



Notice of Meeting

Date/Time: Tuesday, February 20th, 2024 / 10:30 AM

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81351642472?pwd=ZCswM1JqWnZ2UXR2anNxV1BmTks1UT09>

Call In Phone Number: (312) 626-6799

Meeting ID: 813 5164 2472

Passcode: 505638

**Action Item*

1. Call to Order	Laurel Joseph
2. Introductions	Laurel Joseph
3. Changes to the Agenda	Laurel Joseph
4. Approval of the January 16th, 2024 Meeting Minutes*	Laurel Joseph
5. Treasurer's Report	Lindsay Wallace / Anton Schauerte
6. Education Committee	Joel Fitzpatrick
7. FHWA / FTA Update	Andrew Sibold / Kathleen Russell
8. TAMC Update	Ryan Buck
9. Finance Committee	Laurel Joseph
10. Policy Committee	Steve Stepek
11. JobNet Tech	Luke Walters
12. Technical Committee	Jim Koenig
13. MDOT	
SPS General Update	Don Mayle
Updated STIP Development Schedule	Mark Kloha
2020 ACUB Review Update	David Fairchild
14. Other New Business	
2024 Michigan Rail Conference	Jason Latham
15. Adjournment	Laurel Joseph



MEETING MINUTES / JANUARY 16, 2024 / 10:30 AM

1. CALL TO ORDER

Anton Schauerte called the meeting to order at 10:32 AM. Anton stated that Chair Joseph was out today and had been asked to chair the meeting.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Lindsay Wallace introduced Pete Klomparens. Pete recently started as an Associate Planner at SCCOTS. Richard Bayus introduced Cameron Hoard. Cameron is a Transportation Planner in MDOT's SPS and will work with the Bay City, Midland, and Saginaw MPOs.

3. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

4. APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 12, 2023 MEETING MINUTES*

A motion was made by Jacob Maurer, supported by Steve Stepek, to approve the December 12, 2023 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

Lindsay Wallace indicated that the current balance is \$18,709.

6. EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Joel Fitzpatrick mentioned there will be an Education Committee meeting following this meeting. WMSRDC is working with FHWA to finalize the Tuesday Technical Session. The hotel rooms are available and reservations will open soon. If there are sessions that people are interested in, reach out to Joel.

7. FHWA / FTA UPDATE

Jenny Staroska stated that the GHG Emissions Final Rule became effective January 8th, 2024. A new version of the MUTCD was published this month. There was \$817 million in awards for SS4A and upcoming there is \$9.7 billion available for the bridge investment program.

Kathleen Russell indicated that included in the packet were updates, including resources for mental health for transit workers and the FTA Drug and Alcohol Program newsletter.



8. TAMC UPDATE

Ryan Buck mentioned the one-time call for interest for FY24 non-federal aid reimbursement is due February 9th. Updated text related to asset management for use in MPOs has not yet been formally approved, but is available. There is a training on asset management for MPOs, which will occur on 1/30.

9. FINANCE COMMITTEE

Anton Schauerte stated that Chair Joseph had no updates related to the Finance Committee.

10. POLICY COMMITTEE

Steve Stepek stated that there were no updates related to the Policy Committee.

11. JOBNET TECH

Luke Walters indicated that at the most recent meeting, the group discussed upcoming air quality conformity functionality changes, which are scheduled for April. The air quality agenda items took longer than anticipated, so the remaining agenda items from the January meeting will be covered in the next JobNet Tech meeting, which is scheduled for February.

12. MDOT UPDATES

SPS General Update: Don Mayle requested MPOs complete the estimates for FY 24-26 so the templates can be updated. The FY24 federal aid buyout projects are up to date. Heather Bowden stated that Orlando Curry will send MPOs a template that can be used for Title VI compliance.

Safety Targets Support / MOUs: John Lanum reminded the group that safety targets must be submitted by February 27th. The reporting documentation may be submitted after that date. MDOT needs a map of an MPOs MPA Planning Area and a listing of MPO Policy Committee members and agencies. After MDOT receives this information, the MOUs will be sent out afterwards.

Greenhouse Gas Performance Measure Presentation: Kelly Travelbee provided a presentation on the new GHG performance measure.

S/TIP Development Schedule: Mark Kloha presented a draft schedule for completing the FY26-29 S/TIP. Currently, the due date for having projects in JobNet is March 17th, 2025. Additionally, the current due date for MPOs to submit the full TIP document is July 1st,



Michigan Transportation Planning Association

2025. The schedule is slated for approval next month so it can be distributed at the upcoming pre-UPWP meetings.

2020 ACUB Review Update: David Fairchild indicated that 86 of 87 urban areas have been updated to the GIS web application and the entire ACUB process is on track.

13. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Steve Stepek outlined that as mentioned earlier, Lindsay Wallace will be stepping down as MTPA Treasurer. Steve noted that Anton Schauerte has volunteered to fill the position.

A motion was made by Steve Stepek, supported by Mara Gericke, to name Anton Schauerte as the MTPA Treasurer through the end of this term (July 2024). The motion passed unanimously.

Anton asked the group whether calendar invites to MTPA meetings should continue to be sent after the packet has been developed, or instead be sent out for the entire year at the beginning of every year. There was overwhelming interest in the latter.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Anton Schauerte adjourned the meeting at 11:20 AM.

Michigan Transportation Planning Association (MTPA)

Meeting Attendance - 1/16/2024

AGENCY	NAME	AGENCY	NAME
BayCATS	Bryan Gillett	MDOT	Luke Walters
BCATS	Jeff Franklin	MDOT	Mark Kloha
EMCOG	Cody Bodrie	MDOT	Matt Lyle
FHWA	Andrew Sibold	MDOT	Max Gierman
FHWA	Christina Nicholaides	MDOT	Meredith Fryer
FHWA	Jenny Staroska	MDOT	Michelle Weber-Currie
FTA	Jocelyn Hoffman	MDOT	Orlando Curry
FTA	Kathleen Russell	MDOT	Richard Bayus
GCMPC	Jacob Maurer	MDOT	Tyler Kent
GCMPC	McKenna Dutkiewicz	MDOT	Sharion Waithe
GVMC	Andrea Faber	SATA	Demetra Manley
GVMC	Mara Gericke	SCCOTS	Lindsay Wallace
GVMC	Mike Zonyk	SCCOTS	Peter Klomparens
KATS	Ali Townsend	SEMCOG	Ally Racisz
KATS	Megan Mickelson	SEMCOG	Ed Hug
KATS	Steve Stepek	SEMCOG	Lindsey Kerkez
MACC	Alec Miller	SEMCOG	Michele Fedorowicz
MACC	Eric Dykstra	SWMRPC	Kim Gallagher
MACC	Jason Latham	TAMC (HRC)	Sarah Plumer
MATS	Maja Bolanowska	TCRPC	Jim Koenig
MDOT	Andrea Strach	WATS	Anton Schauerte
MDOT	Brian Stark	WATS	Maggie Huntley
MDOT	Cameron Hoard	WATS	Nick Sapkiewicz
MDOT	Craig Newell	WATS	Ryan Buck
MDOT	David Fairchild	WMSRDC	Brian Mulnix
MDOT	Deanna Donahoo	WMSRDC	Joel Fitzpatrick
MDOT	Don Mayle		
MDOT	Donna Wittl		
MDOT	Ed Fowler		
MDOT	Heather Bowden		
MDOT	James VanSteel		
MDOT	John Lanum		
MDOT	Josh Grab		
MDOT	Karen Faussett		
MDOT	Kelly Travelbee		
MDOT	Lindsey Dowswell		

**Updates from FHWA to MTPA
February 16, 2024**

Grants - [Key NOFO List](#)

Currently open notices of funding opportunities (NOFOs) include:

Opening Date	NOFO	Operating Administration	Closing Date
Planning Project Grants and Bridge Project Grants: December 20, 2023	Bridge Projects Planning and other Bridge Projects	Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)	Bridge Project Grants: 19MAR24 Planning Project Grants: 19FEB24
11/30/2023	Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE)	Office of the Secretary (OST)	2/28/2024
February 2024 (expected)	Low Carbon Transportation Materials Grants	FHWA	TBD
February 2024 (expected)	Congestion Relief Program	FHWA	TBD
February 2024 (expected)	Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)	OST	TBD
March 2024 (expected)	Asset Concessions and Innovative Finance Assistance	OST	TBD
Spring 2024 (expected)	National Culvert Removal, Replacement, and Restoration	FHWA	TBD
Spring 2024 (expected)	Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART)	OST	TBD

Other funding and grant-related information:

Additional funding opportunities for competitive grants can be found on the BIL [website](#). This also includes recorded webinars, award information, and eligibility criteria.

[DOT Navigator](#) is a resource to help communities understand how to apply for grants, and plan for and deliver transformative infrastructure projects and services.

President Approves Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriations Through March 1, 2024

On January 19, 2024, the President signed a [continuing resolution](#) to approve appropriations for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 through March 1, 2024.

FHWA Issues Abeyance Memorandum for Greenhouse Gas Emissions Performance Measure

On January 26, 2024, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) issued an [abeyance memorandum](#) regarding the deadline for the initial targets and reports for the greenhouse gas emissions performance

measure. FHWA has agreed that it will not seek to enforce the February 1, 2024, deadline for States to submit initial targets and reports, until March 29, 2024. More information is available [here](#) and [here](#).

FHWA Publishes Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for National Performance Management Measures

On January 25, 2024, FHWA published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in the Federal Register [\[89 FR 4857\]](#) to request comments on proposed regulatory changes to the National Performance Management Measures. FHWA proposed substantive changes to three subparts of [23 CFR Part 490](#):

- Subpart A—General Information, which applies to all of the regulations throughout part 490;
- Subpart B—National Performance Management Measures for the Highway Safety Improvement Program; and
- Subpart E—National Performance Management Measures to Assess Performance of the National Highway System.

In addition, FHWA has also proposed non-substantive changes throughout the regulatory text to provide increased clarity. **The comment deadline is February 26, 2024.**

USDOT Announces \$4.9 Billion in Awards for the Mega and INFRA Grant Programs

On January 25, 2024, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) [announced](#) \$4.9 billion in awards from the National Infrastructure Project Assistance (Mega) grant program and the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program. The Department awarded Mega grants to 11 projects that will generate national and regional economic, mobility, and safety benefits, and INFRA grants to 28 projects that will improve the safety, efficiency, and reliability of the movement of freight and people in and across rural and urban areas. More information is available [here](#) and [here](#).

FHWA Announces \$623 Million in Awards for Charging and Fueling Infrastructure

On January 11, 2024, FHWA [announced](#) nearly \$623 million in awards from the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program to strategically deploy publicly accessible electric vehicle charging and alternative fueling infrastructure. The 47 awards are located across 22 States and Puerto Rico, and include 2 Tribes. More information is available [here](#) and [here](#).

FHWA Announces \$150 Million in Awards for Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure

On January 18, 2024, FHWA [announced](#) nearly \$150 million in awards from the Electric Vehicle Charger Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator Program to make existing electric vehicle charging infrastructure more reliable. The 24 awards are located in 20 States, and were awarded to 14 State Departments of Transportation (DOTs) and 10 local entities. More information is available [here](#) and [here](#).

USDOT Announces \$2.97 Million in Available Funding for Mobility Equity Research

On January 5, 2024, the USDOT published a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to announce the availability of \$2.97 million in funding through the Mobility Equity Research Initiative. The USDOT seeks to advance research and technologies that support the Department's goal of expanding accessibility and mobility to underserved communities, including people with disabilities, older Americans, and rural and disadvantaged communities. The application deadline is March 5, 2024. More information is available [here](#).

Application Deadlines Approaching for Other USDOT Discretionary Grant Opportunities

Please be aware of the approaching application deadlines for the following discretionary grant opportunities from the USDOT:

- [February 28 – Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity \(RAISE\) discretionary grant program](#);
- [March 13 – Rural Autonomous Vehicle \(RAV\) Program](#); and
- [March 19 – Bridge Investment Program, Planning and Bridge Project Grants](#).

USDOT Launches the Transforming Transportation Advisory Committee

On December 29, 2023, the USDOT [announced](#) the launch of the Transforming Transportation Advisory Committee (TTAC). TTAC is tasked with providing information, advice, and recommendations to the Secretary about needs, objectives, plans, and approaches for transportation innovation. More information is available [here](#).

TRB Publishes Report on Critical Issues in Transportation for 2024 and Beyond

On January 2, 2024, the Transportation Research Board (TRB) announced the publication of a report on [“Critical Issues in Transportation for 2024 and Beyond.”](#) The report focuses on five societal goals to meet the major challenges facing society: (1) Mitigating and responding to climate change, (2) Promoting equity and inclusion, (3) Increasing road safety, (4) Advancing public health, and (5) Building and sustaining a strong, competitive economy.

FHWA Resources on PEL, Safety, Active Transportation, VPI, and NEPA

FHWA recently published the following resources:

- [Planning and Environmental Linkages \(PEL\) Handbook and Flowcharts](#);
- [Proven Safety Countermeasures in Rural Communities](#);
- [Safe System Roadway Design Hierarchy: Engineering and Infrastructure-Related Countermeasures](#);
- [TAP-ing into HSIP: Leveraging a Flexible Federal Share Provision for Certain Highway Safety Projects](#);
- [Tribal Development of Trails and Other Dedicated Pedestrian and Bicycle Infrastructure](#); and
- [Virtual Public Involvement \(VPI\) Practices in the National Environmental Policy Act \(NEPA\) – Case Studies](#).

Integrating GHG Emissions into Planning Webinar Series Kick-Off

On February 27th from 2:00 – 3:30 pm EST FHWA will host the first of our Every Day Counts GHG webinar series. The series will focus on steps agencies can take to integrate GHG emissions into their transportation planning process and will feature presentations from the Oregon DOT and Kansas City MPO (MARC). To register, please follow this link: [Register for the Integrating GHG Emissions into Planning Webinar Series Kick-Off](#)

Webinars on Air Mobility, Asset Management, Electric Vehicles, Freight, Prioritization, and Trails

Here is the registration information for some upcoming webinars:

- [February 6 – International Collaboration in Advanced Air Mobility](#);

- [February 7 – Global Benchmarking Study on Unmanned Aircraft Systems;](#)
- [February 7 – Integrating Asset Management into the Transportation Planning and Programming Process;](#)
- [February 13 – Permitting and Site Selection Strategies for Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure;](#)
- [February 13 – Talking Freight: Leveraging Discretionary Grants for Freight Projects;](#)
- [February 14 – Prioritization Process Pilot Program;](#)
- [February 15 – The Advanced Air Mobility Workforce of the Future;](#)
- [February 15 – Navigating Zoning and Building Codes for Electric Vehicle Charging;](#)
- [February 27 – Curbside Electric Vehicle Charging Strategies;](#) and
- [February 28 – Advancing Trails to Support Multimodal Networks and Resilient Infrastructure.](#)

A list of additional upcoming meetings, events, and NHI training opportunities can be found [here.](#)

February 2024 Updates from FTA to MTPA

NOW AVAILABLE: Procurement Cost and Price Analysis - Regulation and Best Practices E-Learning Course

FTA's new [Procurement Cost and Price Analysis - Regulations and Best Practices e-learning course](#) is now available! The course provides recipients with an understanding of the fundamentals and best practices for procurement cost and price analysis. The lessons from this e-learning course can be helpful for FTA recipients in mitigating procurement findings during State Management and Triennial Reviews.

NOW AVAILABLE: Transit Customer Assault Prevention Online Resources

To improve transit safety for riders and ensure the continued safety of our nation's public transit systems, FTA recently published a new Transit Customer Assault Prevention [webpage](#) for transit agencies to provide more resources to help prevent and address crime in their systems.

Featured resources include an FTA-commissioned [research report](#) that explores factors contributing to customer assault events, trends in assault data and mitigations. The report provides a deeper understanding of transit customer assault through interviews with transit agency representatives and was made possible in partnership with the [U.S. Department of Transportation Volpe Center \(Volpe\)](#).

In addition, the new webpage provides a summary of data from the [National Transit Database](#) regarding assaults on transit customers. This data can support transit agencies with identifying and mitigating safety risks associated with customer assault on transit vehicles and in stations.

RECORDING AND PRESENTATION NOW AVAILABLE: Human Trafficking Prevention Month Webinar

FTA hosted a [Human Trafficking Prevention Month Webinar](#) on January 24, 2024. During the webinar, Kristen Joyner of the Georgia Transit Association facilitated a discussion with representatives from the Oklahoma Transit Association, Prairie Hills Transit and Athens-Clarke County Transit about how their organizations have implemented resources from the Safety4Transit website to prevent crime and human trafficking.

As part of an FTA-funded crime prevention grant, the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI), South West Transit Association (SWTA) and the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) partnered in the development of the [safety4transit.org/](#) website with resources to prevent crime and human trafficking at smaller transit agencies.

NOW AVAILABLE: FTA PTASP TAC Update: January 2024

The latest [Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan \(PTASP\) Technical Assistance Center \(TAC\) Update](#) is available. This issue focuses on recent questions to the TAC on identifying mitigations or strategies related to exposure to infectious diseases.

View past [PTASP webinars](#), review Q&A highlights, visit the [Agency Safety Plan Directory](#) and more.

FTA Issues New Joint Development Circular with Zero-Emission Fueling Technology Update

FTA published an update to the [Joint Development Circular](#) to include revision required by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The revision adds “technology to fuel a zero-emission vehicle” as an eligible joint development improvement under FTA programs. If FTA funds are used for the construction, maintenance, or operations of equipment used for privately-owned zero-emission passenger vehicles, the recipient must collect fees from users of the equipment.

Joint development projects involve a collaboration between a transit agency and one or more partners to build dense, walkable, mixed-use development on real estate it owns as part of its transit system. It typically includes public and private investments that are coordinated between transit agencies and developers to improve land owned by a transit agency or related to a transit improvement.

Sign Up for FTA’s Sustainable Transit for a Healthy Planet Climate Challenge

There is still time for transit agencies to sign up and submit plans for FTA’s [Sustainable Transit for a Healthy Planet Climate Challenge](#). FTA has extended the deadline to **March 15, 2024**, for transit agencies participating in the Challenge to submit their sustainability, climate action, electrification or zero-emission transition plans. If submitted by March 15, 2024, plans -- new, existing or updated -- are eligible for recognition during FTA’s Earth Day celebratory event scheduled for April 2024.

[Almost 230 transit agencies](#) have signed up, with many of those submitting plans outlining measures to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Plans cover such strategies as converting fleets to electric buses, making facilities more energy efficient, and generating power through renewable energy sources. Challenge participants can receive technical assistance from FTA in developing their plans and strategies to further reduce GHG emissions.

To learn more and to sign up for the FTA Climate Challenge, visit the [FTA Climate Challenge site](#).

FTA Announces Nearly \$110 Million in Relief Funding to Help Public Transportation Providers Recover from Natural Disasters

FTA today announced approximately \$110 million in funding to [eight public transportation providers and State DOT’s](#) in six states and one territory to help recover from recent natural disasters. The funding, provided through FTA’s [Public Transportation Emergency Relief \(ER\) Program](#), will help them repair damaged equipment and facilities and recoup costs for evacuation and rescue operations following floods, hurricanes, and tornadoes that occurred in 2017 and 2020-22.

FTA’s Emergency Relief Program provides assistance to public transit operators in the aftermath of a declared emergency or major disaster. The program helps states and public transportation systems:

pay for repairing and replacing equipment and facilities that have suffered serious damage as a result of an emergency;

cover the costs of evacuation, rescue operations, and temporary public transportation service and; reestablish or relocate service before, during or after an emergency.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, signed into law in December 2022, provided the funding for the ER Program’s support for 2017 and 2020-22 declared disasters. This announcement reflects the second round of grants through the ER Program. The first round of funding grants was [announced](#) in July 2023.

Dear Colleague Letter— Coordination of NEPA Schedules

On February 2, 2024, FTA published a [Dear Colleague Letter](#) regarding coordinating NEPA schedules for reviewing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) across the agency. The coordination ensures FTA’s compliance with new timeframe requirements included in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the NEPA amendments included in the Fiscal Responsibility Act. The new requirements apply to projects evaluated with environmental assessments (EA) and environmental impact statements (EIS) with an expectation that they be completed in one year and two years, respectively.

The letter includes links to [templates and other resources](#) to help project sponsors develop projects sufficiently prior to the formal initiation of the EA or EIS to achieve timely environmental reviews.

FTA is committed to working with the project sponsors to ensure the timely completion of the NEPA process. Project sponsors are encouraged to review the letter and contact the relevant [FTA Regional Office](#) for any project-related questions.

REGISTER NOW: 2024 FTA Drug and Alcohol Program National Conference

[Registration](#) is open for the 17th Annual FTA Drug and Alcohol Program National Conference on April 2-4, 2024 in Atlanta, GA.

The conference will be held at the Hilton Atlanta, 255 Courtland Street, NE, Atlanta, GA 30303. This conference is free of charge and will be in-person. A room block has been arranged at the conference hotel for the nights of April 1-5, 2024. To make your reservation at the group rate, you must book [online](#) or call the hotel reservation line at (404) 659-2000 and mention the group code “EDJ.”

For more information and to register, visit the FTA Drug and Alcohol Program [website](#).

FTA Issues Dear Colleague Highlighting Tools to Improve Bus Procurement and Manufacturing

FTA is taking actions to strengthen the American bus manufacturing industry, reduce vehicle contract costs, and shorten vehicle delivery times, all of which is described in a [Dear Colleague letter](#) posted today. The guidance comes as transit agencies seek to procure buses using the historic investment provided by the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

The Dear Colleague letter consolidates FTA’s existing guidance and highlights tools available to transit agencies to address trends and challenges in federally funded bus procurements, including information

about managing component prices, modifying contracts, lowering vehicle contract and production costs, and reducing unnecessary customization.

Actions and technical assistance resources include:

- A new [bus procurement webpage](#), with updated [FAQs](#)
- New priority considerations in the FY24 Buses and Bus Facilities and Low or No Emission Notice of Funding Opportunity
- An FTA-hosted [bus procurement best practices webinar](#)
- National Transit Institute [procurement courses](#)
- Formation of a new FTA Acquisition Oversight Division

FTA Announces Availability of \$1.5 Billion in Federal Funding to Modernize Bus Fleets and Deploy Clean Transit Buses Across America

The Federal Transit Administration today [announced](#) the availability of \$1.5 billion to support state and local efforts to modernize aging transit fleets with low- and no-emission buses, renovate and construct bus facilities, and support workforce development. Made possible by the President’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which included historic funding to support public transportation, this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is for two programs that help transit agencies replace old buses, provide good-paying jobs, improve transit affordability and reliability, invest in community health and environmental justice, and contribute to the President’s goal of net-zero emissions by 2050.

FTA’s [Low or No Emission \(Low-No\) Program](#) helps transit agencies buy or lease U.S.-built zero-emission and low-emission transit buses along with charging equipment and supporting facilities. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides \$5.5 billion through 2026 for the program – more than six times greater than the previous five years of funding. For Fiscal Year 2024, approximately \$1.1 billion is authorized for grants under this program.

FTA’s [Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program](#) supports transit agencies in buying and rehabilitating buses, vans, and related equipment and building bus facilities. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides nearly \$2 billion through 2026 for the program. For Fiscal Year 2024, approximately \$390 million is authorized for grants under this program. Both programs support buses that reduce air pollution and help meet President Biden’s goal of net-zero emissions by 2050.

FTA is also focused on [strengthening U.S. bus manufacturing](#), which can stabilize the cost of new buses and accelerate delivery of new vehicles. More standardized bus models will shorten manufacturing timelines, so transit agencies competing for funds are encouraged to consider strategies to avoid customization. By prioritizing this in applications, FTA is encouraging improvements in bus vehicle delivery that will result in more American-built buses getting on the road faster.

Instructions for applying and eligibility information can be found on and in [GRANTS.GOV](#) (FTA-2024-003-TPM-LWNO; FTA-2024-004-TPM-BUS). Complete proposals must be submitted electronically through the GRANTS.GOV “APPLY” function by April 25, 2024.

FTA will host [two webinars](#) to provide information to potential applicants, including a review of program eligibility, an overview of the evaluation criteria and selection considerations, and the submission

process. Potential applicants may attend either webinar, the first of which will be held February 22, 2024 from 1:00 – 2:30 pm ET and will be a general session for all applicants. The second will be on March 5, 2024 from 2:00 – 3:30 pm ET and will have a question-and-answer session focused on questions from rural and tribal applicants. FTA is committed to providing equal access to these sessions for all participants. If you need alternative formats, options, or services, please email ftalownobusnofo@dot.gov.

Medicaid Transportation Guide and What it Means for Transit Agencies and State DOTs Webinar

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA)-sponsored National Rural Transit Assistance Program (National RTAP) will host a webinar on February 28, 2024, to highlight the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) [Medicaid Transportation Coverage Guide](#), which outlines the agency's new comprehensive guidance for the provision of Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT). The Guide provides many items of note for transit agencies seeking to provide Medicaid NEMT.

This session will review key elements in the Guide, what it means for public transit, and how it can be a tool for transit agencies and State DOTs.

Medicaid Transportation Guide and What it Means for Transit Agencies and State DOTs Webinar

Wednesday, February 28, 2024 | 2:00 PM ET [Register](#)

FTA Webinar: Bus Procurement Best Practices (2/29)

Transit agencies: You are invited to join FTA to learn about recommended bus procurement practices at a [webinar](#) scheduled for Thursday, February 29 at 2:30 PM ET.

The COVID pandemic, combined with longstanding transit agency procurement practices, has created significant challenges for transit vehicle manufacturers, resulting in supply chain issues in the bus sector. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides substantial new federal funding to help transit agencies buy buses, but many procurement practices contribute to delays in how buses, particularly zero-emission buses, are designed and procured.

At the webinar, presenters will provide an update on the current U.S. bus market and highlight procurement tools, guidance and resources recommended by FTA. They will also review flexibilities available to transit agencies to help lower bus costs and simplify procurements. Transit agency leaders, fleet managers, legal, finance, and procurement staff, and others involved in supporting bus and bus facilities purchases are encouraged to attend.

FTA has listened to transit agencies and TVMs to better understand trends in federally funded bus procurements that affect the financial health and stability of the bus manufacturing industry. To support needed change, FTA issued a [Dear Colleague letter](#) announcing a series of actions meant to help strengthen the industry, lower bus costs, and accelerate vehicle deliveries. FTA also created a [bus procurement webpage](#) with updated [FAQs](#) to assist grantees.

FTA presenters include:

Paul Kincaid, Associate Administrator for Communications and Congressional Affairs

Dana Nifosi, Acting Chief Counsel

James Harper Jr., Director, Office of Acquisition Management

Participants must [register](#) and may submit bus procurement-related questions through the registration portal.

FTA Seeks Public Comment on Proposed Updates to Award Management Requirements Guidance

FTA is seeking input on proposed updates to the [Award Management Requirements circular](#), which consolidates FTA award management requirements in accordance with current statute, regulation and policy. Proposed updates also include consolidating information from other FTA guidance, including the:

- [Consolidated Circular for Urbanized Area Grant Programs](#), which is being updated.
- [Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Circular](#) and the [Formula Grants for Rural Areas Circular](#), both of which are in the process of being updated.

FTA has published a notice summarizing the [proposed circular updates](#) in the [Federal Register](#). The public comment period will close on April 15, 2024.

Information about Running Electric Buses Efficiently During Cold Weather

With the winter season comes cold temperatures for many regions of the country. As temperatures drop, the range and efficiency of electric transit buses may be impacted. The [Joint Office of Energy and Transportation](#) provides information about navigating cold weather for electric buses including its recently released [Cold Weather Impacts on Electric School Buses](#). While not all these considerations may apply to transit agencies, the publication highlights strategies bus fleet managers can use to optimize bus performance in cold weather.

The Joint Office is available to help transit providers with cold weather concerns and other operational issues, such as:

- Battery sizing and options for cold weather fleets. The Joint Office can help identify optimal battery size and evaluate elements such as heating options by assisting with a route analysis based on real-world battery electric bus experience.
- Charging infrastructure, which can be affected by cold weather and snow. The Joint Office can assist fleets in properly sizing charging stations for different temperatures, evaluating options for siting, and advising on best practices.

In addition, the Joint Office can help fleets build strong electrification plans and avoid pitfalls associated with cold weather by providing examples of success stories and connecting transit agencies with other battery electric bus users in similar climates.

FTA [partners with the Joint Office](#) to offer new technical assistance to transit agencies shifting their fleets from diesel vehicles to low- and no-emission buses and ferries. The new program, established by

the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, supports transit entities as they transition to battery electric, hybrid, or hydrogen fuel cell technology that reduces greenhouse gas emissions and prepares the transit workforce with new skills and expertise.

MTPA Meeting / February 20, 2024

Agenda Item 14 - Other New Business
2024 MI Rail Conference Planning

Conference's Theme: "Pivot to the Future"

Conference's Focus: Shortline and regional rail lines in Michigan

Conference's Main Topic Areas: Economic development, freight rail, and passenger rail

[Weblink to 2022 Michigan Rail Conference](#)

Contact Information:

Tim Hoeffner, P.E.
Senior Consultant
2723 South State St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
517.655.3610
thoeffner@quandel.com
www.quandelconsultants.com