

FTA and Region 5 News, Updates and Guidance



Minnesota Public Transit Association
October 26, 2022



U.S. Department
of Transportation
Federal Transit
Administration

Overview

- FTA Updates
- Region 5 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.



FTA Administrator

Nuria Fernandez

- Sworn into office on June 10, 2021
- FTA's 15th Administrator



Region V



U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Transit Administration Region V



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BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW



Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

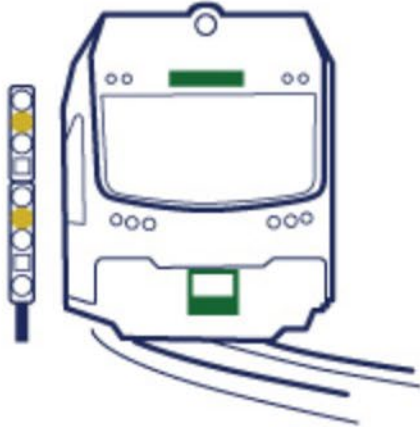
The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), as enacted in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, authorizes up to \$108 billion for public transportation – the largest federal investment in public transportation in the nation’s history.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, was signed by President Biden on November 15, 2021. The legislation reauthorizes surface transportation programs for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 through FY 2026.



Bipartisan Infrastructure Law – Four Key Priorities

Improving Safety



- More inspection authority for state oversight agencies
- Requiring risk-based inspections
- Better engagement between workers and management for safer systems

Modernizing Bus & Rail Fleets



\$1.5B for New Rail Vehicle Replacement Program

- Transit infrastructure in the U.S. needs more than \$105 billion in repairs
- 17% of U.S. transit buses are considered older than their useful life

Low or No Vehicle Emissions Competitive Program

TOTAL \$5.3B



\$55M annually

20x more

\$1.1B annually

Cleaning the air and saving our planet by building bus fleets that create less or even NO pollution

All Stations Accessibility Program

TOTAL \$1.75B



28%

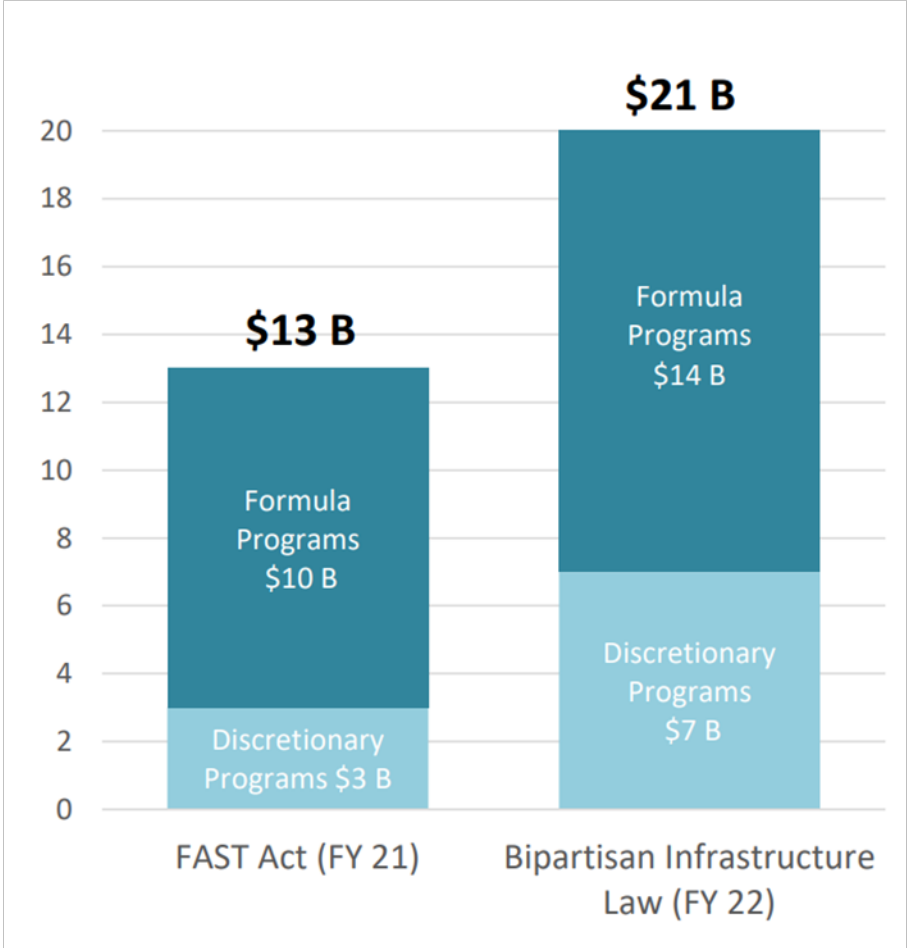
now inaccessible, absent major alterations

72%

of American's rail transit stations are accessible

Funding to improve accessibility at stations nationwide for those with physical disabilities

Formula and Competitive Funding



An additional \$45 Billion authorized over 5 years

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law – New Requirements

➤ **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Disposition Requirements**

- Rolling stock, equipment and aggregate supplies
 - Have met their minimum useful life
 - Were purchased with federal assistance
 - Fair market value of more than \$5,000
 - Sold after November 15, 2021

Any remaining federal share must be returned to FTA. The federal share of the sales proceeds cannot be retained for public transportation use.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law – New Requirements

➤ **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Hiring Preference**

- In 2021 FTA announced an initiative, implemented as a pilot program, to permit transit agencies to have hiring preferences on FTA-funded construction projects.
- The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law includes hiring preferences related to the use of labor for transportation construction projects.
- Section 25019 provides an express authorization for FTA grant recipients and subrecipients to use a geographical or economic hiring preference for the construction of federally supported transit projects.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law – New Programs

Discretionary Funding - \$1.15B annually

- Rail Vehicle Replacement Program - \$300M
- All Station Accessibility Program (ASAP) - \$350M
- Electric or Low-Emitting Ferry Pilot Program - \$100M
- Ferry Service for Rural Communities - \$400M

Coronavirus Relief Program



Coronavirus Relief Programs

\$25B CARES Act (2020 to date)

➤ \$22.7B Urban; \$2.2B Rural

\$14B CRRSAA Act (2021 to date)

➤ \$13.26B Urban; \$678.2M Rural

\$30.5B ARP (2021 to date)

➤ \$26.6B to Urban & Rural; \$1.675B to Capital Investments

Coronavirus Relief Programs - Minnesota

Region V Apportionment:

- \$3.19B CARES Act (2020 to date)
 - Minnesota share: \$306.75M

- \$1.26B CRRSAA Act (2021 to date)
 - Minnesota share: \$209.06M

- \$2.93B ARP (2021 to date)
 - Minnesota share: \$393.31M

FY 2023 Budget and Program Awards

FY 2023 President's Budget

Administration's budget request - \$21.1B

- An increase of \$8.2B over the 2021 enacted level
- Includes \$3.2B on top of the additional \$4.3B already provided by BIL
- Includes \$4.5B for CIG program

Region V Grant Activity FY 2022

FY 2022 Grant Awards (as of 8/22/22)

	# Grants	\$ Obligated
FTA FY22 Total	1,554	\$31.7B
Region V FY22 Total	279	\$3.28B
Minnesota FY22	41	\$365.3M



FY22 FTA Bus and Low- and No-Emission Grant Awards

Section 5339 (c) Funds Awarded	
FTA (Total)	\$1.66B
Region V Portion of FTA Total	\$188.07M
<i>Minnesota Total</i>	<i>\$17.5M</i>

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

<https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/fy22-fta-bus-and-low-and-no-emission-grant-awards>

FY22 FTA Bus and Low- and No-Emission Grant Awards

Transit Agency	Project	Award Amount
SouthWest Transit	Receiving funding to buy battery electric buses and charging equipment.	\$8,127,891
White Earth Band of Chippewa Indians	Receiving funding to build a new bus facility and office space in Waubun.	\$3,607,642
MnDOT	Receiving funding to buy battery electric buses and charging equipment to replace buses that are part of four rural transit fleets.	\$3,414,680
Prairie Island Indian Community	Receiving funding to buy battery-electric buses and charging equipment and train transit workers to operate and maintain vehicles powered with new technologies.	\$1,616,426
Bois Forte Band of Chippewa	Receiving funding to buy propane-fueled buses to replace diesel buses to improve the efficiency of its Big Woods Transit fleet.	\$739,500

Low or No Emission Program in Minnesota



Rochester Public Transit's New Flyer XE60s

Duluth Transit Authority's Proterra Buses



Tribal Transit 5311(c) Program in Minnesota

Bois Fort, Big Woods Transit 4 Vans



FTA Funding Opportunities



FTA Notice of Funding Opportunities - Current

Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grant Program

Amount: \$100M

Date Posted: September 16, 2022

Date Closes: November 18, 2022

Details: The SMART Grants Program includes two stages: Stage 1 Planning and Prototyping Grants and Stage 2 Implementation Grants. The program structure is based on a belief that planning, prototyping, and partnership are critical to advancing the state of the practice for data and technology projects in the public sector. USDOT anticipates that only recipients of Stage 1 Planning and Prototyping Grants will be eligible for Stage 2 Implementation Grants and anticipates funding projects of up to \$2,000,000 per project for Stage 1 and up to \$15,000,000 per project for Stage 2.

FTA Notice of Funding Opportunities - Current Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) for Transit Buses Demonstration and Automated Transit Bus Maintenance and Yard Operations Demonstration Program

Amount: \$6.5M

Date Posted: September 22, 2022

Date Closes: November 21, 2022

Details: The ADAS Program provides the opportunity for funding transit bus automation demonstration projects under the Public Transportation Innovation Program (49 U.S.C. 5312). FTA is exploring the use of driving automation technologies in bus transit operations as described in the [Strategic Transit Automation Research \(STAR\) Plan](#). As part of this research agenda, FTA is funding a number of demonstrations in real-world settings. These projects create a testbed for study of technical issues, user acceptance, operational and maintenance costs, workforce training and transition, and institutional issues, and will further assess the needs for standards development..

FTA Notice of Funding Opportunities - Current

Establish Cooperative Agreements with Technical Assistance Providers for the Fiscal Year 2022 Thriving Communities Program

Amount: \$21M

Date Posted: October 6, 2022

Date Closes: November 22, 2022

Details: DOT will fund organizations to provide technical assistance, planning, and capacity building support to enable selected recipient communities to plan and develop transportation and community revitalization activities that increase mobility, reduce pollution from transportation sources, expand affordable transportation options, facilitate efficient land use, preserve or expand jobs, improve housing conditions, enhance connections to health care, education, and food security, or improve health outcomes

FTA Notice of Funding Opportunities - Current

Rail Vehicle Replacement Program

Amount: \$600M

Date Posted: October 12, 2022

Date Closes: January 5, 2023

Details: The Competitive Grants for Rail Vehicle Replacement Program (Rail Program) assists States and local governmental authorities in funding capital projects to replace rail rolling stock. The purpose of the Rail Program is to modernize America's transit system, focusing on maintaining a State of Good Repair for fixed-guideway rail transit. Eligible projects are the replacement of rail rolling stock. Eligible applicants under this program are also those eligible for Section 5337 funds. This eligibility is composed of States and local governmental authorities located in Urbanized Areas (UZA) with fixed guideway or high intensity motorbus systems in revenue for at least seven (7) years.

Public Involvement Decision Guide Resource

Promising Practices for Meaningful Public Involvement in Transportation Decision-Making

Public Involvement Guide Objectives

- Meaningful public involvement from the beginning
- **Help projects come to life better, faster and more thoroughly suited to the communities they benefit and impact.**
- Identify obstacles to the full representation of all affected communities,
- Identify obstacles to inclusion in the transportation decision-making process and how to address them.

Challenges identified:

- Use of one-size-fits-all strategies
- Lack of accountability for acting on community inputs.

It follows through on a commitment in the Department's [Equity Action Plan](#), supports implementation of the Department's [Justice40 initiative](#), and helps ensure inclusion of all community voices in implementation of the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#).

Pandemic Response Update



Pandemic Response Update

➤ **FTA COVID-19 Resource Tool**

- FTA's Office of Safety (TSO) developed the COVID-19 Resource Tool for Public Transportation as a one-stop-shop for Federal COVID-19 guidance and recommendations, including information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- The tool covers topics related to the public transportation industry such as sanitizing transit facilities and vehicles, personal protective equipment, physical distancing, vaccine planning and more. FTA updates the tool weekly to include newly issued guidance and provides a summary tab highlighting the updates for faster analysis.

<https://www.transit.dot.gov/sites/fta.dot.gov/files/2022-02/TSO-COVID-19-Resource-Tool-Update-2-25-22.xlsx>

Pandemic Response Update

➤ [COVID-19 Recovery Practices in Transit](#)

- This resource provides links to practices implemented by transit systems worldwide in response to COVID-19. Practices are organized under categories, including protecting workers and passengers; cleaning, disinfecting, and ventilating vehicles and infrastructure; operational considerations; passenger communications; and technology and innovation

<https://www.transit.dot.gov/sites/fta.dot.gov/files/2022-01/TSO-COVID-19-Recovery-Practices-in-Transit-20220120.pdf>



RTAP – Procurement PRO



Rural Transit Assistance Program – Procurement PRO

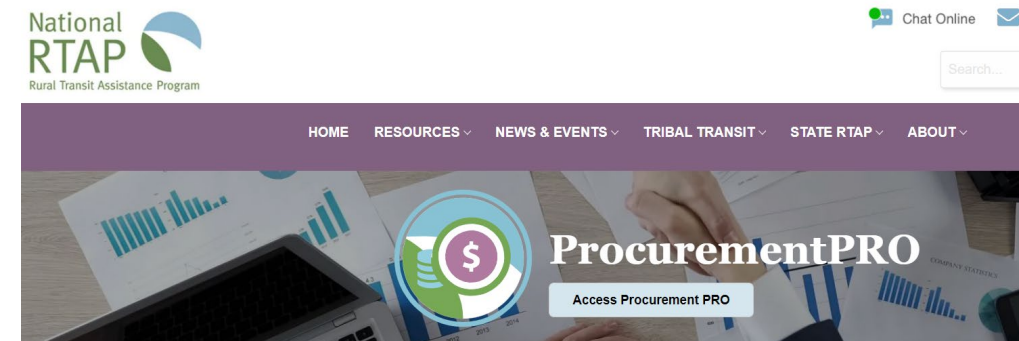
Free web-based application that guides recipients through Federal Transit Administration (FTA) procurement procedures.

Using basic project information entered by the user, the program provides the required FTA clauses and certifications that must be included in procurement documents.

The application can also provide other helpful resources such as a procurement document template, checklists, and guidance for preparing procurement documents.

Instructional Webinar Video

<https://www.nationalrtap.org/Web-Apps/ProcurementPRO>
[ProcurementPRO 2.0 Overview Webinar](#)



Sustainable Transit for a Healthy Planet Challenge



Healthy Planet Challenge

Minnesota Participants

Arrowhead Regional Development Commission

Metro Transit

Minnesota Valley Transit Authority

SouthWest Transit



Program Reviews and Projects



FY2022 Triennial & ECHO Reviews

2022 Triennial Reviews	
Metropolitan Council, Minnesota (Met Council)	St. Cloud Metro Transit Commission

2022 ECHO Spot Reviews
Metropolitan Council, Minnesota (Met Council)

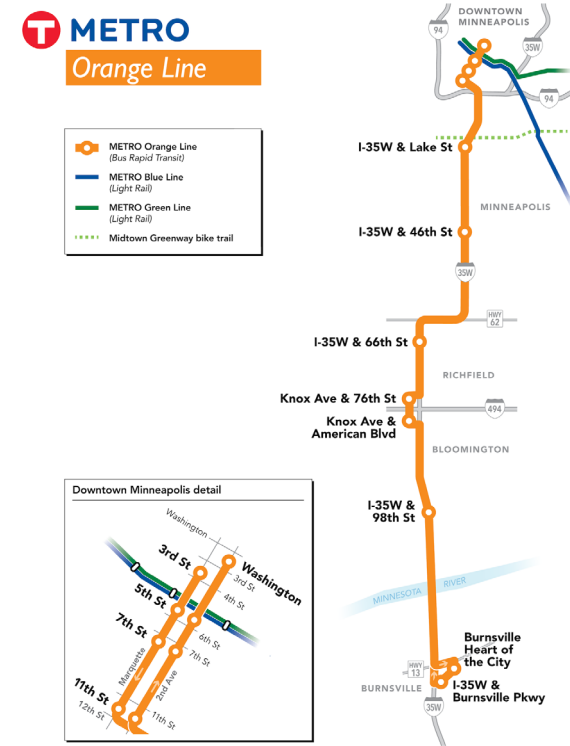
Section 5309 Capital Investment Grant (CIG) Projects

Project	CIG Phase
Blue Line LRT Extension	Engineering
F Line BRT	Project Development
Gold Line BRT	Engineering
Green Line LRT Extension	FFGA
Purple Line BRT	Project Development
Rochester Link Rapid Transit BRT	Project Development

Section 5309 CIG Projects – METRO Orange Line

METRO Orange Line is a 17-mile highway BRT line between Minneapolis, Richfield, Bloomington, and Burnsville, Minnesota.

Opened for Service on December 4th, 2021

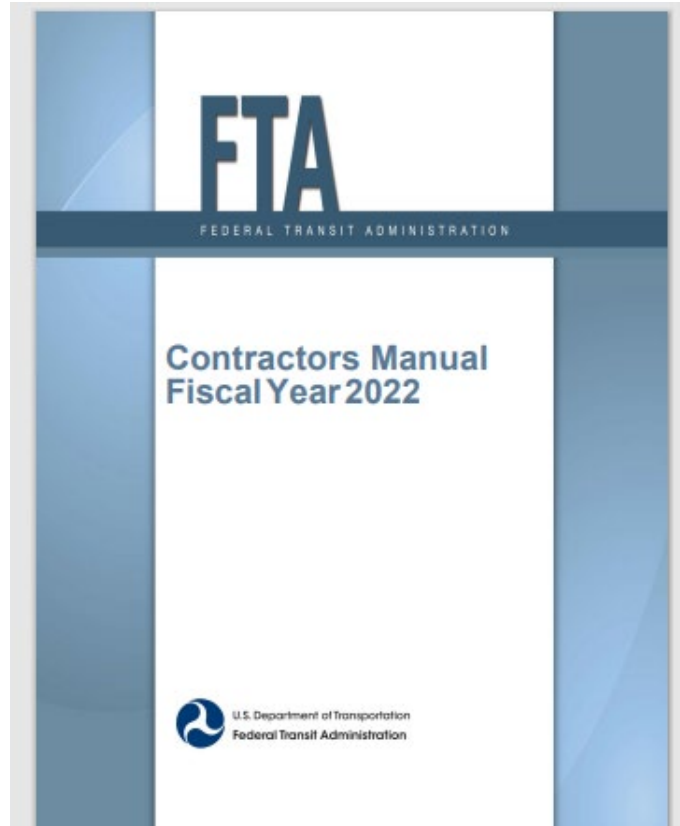


Transit Asset Management



TAM Oversight

Triennial and State Management Review of TAM requirements underway



6. TRANSIT ASSET MANAGEMENT

PURPOSE OF THIS REVIEW AREA

Recipients must comply with 49 CFR part 625 to ensure public transportation providers develop and implement transit asset management (TAM) plans.

QUESTIONS TO BE EXAMINED

1. Has the recipient developed a TAM plan?
2. Did the recipient develop the appropriate tier plan and does the plan have the required elements?
3. Have TAM responsibilities been assigned to an accountable executive?
4. Has the group plan sponsor fulfilled its obligations in the development of the group TAM plan?
5. Have group plan participants fulfilled their obligations in the development and implementation of the group TAM plan?
6. Has the recipient set performance targets annually?
7. Does the recipient share its TAM plan, any supporting records or documents, performance targets, investment strategies, and annual condition assessment report with the state and/or Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) that provides funding?
8. Does the recipient monitor subrecipients for compliance with TAM requirements?

TAM Plan Updates

- First TAM plans were completed Oct 2018
- First TAM Plan Update is due by October 2022
- What is a TAM Plan update?
 - “49 CFR 625.29 c) Updates. A provider must update its entire TAM plan at least once every four (4) years. A provider’s TAM plan update should coincide with the planning cycle for the relevant Transportation Improvement Program or Statewide Transportation Improvement Program.”
- Many resources available and in development to assist in updates
- [2022 Group Plan Sponsor Workbook Self Assessment Tool](#)
 - This document provides a consolidated list of activities, considerations, suggestions, and best practices related to group Transit Asset Management (TAM) plans to assist group plan sponsors in developing group plans. Please note that this document is not official guidance.
- [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)

PTASP Requirements Update

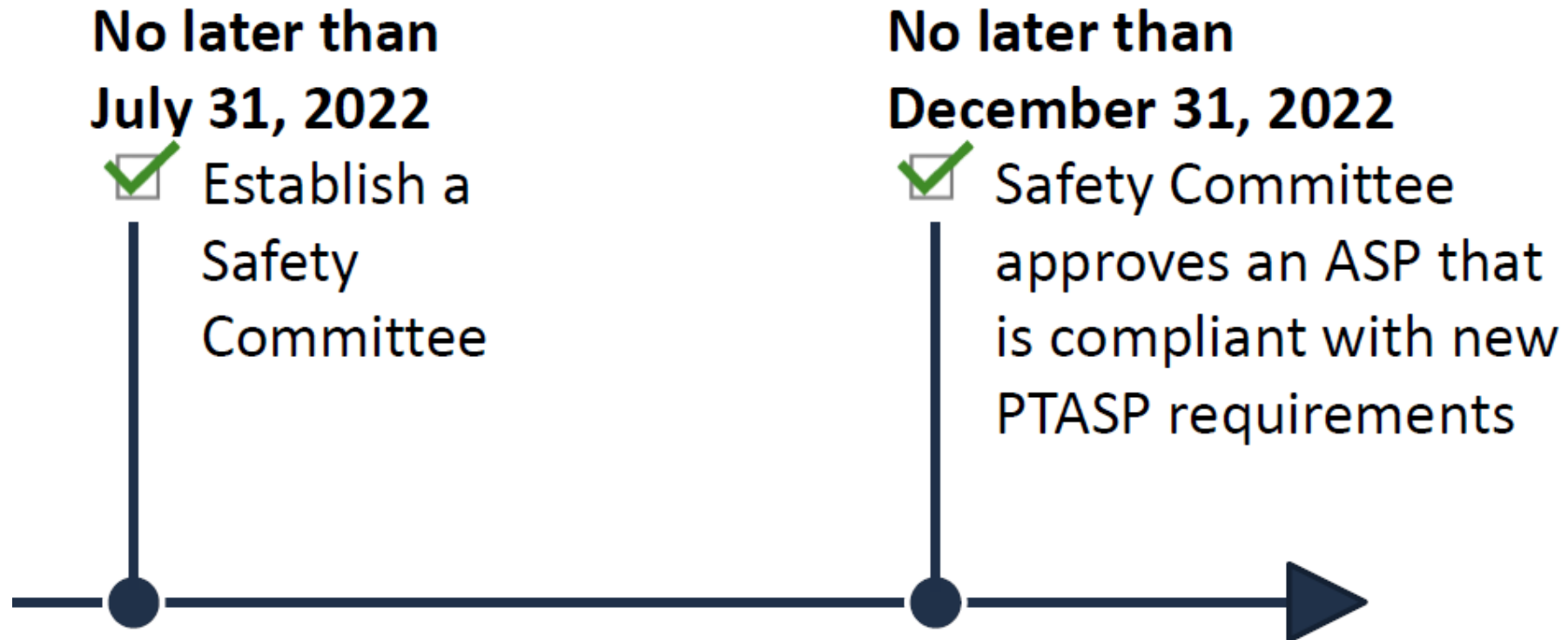
PTASP Compliance

- 100% of applicable transit agencies and States have Agency Safety Plans (ASPs)
- To support the industry in meeting the certification deadline, the PTASP Technical Assistance Center (TAC) provided:
 - Over 400 voluntary ASP reviews
 - Responses to over 1,700 questions from transit agencies, State Safety Oversight agencies (SSOAs), State Departments of Transportation, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, and other impacted groups
 - Monthly webinars and workshops
 - Technical assistance resources and sample ASPs
 - Direct one-on-one technical assistance



REVIEW OF NEW PTASP REQUIREMENTS

PTASP Safety Committee Key Dates



PTASP Links and Contact Information

Technical Assistance Center

www.transit.dot.gov/PTASP-TAC

Frequently Asked Questions

www.transit.dot.gov/PTASP-FAQs

		transit.dot.gov/PTASP-TAC
		1 - 877 - 827 - 7243
		PTASP-TAC@dot.gov
		PTASP Technical Assistance Center 943 Glenwood Station Lane, Suite 102 Charlottesville, VA 22901

Buy America, URA and NEPA



Buy America

USDOT recently published a Temporary Waiver of Buy America Requirements for Construction Materials

- The waiver is applicable to awards that are obligated on or after May 14, 2022 and before November 10, 2022. Unless extended, the waiver expires on November 10, 2022.
- Based on all the information available to the Agency, DOT concludes that applying the domestic content preference for construction materials under Section 70914(a) of the Act on DOT-assisted infrastructure projects now, before adequate compliance processes are in place, would be inconsistent with the public interest, and that a temporary waiver of that requirement is thus appropriate under Section 70914(b)(1).
- By the end of the waiver period, DOT expects State, industry, and other partners to establish an effective compliance process appropriate for construction materials, consistent with the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and relevant implementation guidance and standards.

Certifications and Assurances

- C&A's must be pinned electronically in TrAMS by the 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

TrAMS

- FY 2022 Year End Close took place September 26.
- Annual FFR and MPR reporting is open now with reports due to be submitted through TrAMS by October 30.
- New Awards and Amendments must wait until TrAMS re-opens for FY 2023 in November.

Dear Colleague Letter on Real Estate & NEPA

- Do not purchase land prior to consulting with the regional office.
- Do not purchase land without completing NEPA first.
- Do not purchase land without complying with the Uniform Relocation Act.
- Not complying with NEPA and the URA jeopardized federal participating in your project.
- Do not forget to consult with your regional office prior to purchasing real property.



Program Management Resources



Resources

➤ Program Oversight

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

➤ FY2022 Comprehensive Review Guide

<https://www.transit.dot.gov/fy22-comprehensive-review-guide>

➤ Transit Asset Management

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

➤ National Rural Transit Assistance Program

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

➤ Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans

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

Transit Safety Training Opportunities

Transit Safety Training Opportunities

eLearning Courses (Web Based)		
Curbing Transit Employee Distracted Driving	On demand at tsi.dot.gov	Available 24/7
Fatigue and Sleep Apnea Awareness for Transit Employees	On demand at tsi.dot.gov	Available 24/7
Rail Nomenclature	On demand at tsi.dot.gov	Available 24/7
Bus Nomenclature	On demand at tsi.dot.gov	Available 24/7

Region V Contacts



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[TRANSIT.DOT.GOV](https://www.transit.dot.gov)



FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION