
 - **Oct 27** Executive Committee Selects Projects for Formal Proposals
 - **Nov 22** Formal Proposal Submission Deadline
 - **Dec 10** Notification of Awards
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Questions?

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