

FTA and Region 5 News, Updates, and Guidance



Minnesota - Wisconsin Public Transportation
Association
October 25, 2023



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

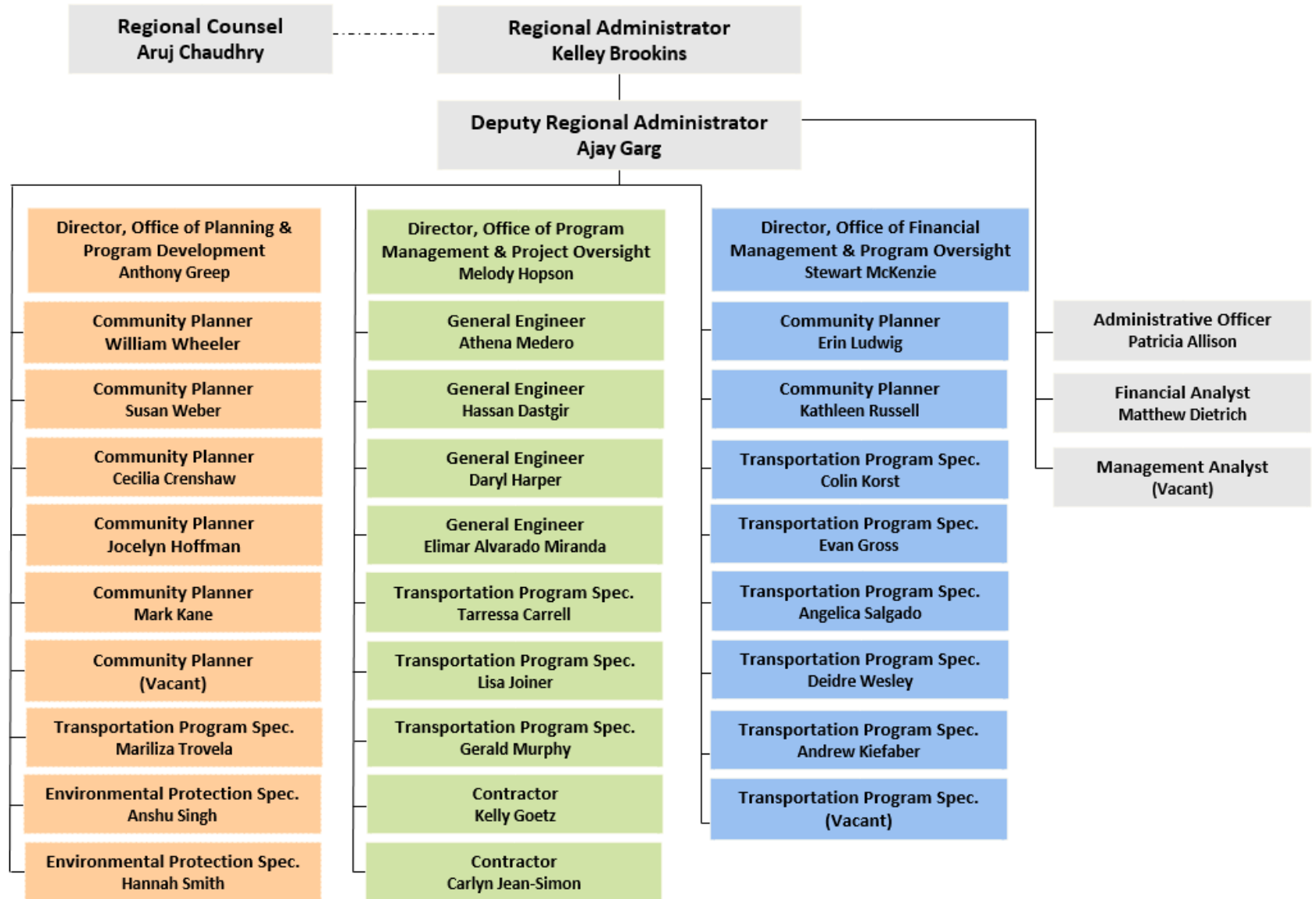
- Sworn into office on June 10, 2021
- FTA's 15th Administrator



Region V



Federal Transit Administration Region V Organizational Chart (Last update 8/28/23)



FTA Updates



DOT Programs

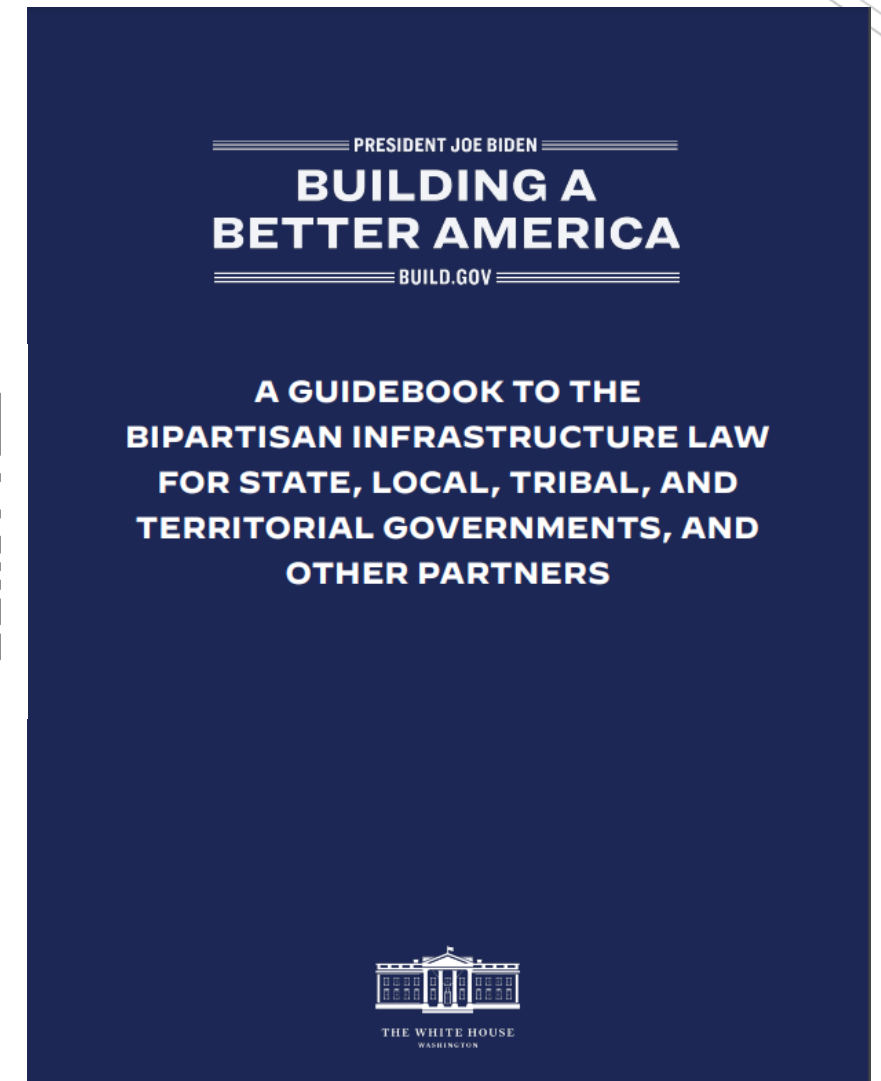
- Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG)
 - **INFRA** \$1.6 Billion - Capital Projects Only
 - **Mega** \$1 Billion - Capital Projects
 - **Rural** \$350 Million - Capital Projects
- Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE)
 - **\$2.3 Billion** - Capital and Planning Projects
- Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP)
 - **\$198 Million** - Capital and Planning Projects
- Safe Streets for All (SS4A)
 - **\$1 Billion** - Capital and Planning Projects

The [DOT BIL website](#) is a great way to identify current and future NOFOs



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](#)



FTA Notice of Funding Opportunities

Emergency Relief Program

Amount: \$110M

Date Posted: August 2, 2023

Date Closing: October 31, 2023

Details: Helps states and public transportation systems pay for protecting, repairing, and/or replacing equipment and facilities that may suffer or have suffered serious damage as a result of an emergency, including natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes, and tornadoes. It provides authorization for Section 5307 and 5311 funds to be used for disaster relief in response to a declared disaster.

FTA Notice of Funding Opportunities

Research Partnership on Climate Change and Transportation

Amount: \$2.5M

Date Posted: September 28, 2023

Date Closing: November 27, 2023

Details: U.S. DOT seeks to fund a climate and transportation research center that advances research to support Administration efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation sector, incorporate evidence-based climate resilience and adaptation measures and features, reduce the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions from the project materials, avoid adverse environmental impacts to air or water quality, wetlands, and endangered species, and address the disproportionate negative environmental impacts of transportation on disadvantaged communities, to support Administration efforts to create proportional impacts to all populations in a project area, remove transportation related disparities to all populations in a project area, and increase equitable access to project benefits.

FTA Notice of Funding Opportunities

Thriving Communities National Program

Capacity Builder Program

Amount: \$22M

Date Posted: September 12, 2023

Date Closing: November 28, 2023

Details: DOT is seeking applications from teams that want to provide technical assistance, planning, and capacity building support to communities across the country. The Thriving Communities Program (TCP) provides intensive technical assistance to under-resourced and disadvantaged communities to help them identify, develop, and deliver transportation and community revitalization opportunities. Those communities receive in-kind support from Capacity Builders funded through the TCP to prepare grant application materials and undertake pre-development and project delivery activities including deploying innovative community engagement, workforce development, and clean technology strategies. There is no cost for communities to receive support through the program.

FTA Notice of Funding Opportunities

Thriving Communities Program - Letter of Interest

[Thriving Communities Program | US Department of Transportation](#)

Date Posted: September 12, 2023

Date Closing: November 15, 2023

Details: The Thriving Communities Program (TCP) is designed to provide technical assistance, planning, and capacity building support to communities that may lack the staffing or technical expertise to scope, fund, and develop infrastructure projects that advance broader community goals. For the FY2023 program, TCP will provide two years of deep-dive assistance to selected communities to help them plan and develop a pipeline of comprehensive transportation, housing, and community revitalization activities, as well as three years of peer-learning facilitated through the Community of Practice.

Federal Interagency Thriving Communities Network



Thriving Communities Program

Upcoming Office Hours

DOT is hosting a virtual "Office Hours" session for communities interested in submitting a Letter of Interest. Office Hours are intended to provide an open forum for potential community applicants to ask questions or address challenges related to their Letters of Interest with members of the DOT Thriving Communities Program Team.

The second Office Hours session will take place on October 25, 2023 at 3:00-4:00 p.m. ET via Zoom -- [you can join using this Zoom link](#).

Past FY 2023 Thriving Communities Program Webinars (recordings)

[Webinars for the FY 2023 Thriving Communities Program | US Department of Transportation](#)

- Program Overview - September 15, 2023
- Interested Capacity Builders - September 20, 2023
- Interested Communities - September 27, 2023

Thriving Communities

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

FTA Notice of Funding Opportunities

Rail Vehicle Replacement Grant Program

Amount: \$197M

Date Posted: October 10, 2023

Date Closing: December 18, 2023

Details: The 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.

President's FY 2024 Budget

The FY 2024 Budget requests **\$17.0 billion for FTA**, along with **\$4.3 billion in advance appropriations provided by BIL**, for **total budgetary resources of \$21.3 billion**. The FY 2024 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, and 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.



Key Components of the Request

- Transit Formula Grants: **\$13.9 billion**
- Capital Investment Grants (CIG): **\$2.9 billion**
 - \$1.6 billion in advance appropriations
- Transit Research: **\$30.0 million**
- Technical Assistance and Training: **\$8.0 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
 - **\$350.0 million** for All Stations Accessibility Program competitive grants
 - **\$50.0 million** for grants for the purchase of electric or low-emitting ferries
 - **\$200.0 million** for grants to States to provide basic essential ferry service in rural areas



FY 2024 President's Budget

- Formula Grants for transit: **\$13.9B**
 - **2.61% increase over 2023**
- New CIG Projects: **\$2.9B**
 - **8.15% increase over 2023**

FY 2024 Policy Proposals

➤ **Providing short-term relief for transit operating shortfalls**

- The FY 2024 Budget proposes allowing the use of Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Program funds and flexed Federal-Aid Highway funds for operating expenses to give large transit agencies flexibility to address operating shortfalls. Many of the nation's largest transit providers have relied on emergency supplemental funding provided during the COVID-19 pandemic to fill operating shortfalls. As this supplemental funding is depleted and ridership remains below pre-pandemic levels, the largest urban transit providers will need additional support to address the imminent fiscal cliff they are facing.

➤ **Supporting rural and small operators**

- The Budget includes a policy proposal to increase the maximum allowable Federal share to 100 percent for the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities and Formula Grants for Rural Areas programs. These programs fund critical services for older adults, individuals with disabilities, and rural populations.

FY 2024 Policy Proposals

➤ Enabling acquisition of real property interests

- The Budget also includes a policy proposal that expands the situations in which land acquisition is permitted prior to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) completion by amending 49 U.S.C. § 5323(q) to cover acquisition of “real property interests,” not just for “corridor preservation.” Project sponsors will be able to purchase needed properties outside of existing transit corridors, consistent with FHWA authorities.

Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Highlights Publicly Available:

- <https://www.transportation.gov/mission/budget/fiscal-year-2024-budget-highlights>



Region 5 Grant Activities and State Accomplishments



Region V Grant Activity FY 2023

FY 2023 Grant Awards (as of 9/26/2023)

	# Grants	\$ Obligated
FTA FY23 Total	2,501	\$21.7B
Region V FY23 Total	383	\$3.4B
Minnesota FY23	65	\$893M

Region V Grant Activity FY 2023

FY 2023 Grant Awards (as of 9/26/2023)

	# Grants	\$ Obligated
FTA FY23 Total	2,501	\$21.7B
Region V FY23 Total	383	\$3.4B
Wisconsin FY23	76	\$200M



Minnesota Bus & Bus Facilities Infrastructure Investment Program FY 2023

Section 5339 (b) Funds Awarded	
FTA (Total)	\$473M
Region V Portion of FTA Total	\$87M
<i>Minnesota Total</i>	<i>\$7.4M</i>

Minnesota Bus & Bus Facilities Infrastructure Investment Program in Minnesota FY 2023

Transit Agency	Project	Award Amount
City of Rochester	New park-and-ride lot	\$7,440,000



Minnesota Low or No Emission Vehicle Program FY 2023

Section 5339 (b) Funds Awarded	
FTA (Total)	\$473M
Region V Portion of FTA Total	\$87M
<i>Minnesota Total</i>	<i>\$19.7M</i>

Low or No Emission Vehicle Projects in Minnesota

Transit Agency	Project	Award Amount
Metropolitan Council/Metro Transit	Replace buses, battery electric chargers and bus equipment	\$17,532,900
Minnesota DOT on behalf of 2 rural transit agencies	Propane fueled buses and supporting fuel equipment	\$1,456,970
White Earth Nation	Replace buses and electronic farebox system	\$723,171

For more information on the competitive Section 5339 selections, visit FTA's Website:
[FY23 FTA Bus and Low- and No-Emission Grant Awards | FTA \(dot.gov\)](#)

Wisconsin Low or No Emission Vehicle Program FY 2023

Section 5339 (b) Funds Awarded	
FTA (Total)	\$473M
Region V Portion of FTA Total	\$87M
<i>Wisconsin Total</i>	<i>\$38.6M</i>

Low or No Emission Vehicle Projects in Wisconsin

Transit Agency	Project	Award Amount
City of Beloit	Replace bus	\$653,184
City of Madison	Replace buses	\$37,962,840

For more information on the competitive Section 5339 selections, visit FTA's Website:
[FY23 FTA Bus and Low- and No-Emission Grant Awards | FTA \(dot.gov\)](#)

Tribal Transit Projects FY 2023

Transit Agency	Project	Award Amount
The Prairie Island Indian Community	Constructing a new transportation maintenance facility at Oyate Place.	\$1,117,025
Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	Planning transition to low-emission and electric bus fleet	\$25,000
Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	Purchasing a replacement accessible transit vehicle	\$150,000
Menominee Nation	Purchasing six new accessible transit vehicles	\$540,000

Discretionary Projects in Minnesota

Transit Agency / Program	Project	Award Amount
Metropolitan Council Southwest LRT / CIG – New Starts	<p>The Southwest Light Rail Transit (LRT) Project is an approximately 14.5-mile extension of the METRO Green Line (Central Corridor LRT) from downtown Minneapolis through the communities of St. Louis Park, Hopkins, Minnetonka and Eden Prairie. The Project includes construction of 16 stations, 9 park-and-ride facilities with approximately 2,500 total spaces and a new railcar light maintenance facility, one operations and maintenance facility (OMF), and the purchase of 27 light rail vehicles.</p>	\$250,000,000
METRO F Line BRT / CIG – Small Starts	<p>The METRO F Line is a 13-mile, 32-station BRT corridor that will provide faster and more reliable transit service in the Route 10 corridor between downtown Minneapolis and Northtown Transit Center (Blaine, MN).</p>	\$8,134,600

Coronavirus Relief Programs - Nationwide

- **\$24.92B CARES Act (2020 to date)**
 - \$22.6B Urban; \$2.3B Rural
 - \$24.91B awarded **(99%)**
- **\$13.99B CRRSAA Act (2021 to date)**
 - \$13.2B Urban; \$648M Rural
 - \$13.97B awarded **(99%)**
- **\$30.45B ARP (2021 to date)**
 - \$26B Urban; \$410M Rural
 - \$30.3B awarded **(99%)**



Discretionary Projects in Wisconsin

Transit Agency / Program	Project	Award Amount
City of Madison East-West BRT / CIG – Small Starts	The Project is to implement a 15- mile, 31-station fixed guideway bus rapid transit (BRT) line running from a park and ride and transit facility near the West Towne Mall in west Madison, through the University of Wisconsin- Madison (UW- Madison) campus, downtown Madison, and to the East Towne Mall area.	\$110,600,000
City of Madison North-South BRT / CIG – Small Starts	Provides bus rapid transit (BRT) service along a 13 to 17 mile corridor running from northern Madison, through downtown and southern Madison, to the City of Fitchburg. The central segment through the isthmus will share 3.4 miles of BRT infrastructure to be built as part of the earlier East-West BRT project.	*\$125,000,000 – \$200,000,00
Milwaukee County North-South BRT / CIG – Small Starts	Provides bus rapid transit service along the 27th Street Corridor – Approx. 18-mile corridor with 33 stops, providing convenient transportation to essential services for the 118,000 people who live within ½ mile of the corridor.	\$8,134,600



Discretionary Projects in Wisconsin Cont.

Transit Agency / Program	Project	Award Amount
City of Madison/ FY 2023 Areas of Persistent Poverty	The city of Madison will receive funding for a plan for its proposed North-South "B" bus rapid transit line, which will provide high-quality service to areas of persistent poverty.	\$258,480
Milwaukee County/ FY 2023 Areas of Persistent Poverty	The Milwaukee County Department of Transportation will receive funding to study the feasibility of a shared Bus-Bike Only Lane on 35th Street. The proposed study will look to improve transit reliability and safer, more accessible multimodal travel opportunities for users of this vital transit corridor, including some of the most vulnerable and under-represented residents in Milwaukee County.	\$400,000
Milwaukee County DOT/Community Project Funding	Cleaner Buses Initiative	\$3,850,000

Coronavirus Relief Programs - Minnesota

Region V Apportionment:

- **\$3.1B CARES Act (2020 to date)**
 - MN share: \$307M
 - \$304M awarded **(99%)**
- **\$1.1B CRRSAA Act (2021 to date)**
 - MN share: \$209M
 - \$209M awarded **(100%)**
- **\$2.9B ARP (2021 to date)**
 - MN share: \$393M
 - \$393M awarded **(100%)**



Coronavirus Relief Programs - Wisconsin

Region V Apportionment:

- **\$3.1B CARES Act (2020 to date)**
 - WI share: \$208M
 - \$208M awarded **(100%)**
- **\$1.1B CRRSAA Act (2021 to date)**
 - WI share: \$80M
 - \$80M awarded **(100%)**
- **\$2.9B ARP (2021 to date)**
 - WI share: \$169M
 - \$169M awarded **(100%)**



News from FTA



FY 2023 Triennial Reviews

2023 Triennial Reviews Conducted (Minnesota)

City of Mankato

City of Rochester

Duluth Transit Authority

Minnesota Department of Transportation



FY 2023 Triennial Reviews

2023 Triennial Reviews Conducted (Wisconsin)	
City of Green Bay	City of Superior
City of Oshkosh	City of Fond Du Lac
City of Madison	City of Wausau
City of Appleton	City of Racine
City of Milwaukee	City of Kenosha



FY 2023 Tribal Assessments

2023 Tribal Assessments Conducted (Minnesota)

Red Lake Nation

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe



FY 2023 Tribal Assessments

2023 Tribal Assessments Conducted (Wisconsin)

Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa



FY 2023 COVID-19 Financial Spot Reviews

2023 COVID-19 Financial Spot Reviews

City of Beloit – Approved for 2023

FY 2024 Upcoming Triennial Reviews

2024 Triennial Reviews (Wisconsin)	
City of Beloit	City of Sheboygan
City of Chippewa Falls	City of Waukesha
City of Hartford	City of West Bend
City of Janesville	Washington County



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.

- FTA launched the new OTrak system for FTA staff and contractors on April 26, 2021
- System was upgraded to the Appian platform integrating data from the National Transit Database (NTD) and Transit Award Management System (TrAMS).

For the first time, FTA recipients will have access to the OTrak system (FY 2024) to view program review reports and submit information directly to FTA. This includes uploading information request responses, submitting corrective actions and viewing and downloading oversight reports.

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

Office of Civil Rights

- Region 5 Civil Rights Officer, Nathaniel Seeskin
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

- Please utilize 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, include your agency name, TrAMS ID, and the topic area of your communication in the subject line.



TAMPLATE



- TAMPLATE is a technical assistance resource to help transit providers develop TAM plans in alignment with the Final Rule on TAM (49 CFR Part 625)
 - Tool has the ability to download your most recently published agency data from NTD
- TAMPLATE application is designed for any user, it is likely to be most helpful for:
 - Tier II transit providers developing their own individual plans, or
 - Group TAM Plan Sponsors developing plans for subrecipients

[TAMPLATE | FTA \(dot.gov\)](https://www.fta.dot.gov/tamplate)



TAMPLATE Planned Updates

- Ability for more than one person to edit a single TAM Plan
- All users able to share their plan with stakeholders/executives
- Infrastructure calculations for inventory and condition corrected



Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans - Update

Proposed Changes to PTASP

- Revised requirements
 - ASPs
 - Joint-labor management safety committees
 - Cooperation with frontline transit worker representatives in ASP development
 - Safety risk reduction programs
 - Safety performance targets
 - De-escalation training for certain transit workers
 - Addressing infectious diseases through the SMS process



Public feedback for the proposed changes closed June 26, 2023. To review the proposed changes, please go to the FTA Website: <https://www.transit.dot.gov/PTASP>

Resources

- **Program Oversight**

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

- **FY2023 Comprehensive Review Guide**

<https://www.transit.dot.gov/regulations-and-programs/program-oversight/fy23-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

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>



Rural Transit Assistance Program - ProcurementPRO

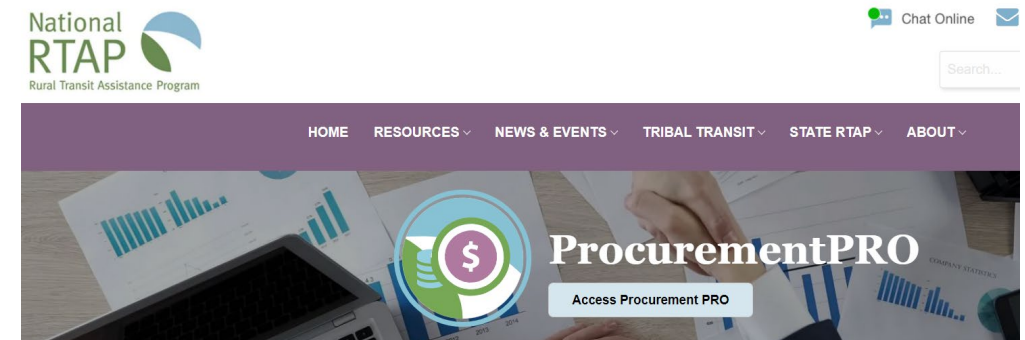
Free web-based application that guides recipients through Federal Transit Administration (FTA) procurement procedures.

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, check lists, and guidance for preparing procurement documents.

Instructional Webinar Video

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



Certifications and Assurances

- 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
- When construction materials as defined under IIJA 70911(5) may be involved, BABA language should be included in the executive summary grants
- The Buy America updated, and waiver presentation slides are available at:
<https://www.transit.dot.gov/sites/fta.dot.gov/files/2023-02/Buy-America-Update-and-Waiver-Presentation-Slides.pdf>
- Waiver of Buy America Requirements for De Minimis Costs and Small Grants available at:
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/08/16/2023-17602/waiver-of-buy-america-requirements-for-de-minimis-costs-and-small-grants>
- Please consult with your Region 5 Program Manager for specific BABA language and questions

TrAMS

FY 2023 Year End Close

TrAMS closed on September 25, 2023

- All grant awards, amendments and budget revisions must be in an “Active” status to continue making drawdowns in ECHO**
- TrAMS typically reopens in early November.

ECHO Drawdowns

- ECHO Closed:
 - **September 27, 2023** at 2:00 pm (EST)
 - No drawdowns
- ECHO reopened:
 - **October 6, 2023** at 2:00 pm (EST)

Region V Support for Minnesota

Planning and Program Development

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



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