



# FTA & Region V News, Updates and Guidance

**Ajay Garg, Deputy Regional Administrator**  
Federal Transit Administration

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Minnesota Public Transportation Association Annual Meeting

October 14-16, 2024



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Transit Administration



# FTA Mission, Vision, Values



## Mission

Improve America's Communities through Public Transportation



## Vision

A Better Quality of Life for All Built on Public Transportation Excellence

## Values

*Service*

Provide reliable, transparent, responsive, and anticipatory services to meet stakeholder needs

*Integrity*

Commitment to the highest professional and ethical standards

*Innovation*

Foster new ideas, concepts, and solutions for improved outcomes

*Sustainability*

Optimize decisions, resources, and systems to make long-term positive impacts on the environment, infrastructure, and safety

*Equity*

Remove barriers for systemically underserved communities to access all aspects of economic, social, and civic life

# Federal Transit Administration

1964

**Federal  
Transit  
Turns 60**

2024



# Overview

- DOT/FTA Updates
- Region V Grant Activities and State Accomplishments
- News from FTA



**Standard Guidance Disclaimer:** The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.



Sign up for FTA Updates using this code

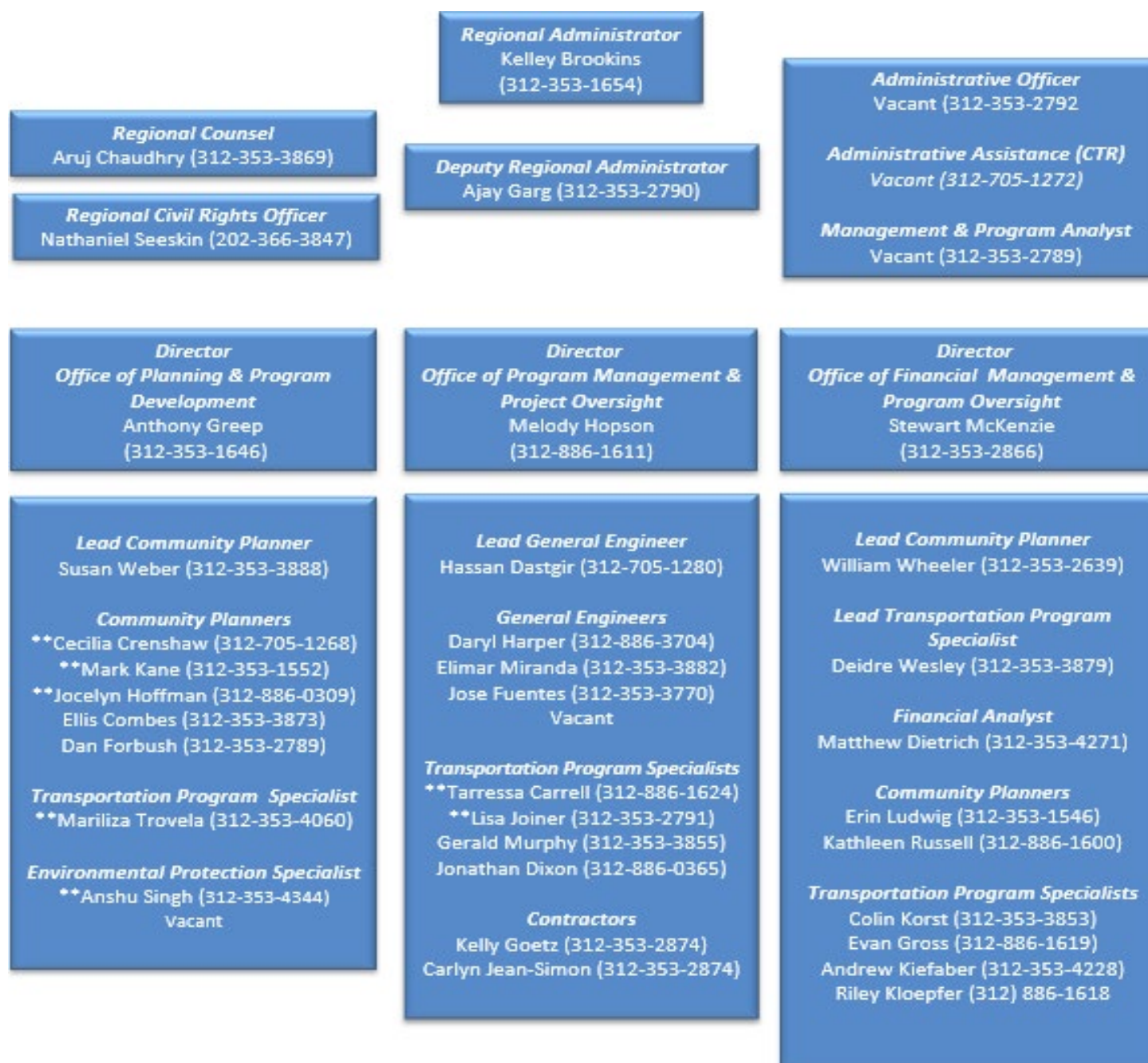
# FTA Acting Administrator

## Veronica Vanterpool

- Assumed Role February 24, 2024
- Served as Deputy Administrator for 2 ½ years
- First joined FTA as Senior Advisor in August 2021.



# FTA Region V Staff





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# DOT / FTA Updates



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Transit Administration

# President's FY 2025 Budget

- The FY 2025 Budget requests **\$17.0 billion** for FTA, along with **\$4.3 billion** in advance appropriations provided by BIL, for total budgetary resources of **\$21 billion**.
- The FY 2025 request will advance public transportation in America's communities by focusing on four key priorities aligned with the DOT Strategic Plan:
  - Safety
  - Transformation
  - Climate and Sustainability
  - Equity
- These priorities will ensure the safety of transit, transform the transit industry, improve racial equity, mitigate the climate crisis, and support equitable economic growth in urban, suburban, and rural communities across the country.





# President's FY 2025 Budget – Key Components

- Transit Formula Grants: **\$14.3 billion**
- Capital Investment Grants (CIG): **\$4 billion**
  - \$1.6 billion in advance appropriations
- Transit Research: **Not included in FY 2025 budget**
- Technical Assistance and Training: **\$8 million**
- Advanced Appropriations
  - **\$950 million** for State of Good Repair grants
  - **\$1.1 billion** for Low or No Emission grants
  - **\$50 million** for Formula Grants for the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities
  - **\$350 million** for All Stations Accessibility Program competitive grants
  - **\$50 million** for grants for the purchase of electric or low-emitting ferries
  - **\$200 million** for grants to States to provide basic essential ferry service in rural areas

# President's FY 2025 Budget – Comparison to FY 2024

Administration's budget request - \$16.8 billion

➤ 1% decrease over 2024

➤ Formula Grants for transit: \$14.3 billion

➤ 4.7% increase over 2024

\$4 billion for new CIG Projects

➤ 6.3% decrease over 2024

\$2.05 billion for Transit Infrastructure

➤ 20.9% decrease over 2024

\$0 for FTA's Research Program, not included in FY 2025 budget

# President's FY 2025 Budget – Policy Proposals

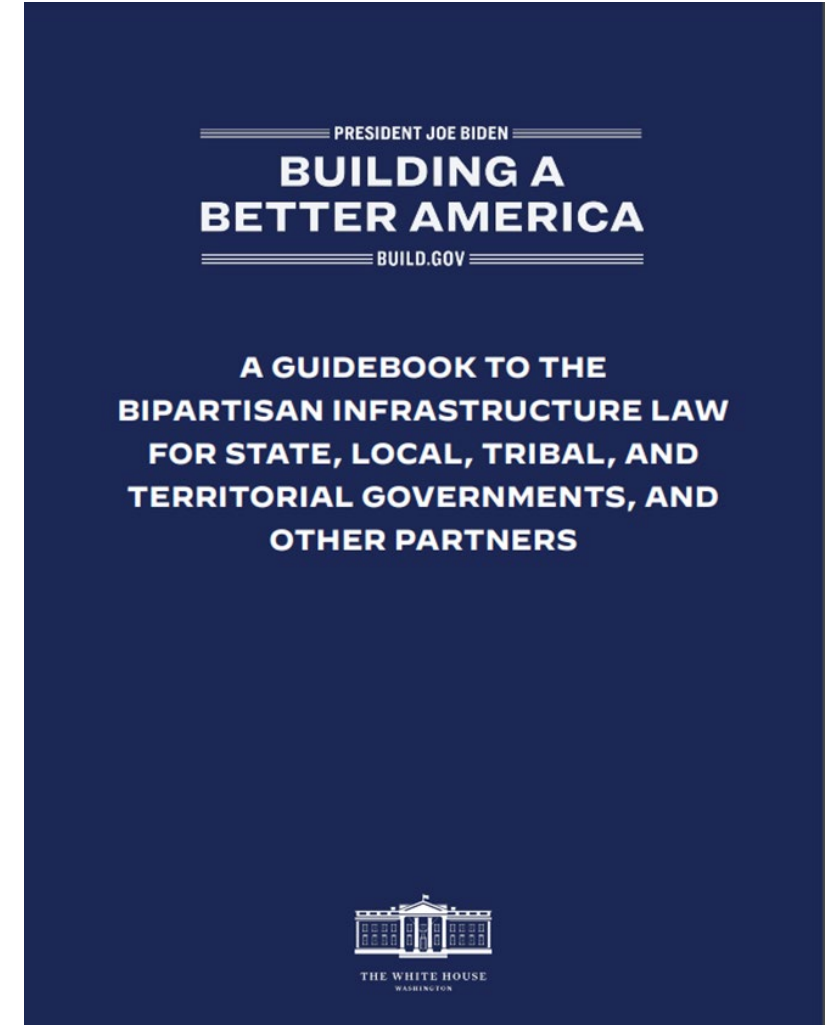
- Improving access to Federal funding:
  - FTA proposes a provision to improve Tribal transit agencies' access to competitive bus funding **by supporting a 100 percent Federal share** for Tribal applicants to the Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Grants Program. Additionally, FTA proposes provisions to improve access to the Rural Formula and Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities funding **by waiving the match requirement for rural, Tribal, and nonprofit providers**. These provisions support the Department's Equity goal by making it easier for communities to access available Federal funding.

# President's FY 2025 Budget – Policy Proposals

- **Allow transit agencies to purchase real property**
  - FTA proposes a provision to enable transit agencies to purchase real property outside an existing transit corridor to support transit agencies' efforts to plan for future needs.
- **Encourage standardized purchases of low and no emission buses**
  - This new provision would give FTA the flexibility to incentivize standardization in the purchase of low and no emission buses, with a goal of more efficient and economical vehicle production costs.
- **Support funding for micromobility systems**
  - This new provision would enable FTA grant recipients to directly fund shared micromobility systems, or those that use small, low-speed, human- or electric-powered transportation devices, including bicycles, scooters, and other small, lightweight wheeled conveyances, that are shared among users. By improving access to transit, shared use micromobility can reduce transportation emissions while improving equitable access to transportation.

# Bipartisan Infrastructure Law - Resources

- [White House Guidebook to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Governments and Other Partners](#)
- [USDOT Funding and Financing Opportunities](#)
- [List of Upcoming USDOT NOFOs](#)
- [FHWA Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Technical Assistance / Local Support](#)



# DOT Programs

- **Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE)**
    - \$1.8 Billion – Capital and Planning Projects
  - **Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG)**
    - INFRA: \$2.7 billion – Capital Projects
    - Mega: \$1.7 billion – Capital Projects
    - Rural: \$780 million – Capital Projects
  - **Reconnecting Communities**
    - \$3.3 billion – Capital and Planning Projects
  - **Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)**
    - \$64 million – Planning and Demonstration First Round
- [Key Notices of Funding Opportunity | US Department of Transportation](#)

# USDOT Discretionary Grants Dashboard

**Eligible Activities**

**Eligible Applicants**

**Agency/Office**

**Transportation Type**

**Match Waiver**

**Rural Set-Aside**

**Tribal Set-Aside**

**Status**

**Keywords**

**Apply**

Displaying 1 - 10 of 99

Agency/Office ↕	Program Name And Description ▼	Transportation Type(s)
USDOT / Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)	<a href="#">Accelerated Innovation Deployment Demonstration Program</a> The Accelerated Innovation Deployment (AID) Demonstration program supports the implementation of proven operational and material innovations in surface transportation.	Roadway
USDOT / Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)	<a href="#">Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP)</a> ATIIP is a new competitive grant program that focuses on building networks of connected bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure improvements, including to better connect trail networks between communities.	Bike/Ped Roadway
USDOT / Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)	<a href="#">Advanced Transportation Technologies and Innovative Mobility Deployment</a> The Advanced Transportation Technologies and Innovative Mobility Deployment program, also known as ATTAIN, supports the implementation and operation of mobility-focused transportation technologies.	Bike/Ped Roadway Transit
USDOT / Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)	<a href="#">Aircraft Pilots Workforce Development Program</a> The Aircraft Pilots Workforce Development Program supports pilot	Air

[USDOT Discretionary Grants Dashboard](#)

# Federal Interagency Thriving Communities Network





# Thriving Communities Program

- On April 15, 2024, U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg announced \$23.6 million in cooperative agreements.
- The awarded National Capacity Builders will support a total of 52 communities in 35 states and the Regional Capacity Builders will support 60 communities in 7 states.
- A total of 112 communities will receive support through the second round of the program, bringing the total number of communities supported to 176 across the two program years.



TCP SNAPSHOT

# Thriving Communities Program

- **Shared Principles:**
  - Scale for Impact
  - Build Community Wealth
  - Center the Power of Community
  - Meet Areas of Greatest Need
  - Expand Access and Participation
  - Diversify Knowledge

**Whole of Government Approach to  
Federal Coordination of Place Based  
Technical Assistance**



# Thriving Communities – Minnesota

- **City of Hinckley – Main Streets**

- The City of Hinckley is a small, disadvantaged rural community with limited organizational capacity for carrying out community engagement activities to advance transportation projects and minimal experience with federal grants. Through the Thriving Communities Program (TCP), the City of Hinckley seeks to improve its pedestrian, bicyclist, and trail infrastructure by developing a shared vision and growing the capacity of local partners in the county and Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe to coordinate transportation with local economic development and housing.
- It is anticipated that these improvements will attract more businesses and expand the availability of jobs and economic opportunities for the city's residents. In the longer term, the improvements will create sustainable community partnerships between the city and community organizations, who will continue working together to benefit the city's community and residents.

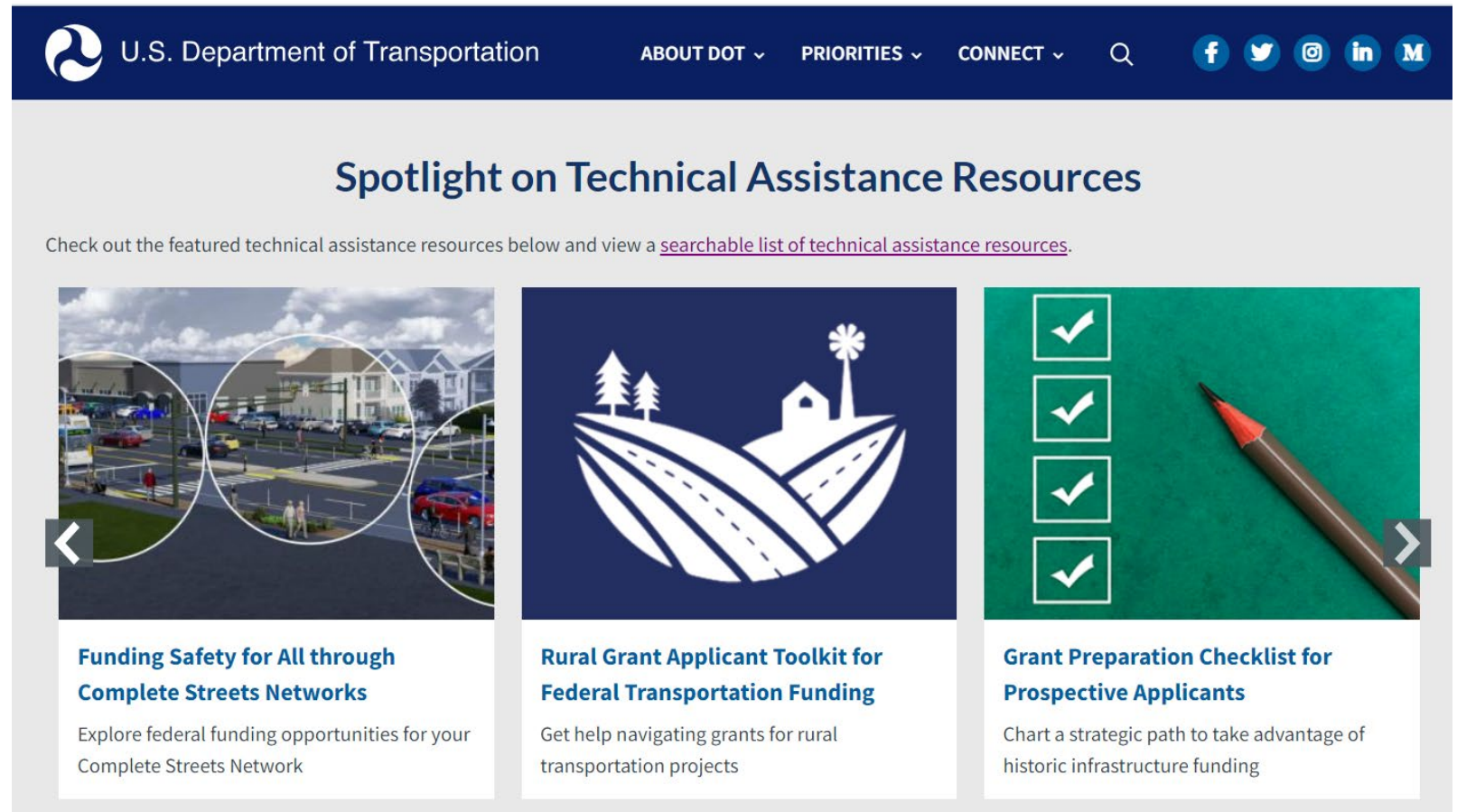
# FTA Discretionary Grant Programs

- All Stations Accessibility Program (ASAP)
- Areas of Persistent Poverty Program (AoPP)
- Capital Investment Grants (CIG)
- Electric or Low-Emitting Ferry Pilot Program
- Ferry Service for Rural Communities
- Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program
- Innovative Coordinated Access and Mobility (ICAM)
- Low- or No-Emission Grant Program
- Mobility, Access, & Transportation Insecurity: Creating Links to Opportunity Demonstration Research Program
- Passenger Ferry Grant Program
- Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Planning
- Public Transportation Emergency Relief Program
- Public Transportation on Indian Reservations (Tribal Transit) Program
- Rail Vehicle Replacement Program

[Grant Programs | FTA \(dot.gov\)](https://www.fta.dot.gov/grant-programs)

# DOT Navigator

- [Utilizing DOT Data for Stronger Grant Applications](#)
- [Benefit Cost Analysis for DOT Discretionary Grant Applications](#)
- [Rural Grant Applicant Toolkit](#)



The screenshot shows the DOT Navigator website interface. At the top is a dark blue navigation bar with the U.S. Department of Transportation logo and name, followed by menu items: ABOUT DOT, PRIORITIES, and CONNECT. Social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube are on the right. The main content area has a light gray background with the heading "Spotlight on Technical Assistance Resources". Below the heading is a link to a "searchable list of technical assistance resources". Three featured resource cards are displayed in a row, each with a circular image and a white text box containing the title and a brief description. The first card features a street scene with a car and a person, titled "Funding Safety for All through Complete Streets Networks". The second card features a stylized white icon of a road, trees, and a house on a dark blue background, titled "Rural Grant Applicant Toolkit for Federal Transportation Funding". The third card features a green background with a pencil and four checkmarks in white boxes, titled "Grant Preparation Checklist for Prospective Applicants".

U.S. Department of Transportation

ABOUT DOT ▾ PRIORITIES ▾ CONNECT ▾

Spotlight on Technical Assistance Resources

Check out the featured technical assistance resources below and view a [searchable list of technical assistance resources](#).

**Funding Safety for All through Complete Streets Networks**  
Explore federal funding opportunities for your Complete Streets Network

**Rural Grant Applicant Toolkit for Federal Transportation Funding**  
Get help navigating grants for rural transportation projects

**Grant Preparation Checklist for Prospective Applicants**  
Chart a strategic path to take advantage of historic infrastructure funding

<https://www.transportation.gov/dot-navigator>

# Competitive Application Tips

Application clearly defines transportation **problem** and why your project is the **solution**

Application **tells a story** about the transportation challenges and details local, regional, or national **impacts**

Projects that align with the Merit Criteria and include **data-driven**, reasonable and justifiable **outcomes**

Projects that emphasize improved access to **safe, reliable, and affordable** transportation, particularly for underserved communities

Projects that explicitly consider **climate change** and **racial equity** throughout the project life cycle

Project demonstrates a **reasonable schedule** and timeline to **start and complete** the project

[USDOT Project Readiness Checklist](#)

# Notice of Funding Opportunities

- **Public Transportation on Indian Reservations Program; Tribal Transit Program**
- [FY 2024 Notice of Funding Opportunity: Public Transportation on Indian Reservations Program; Tribal Transit Program | FTA \(dot.gov\)](#)
- **Date Posted:** August 15, 2024
- **Date Closing:** November 13, 2024
- **Details:** The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announces the opportunity to apply for \$9,169,076 in competitive grants for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Public Transportation on Indian Reservations (Tribal Transit) Program

# Notice of Funding Opportunities

- Solicitation of Proposals for the National Rural Transit Assistance Program
- <https://www.transit.dot.gov/regulations/federal-register-documents/2024-20655>
- **Date Posted:** September 12, 2024
- **Date Closing:** November 12, 2024
- **Details:** The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announces the opportunity to apply for \$3,250,723 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Rural Transportation Assistance Program funds through a competitive cooperative agreement award. FTA is soliciting proposals under the agency's Formula Grants for Rural Areas Program to select an entity to administer a National Rural Transit Assistance Program (National RTAP).



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# Region V State Accomplishments & Grant Activities



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Transit Administration

# Minnesota Accomplishments



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/thetransitcamera/>

St. Cloud Metro Bus

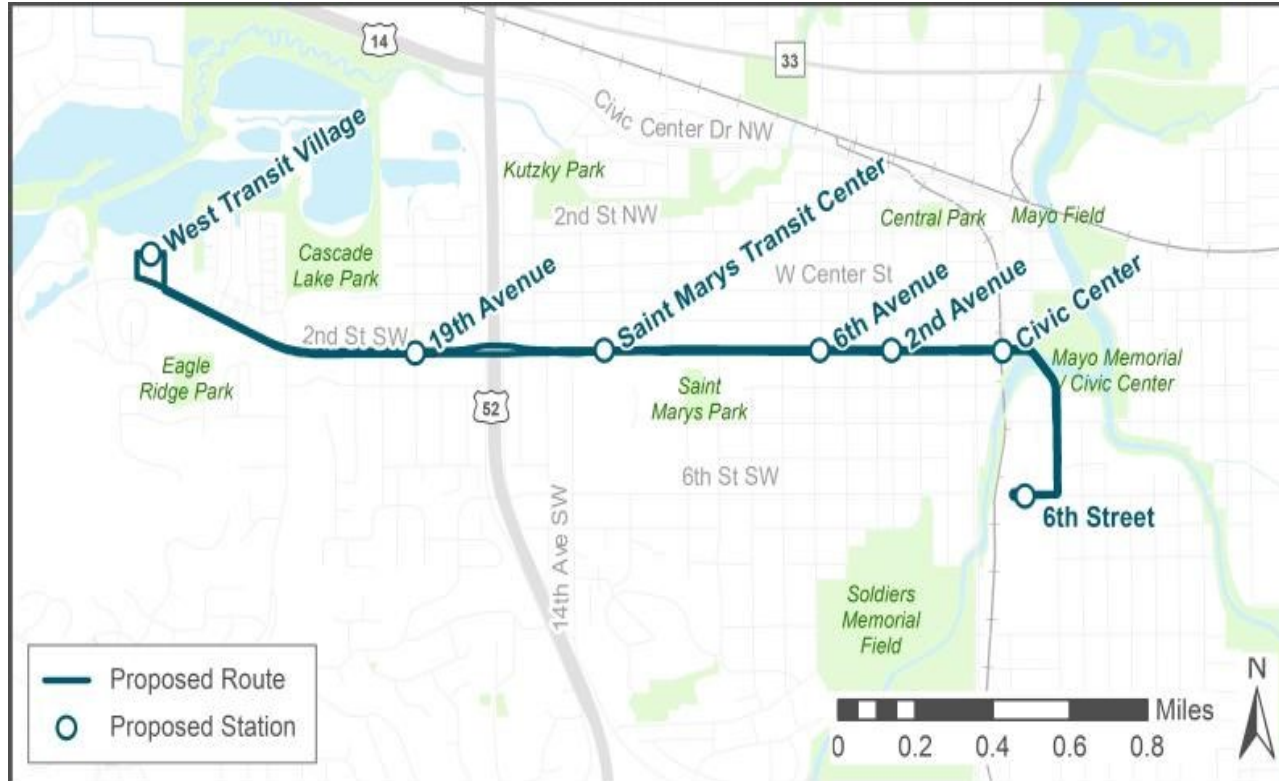


Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe



Mankato Transit

# Capital Investment Grant Funds – Rochester Link Rapid Transit



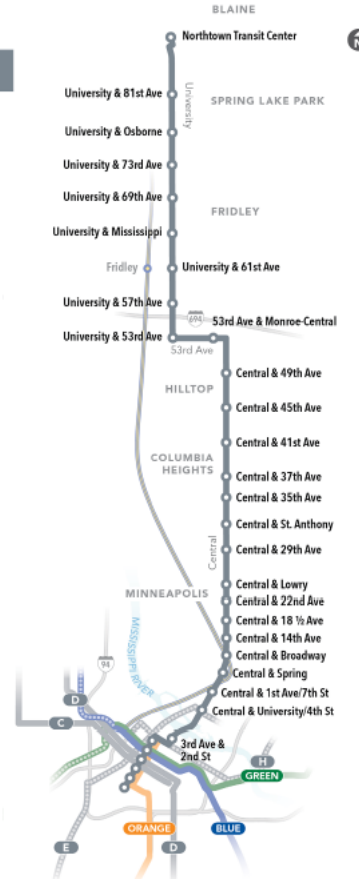
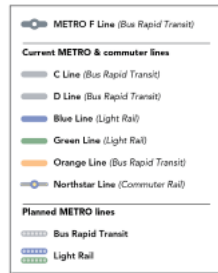
- Link is a proposed 2.8-mile route along 2nd Street that will connect downtown Rochester, Mayo Civic Center, Mayo Clinic campuses, and the Downtown Waterfront Southeast area.
- The high amenity, 60-foot electric buses which will provide service to 7 stations across the city. Service intervals will be every 5 minutes on weekdays from 6 to 9 a.m. and 3 to 6 p.m., and every 10 to 15 minutes at other times. Link will operate from 5 a.m. to midnight on weekdays and 8 a.m. to midnight on weekends.
- Construction to begin in early 2025.

Apportioned \$28,831,468 in FY 2024 CIG Funding (Small Starts)

# Capital Investment Grant Funds – METRO F Line Bus Rapid Transit



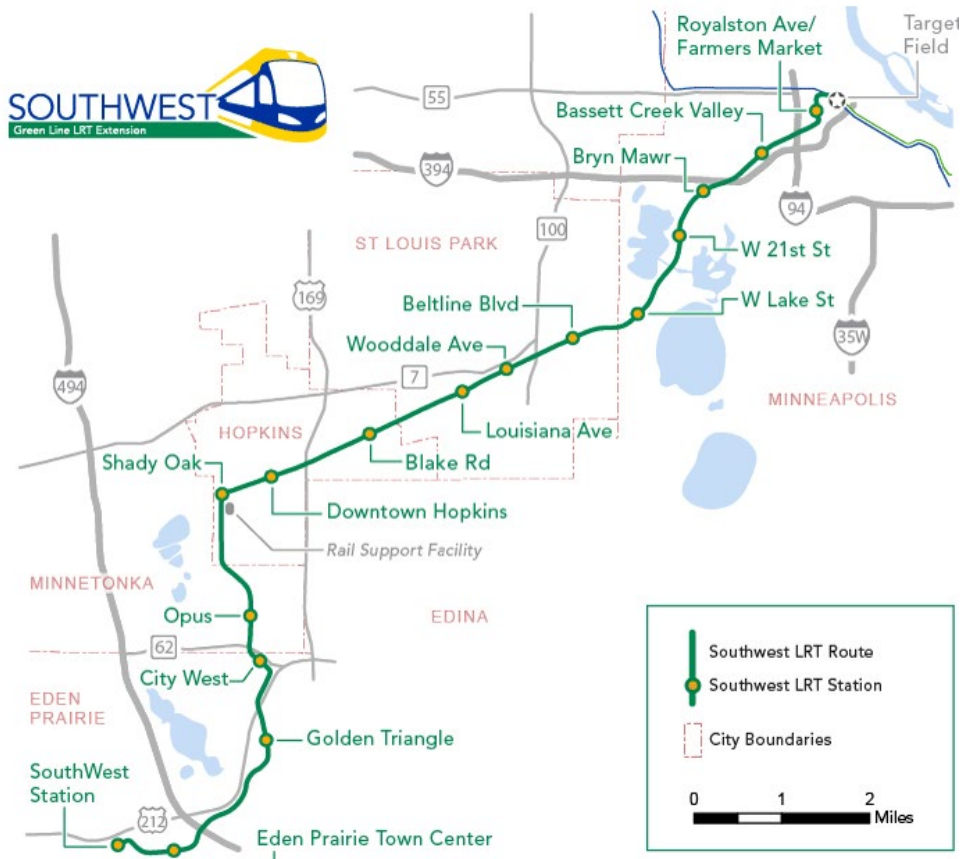
July 2023



- The METRO F Line is a planned bus rapid transit line that will provide faster and more reliable transit service in the Route 10 corridor between downtown Minneapolis and Northtown Transit Center along Nicollet Mall, Central Avenue, 53rd Avenue, and University Avenue.
- The F Line will provide faster, frequent (~10-minute), all day service on weekdays, Saturdays, and Sundays.
- Construction is expected to begin in 2028.

Apportioned \$37,130,802 in in FY 2024 CIG Funding (Small Starts)

# Capital Investment Grant Funds – Southwest LRT – METRO Green Line Extension



- Southwest LRT will extend the METRO Green Line approximately 14.5 miles with 16 new stations from downtown Minneapolis through St. Louis Park, Hopkins, Minnetonka, and Eden Prairie.
- The line will connect major activity centers in the region, including downtown Minneapolis, the Opus/Golden Triangle employment area in Minnetonka and Eden Prairie, downtown Hopkins, Park Nicollet Methodist Hospital in St. Louis Park, the Eden Prairie Center mall, and the Chain of Lakes.
- Anticipated to open in 2027.

Apportioned \$162,339,756 in FY 2024 CIG Funding (New Starts)

# Region V Grant Activity FY 2024

FY 2024 Grant Awards (as of 9/6/24)		
	# Grants	\$ Obligated
<b>FTA FY24 Total</b>	<b>1,705</b>	<b>\$12.77B</b>
<b>Region V FY24 Total</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>\$976M</b>
<b>Minnesota FY24</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>\$295M</b>

# Bus & Bus Facilities Infrastructure Investment and Low or No Emission Program FY 2024

## Section 5339 (b) Funds Awarded

FTA (Total)	\$1.5B
Region V Portion of FTA Total	\$243.5M
<i>Minnesota Total</i>	\$9.1M

*For more information on the competitive Section 5339 selections, visit FTA's Website:*

<https://www.transit.dot.gov/bus-program>



# Low or No Emission Program in Minnesota FY 2024

Transit Agency	Project	Award Amount
<b>Minnesota DOT</b>	The Minnesota Department of Transportation on behalf of United Community Action Partnership-Community Transit (UCAP) and Friendly Rider Transit, will receive funding to buy propane buses and build the necessary fueling infrastructure. The project will improve service, reliability and lower maintenance costs for southwest and south central Minnesota rural transit providers.	\$2,303,200

*For more information on the competitive Section 5339 selections, visit FTA's Website*  
<https://www.transit.dot.gov/lowno>





# Bus & Bus Facilities Infrastructure Investment Program in Minnesota FY 2024

Transit Agency	Project	Award Amount
<p><b>SouthWest Transit</b></p>	<p>SouthWest Transit will receive funding to rehabilitate the Southwest Station Park and Ride and the bus garage. The project includes ADA and security improvements for riders, as well as upgrades to the maintenance facilities to improve safety for workers. The project will support secure, accessible, and efficient transit service.</p>	<p>\$520,436</p>
<p><b>Minnesota DOT, on behalf of Cedar Valley Services</b></p>	<p>The Minnesota Department of Transportation, on behalf of Cedar Valley Services (SMART), will receive funding to build two new transit facilities. This project will help SMART improve efficiency and enhance reliability for rural communities in Southern Minnesota.</p>	<p>\$6,282,400</p>

# Discretionary Projects in Minnesota FY 2024

Transit Agency/Program	Project	Award Amount
<b>Metropolitan Council</b>	Metro Mobility Small Bus Replacement	\$5,000,000

# Transit Oriented Development in Minnesota FY 2024

Transit Agency/Program	Project	Award Amount
<b>Metropolitan Council</b>	The Metropolitan Council/Metro Transit will receive funding to plan for transit-oriented development along the Blue Line Light Rail Extension, which will run 13.5 miles between downtown Minneapolis and North Minneapolis, Robbinsdale, Crystal, and Brooklyn Park. The plan will include a housing strategy emphasizing the importance of accessibility to transit stations, while the economic development strategy will identify opportunities for businesses near transit.	\$700,000

# Coronavirus Relief Programs: Minnesota

- **Region V Apportionment:**
  - **\$3.1B CARES Act (2020 to date)**
    - Minnesota share: \$309M
    - \$303M expended (98%)
  - **\$1.1B CRRSAA Act (2021 to date)**
    - Minnesota share: \$210M
    - \$158M expended (75%)
  - **\$2.9B ARP (2021 to date)**
    - Minnesota share: \$396M
    - \$385M expended (97%)

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# News from FTA

## Oversight



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Transit Administration

# FY 2024 Tribal Assessments

## 2024 Tribal Assessments

**Bois Forte Band of Chippewa**

**Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa**

# Transit Safety & Oversight (TSO): What's New?

- Rail Transit Roadway Worker Protection Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Published March 2024
- Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans and National Public Transportation Safety Plan Final Updates Published April 2024
- Recipient Survey Conducted May 2024 by the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans (PTASP) Technical Assistance Center (TAC)
- FTA Suicide and Mental Health Crisis Intervention on Transit Webinar held May 2024
- Transit Advisory Committee for Safety (TRACS) Meeting Held June 24 – 25, 2024
- New FTA Technical Resources on Assaults on Transit Worker Data Reporting Published
- Fatigue Resources for Transit Operations Website Launched
- FTA Safety Management Systems in Practice Workshops Held
- De-Escalation Training Resource Directory Published
- Transit Customer Assault Prevention Resources Website Launched

# Transit Safety & Oversight (TSO): What's New?

- Proposed General Directive: Required Actions Regarding Assaults on Transit Workers
- State Safety Oversight Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Issued
- Transit Worker Hours of Service and Fatigue Risk Management Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Issued
- Proposed Changes to the Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Program (PTSCTP) Requirements Issued August 14<sup>th</sup>
- National Public Transportation Safety Plan
  - *For more information on Transit Safety and Oversight, please go to*
    - <https://www.transit.dot.gov/regulations-and-guidance/safety/transit-safety-oversight-tso>





# Transit Asset Management – What’s New

- TAM Data Summary: A Snapshot of Asset-Related Data Reported to the National Transit Database Published March 2024
- Integrating TAM Data into National Transit Database (NTD) Reporting Webinar Held April 2024
- FTA hosted the 16th TAM Roundtable as an in-person event on July 30-31, 2024, in Chicago, IL. The TAM Roundtable included professional staff from across the country who are directly involved in the management of transit capital assets.
- A new version of the TAMPLATE will be available in August 2024
- The Intro to Transit Asset Management course has been revised and will be offered in September 2024.



*Sign up to subscribe to receive correspondence from the TAM Program, including announcements for peer learning offerings at*

[https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDOTFTA/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=USDOTFTA\\_72](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDOTFTA/subscriber/new?topic_id=USDOTFTA_72)

*For more information on Transit Asset Management, please visit the TAM Resource Table Website at*

[Transit Asset Management Resource Table | FTA \(dot.gov\)](https://www.fta.dot.gov/tam-resource-table)



# Disadvantaged Business Enterprise – What's New

## DOT issued DBE Final Rule (April 2024)

- Streamlining the DBE certification and eligibility process
- Adjusting the personal net worth cap for inflation for small business owners, including excluding retirement assets from the calculation
- Formalizing guidance establishing successful COVID-19 flexibilities, such as virtual on-site visits, to conserve certification and firm resources
- Modernizing the rules for counting participation by DBE material suppliers expediting interstate reciprocity
- Expanding reporting requirements to DOT

# Disadvantaged Business Enterprise – What's New

## Tiered System for FTA Grant Recipients Starting FY 2025

- Tier I Recipients: FTA grant recipients who award more than \$670,000 in FTA funds annually in 3rd party contracts are subject to all provisions
- Tier II Recipients: FTA grant recipients who award \$670,000 or less in FTA funds annually are subject to a subset of provisions, such as the reporting requirements and the small business element

# Disadvantaged Business Enterprise – What's New

## ➤ Notable changes and updates in the 2024 Final Rule

### ○ Data Collection & Reporting

- The Uniform Report, which captures contracting data, now collects information on individual DBEs and contracts
- Recipients are now required to submit their bidders lists
- UCPs are now required to include more information on certification and decertification in their annual report to DOT

### ○ DBE Performance Plans on Design-Build Contracts

- Prime bidders on race-conscious design-build contracts are now allowed to submit a plan for bringing on DBEs throughout the life of the project to meet the DBE goal
- Prime bidders are no longer required to list all commitments at the bid stage

# Disadvantaged Business Enterprise – What's New

- **Notable changes and updates in the 2024 Final Rule**
  - **DBE Credit/Counting Updates**
    - There are both clarifications and changes to how recipients and primes count DBE participation
    - Affects counting for regular dealers, material suppliers, distributors, manufacturers, and more
  - **Monitoring & Prompt Payment Language**
    - The requirements for prompt payment and return of retainage have been clarified and the language is strengthened and expanded, but the requirements have not changed
    - DOT's expectations for monitoring are codified

# Office of Civil Rights Contact

- Region V Civil Rights Officer, Nathaniel Seeskin [nathaniel.seeskin@dot.gov](mailto:nathaniel.seeskin@dot.gov)
- Please contact Nate for the following types of Civil Rights communications:
  - **Civil rights questions**
  - **Technical assistance inquiries**
- When sending a message include your **agency name, TrAMS ID, and the topic area of your communication in the subject line.**

# Office of Civil Rights Support Contact

- Please utilize [FTACivilRightsSupport@dot.gov](mailto:FTACivilRightsSupport@dot.gov) for the following types of Civil Rights communications:
  - **Corrective action submittals**
  - **Oversight related Technical assistance inquiries**
  - **Plans, goals and report reviews and technical assistance**
- When sending a message to [FTACivilRightsSupport@dot.gov](mailto:FTACivilRightsSupport@dot.gov), include your agency name, TrAMS ID, and the topic area of your communication in the subject line.

# Circular Updates

- Can be found at: [FTA 2024 Circular Update | FTA \(dot.gov\)](#)

Circular	49 U.S.C. Section(s)
Award Management Requirements C 5010	Applies to all FTA awards
Urbanized Areas Formula Grant Programs Guidance C 9050	Combines the existing 5307, 5337, and urban 5339(a) program
Rural Areas Formula Grant Programs Guidance C 9040	5311, rural 5339(a)
Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program Guidance C 9070	5310



# Procurement Updates

- **Procurement System Review Program Training Module**
- Cost and Price Analysis
  - define price and cost analysis;
  - discuss key regulations and guidance pertaining to cost and price analysis;
  - describe the importance of conducting an independent cost estimate;
  - outline the process of completing an independent cost estimate;
  - describe the steps of a price analysis versus a cost analysis;
  - describe how to document cost analysis and negotiations; and
  - compare types of contracts.

- **PSR/FMO Workshops Held in Chicago and Cincinnati, 2024**

# Procurement Updates

## NTI In Person Procurement Courses Resumes

- The National Transit Institute, at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, was established under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 to develop, promote, and deliver training and education programs for the public transit industry.
- Training is provided for several transit program areas:

Transit Planning  
Transit Construction  
Transit Management & Operations  
Project Management  
Risk Assessment for Transit Capital Projects  
Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment

Procurement Levels I, II, and III  
NTI Reporting Requirements  
Title VI, ADA  
Public Involvement in Transit Decision Making  
Violence in the Transit Workplace

***Want to host an NTI class? Apply at***  
<https://go.rutgers.edu/NTIHostReqForm>



# OTrak Recipient Access Update

- The **Oversight Tracking System (OTrak)** is FTA's official system of record for program oversight data for FTA staff, contractors, and recipients.
- **Starting in 2024, FTA recipients now have access to the OTrak system** to view program review reports and submit information directly to FTA. FTA recipients receiving any of the following reviews will use OTrak to respond to their findings and corrective actions:

- **Comprehensive Reviews**

- Triennial Review (TR)
- State Management Review (SMR)
- Combined TR/SMR

- **Procurement System Reviews (PSRs)**

- Full Scope
- Follow-Up
- Focus Review

- OTrak FAQs can be found here: <https://www.transit.dot.gov/OTrak>



# ECHO Drawdowns Update

- ECHO Closed:
  - **Wednesday September 25<sup>th</sup>**  
at 2:00 pm (EDT)
  - No drawdowns
- ECHO reopened:
  - **Tuesday October 8<sup>th</sup>** at 2:00  
pm (EDT)

# Legal - Certifications and Assurances and Buy America Updates

- C&A's **must** be pinned electronically in TrAMS by the Authorizing Official (AO) and Attorney
- If a recipient uploads a hard copy, it must also include a justification as to why it can't PIN electronically
  - Inconvenience is not a valid reason
- Set-up your AO and Attorneys in TrAMS now to avoid delays in grant award
- Buy America information is available at: <https://www.transit.dot.gov/buyamerica>
  - Build America, Buy America Act (BABA) Construction and De Minimus Waiver
  - OMB Memorandum [M-24-02](#) (rescinds and replaces OMB Memorandum M-22-11)
  - Waiver of Buy America Requirements for De Minimis Costs and Small Grants
  - Waiver of Buy America Requirements for Construction Materials for Certain Contracts and Solicitations
- Please consult with your Region 5 Program Manager if you have questions

# Resources

- Program Oversight

<https://www.transit.dot.gov/regulations-and-guidance/regulations-and-guidance>

- FY2024 Comprehensive Review Guide

<https://www.transit.dot.gov/regulations-and-programs/safety/fy24-comprehensive-review-contractors-manual>

- Transit Asset Management

<https://www.transit.dot.gov/TAM/>

Sign up at

[https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDOTFTA/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=USDOTFTA\\_72](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDOTFTA/subscriber/new?topic_id=USDOTFTA_72)

to subscribe to receive correspondence from the TAM Program, including announcements for peer learning offerings.

- National Rural Transit Assistance Program

<https://www.nationalrtap.org/>

- Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans

<https://www.transit.dot.gov/PTASP>

# Region V Support for Minnesota

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# Thank you!



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