Planning for Low-No Emission Vehicles

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What we will cover

• Federal Transit Administration’s Low-No Program
• Transit Partners and MnDOT application
• What to consider if interested in low-no vehicles
Low or No Emission Vehicle Program 5339(c)

• Competitive program provides funding to state and local government to get zero- and/or low-emission transit buses with required facility equipment.

• Eligible applicants:
  • States (on behalf of rural communities and/or consolidated urbanized proposals)
  • Local governmental authorities
  • Tribal governments

• Authorized funding through FFY 2026
The Low-No and Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program support US DOT and FTA’s priorities and objectives through investments that

1. renew our transit systems;
2. reduce greenhouse gas emissions from public transportation;
3. advance racial equity;
4. maintain and create good-paying; and
5. connect communities.
What was funded in FFY22 in Minnesota?

• Bois Forte Band of Chippewa (low or no emission)
• MN Chippewa Tribe-White Earth Band of Chippewa Indians (bus facility)
• Prairie Island Indian Community (low or no emission)
• SouthWest Transit (low or no emission)
• MnDOT (low or no emission)

• Funded projects list found online
• Buses Electrified To Travel Efficiently in Rural Minnesota Communities

• 4 rural transit systems:
  • **Heartland Express (New Ulm)**
  • Southern MN Area Rural Transit (Owatonna)
  • Prairie Lakes Transit (Fairmont)
  • **MN River Valley Transit (Saint Peter and Le Sueur)**

• 6 battery electric buses and associated electrical upgrades
Program Requirement & Considerations

• Fleet Transition Plan

• 5% Workforce Development for Zero-Emission Projects

• Continuation of the Partnership Provision (e.g., procurement)

• Low-No Program: minimum of 25% of amount awarded to low emission projects other than zero-emission vehicles and related facilities.
Evaluation Criteria

• Demonstration of need: how project addresses unmet need

• Demonstration of benefits: how project supports reduction in emissions and/or energy consumption

• Planning and local/regional prioritization: how project fits with local planning

• Local share: identify a source of local share

• Project implementation strategy

• Technical, legal, & financial capacity
Be prepared to think through...

• Climate change (for bus/bus facilities projects only)
• Environmental justice
• Racial equity and barriers to opportunity
• Creating good-paying jobs (facility projects)
• Zero-emission fleet transition plan – workforce development
• Next solicitation anticipated early spring 2023
Questions?