



GUAM REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

GOVERNMENT OF GUAM

Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, Governor
Joshua F. Tenorio, Lieutenant Governor
Celestin C. Babauta, Interim Executive Manager



August 28, 2020

FROM: Interim Executive Manager

To: Media Partners

Subject: GRTA Grant Awards - Buses and Bus Facilities Program and Accelerating Innovative Mobility (AIM) Challenge Grant

Hafa Adai Media Partners,

In less than a month, GRTA was awarded over \$11 million worth of competitive grants from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). In its pursuit to provide Guam with a safe and reliable transit system, Guam Regional Transit Authority (GRTA) submitted 2 competitive grant applications with the Federal Transit Administration FTA. The grants are for Buses and Bus Facilities Program and the other is the Accelerating Innovative Mobility (AIM) Challenge Grant. GRTA was awarded \$9.5 million for the Buses and Bus Facilities Program and \$1.9 million for the AIM grant. The grants are certainly landmarks for the island of Guam. GRTA will introduce the first electric buses and cars on the island.

Cel Babauta, Interim Executive Manager, states that GRTA is fortunate to have Mr. Virgil Penafiel as its grants manager. Penafiel managed the formulation of the grant applications and submission to the FTA. His research and compilation of valuable data relative to our island contributed significantly to GRTA's grant awards.

With respect to the Bus and Bus Facilities Program, GRTA will use the funds to purchase new electric buses, electric cars, related charging infrastructure, and construct a new Park and Ride facility in the village of Dededo. The project will improve the safety, reliability, and accessibility of transit service for the residents of Yigo, Dededo, and Guam.

Moreover, GRTA will integrate a transit management system (TMS) technology that will enable residents to submit their request for rides through Mobile App. Upon receipt of travel requests, the TMS will send an electric vehicle to pick-up the rider – students, workers, persons with disabilities, military, etc. – and bring them to the Park and Ride facility. There, they will get on the bus and be transported to work locations, UOG, GCC, GWHS, FDMS, and other available routes.

The electric buses and cars will be a huge boost to the GRTA fleet and Guam. GRTA will have another 8 buses to its fleet and 8 cars to its fleet. Thus, it will provide quicker pick up and drop offs for riders, reduce congestion, provide for a healthy environment, enable the people of Guam to minimize buying excessive gas prices and maintenance costs, and much more.





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Relative to the AIM grant, "Our project title for this Grant is GRTA KOKO Bird's AIM for the Future Freedom of Mobility on the Patriotic Route."

The objective of this grant is to provide and pilot a new innovation that we've been talking about quite a bit in the recent past, providing an Uber like Service to the community of Guam and through research provide valuable insight into the feasibility, benefits, advantages and comparison of the traditional system of fixed route. This Grant will allow us to be 1 of 14 of the few awardees to share our research to thousands of other agencies in the United States. If we are successful in proving Uber-like service is the future! Our AIM Grant, our method of implementation and our results will be duplicated in many other agencies. GRTA Stands to become one of the movers and shakers of innovation leading the rest of our country.

The AIM Challenge Grant allows for Public Agencies such as ours to partner with our technology partner Routematch and with the University of Guam in Research.

For the longest time – over 10 years of existence – GRTA has been characterized as an annoyance to the people of Guam. Since taking over as Interim Executive Manager, Babauta credits GRTA's accomplishments to the hard working GRTA Team, the Board of Directors, and certainly Governor Lou Leon Guerrero and Lt. Governor Joshua Tenorio for their exemplary support.

Regards,

Celestin C. Babauta, MS WED

Interim Executive Manager

