



Southeast Transportation Facility Proposal

BATA/BSD Collaboration

Update – 8/9/2021

Conversation was initiated approximately four years ago between our two agencies, understanding we were both in need of improved garaging options. Each of us brings opportunity to the table. Coordinating efforts can make for a stronger, more efficient programs. Brookings has been a great example of this.

With regards to a joint bus garaging facility, it has taken many steps to get to today. The following is a brief update.

- A planning grant was secured through the FTA for a study to determine if this project is of value to each of our programs and the community. This has involved many joint committee meetings, drafts of a potential building, tours, etc. It has been determined that a joint facility would be of benefit for all.
- BATA requested an amendment to the planning grant that would fall under our expense as the Federal Transit Authority has increased their requirements for environmental work, etc. to be completed prior to a building grant application opportunity. ***This is where we are now –***
 - BANNER is working with our consultants from TSP on the Environmental Assessments, etc.
 - Local Economic Impact Study is being done
 - Updated appraisals, at BATA's expense, are required
 - Finalization of the MOU/Lease proposals are key.
- **The South Dakota Department of Transportation has indicated the Discretionary Grant application will be released at any time, and there will be approximately six weeks to complete. FTA allows very limited time and providing them with our documentation is essential for a strong application.**
- Award time could be as early as November, December, with grants typically working with a two- or three-year expiration date, depending on the grant.

Beyond the physical facility that would protect the FTA and school district's assets, this collaboration would provide many benefits. Safety, efficiency, employment opportunities, dispatch opportunities for safety, as well as joint training are just a few.