



**Notice of Meeting**

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, March 19th, 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. <a href="#">Approval of the February 20th, 2024 Meeting Minutes*</a>	Laurel Joseph
5. Treasurer's Report	Anton Schauerte
6. Education Committee	Joel Fitzpatrick
7. <a href="#">FHWA</a> / <a href="#">FTA</a> Update	Jenny Staroska / Kathleen Russell
8. TAMC Update	Ryan Buck
9. Finance Committee	Laurel Joseph
10. Policy Committee	Steve Stepek
11. JobNet Tech	Luke Walters
12. MDOT	
SPS General Update	Don Mayle
MI Travel Counts Household Survey	Katie Beck
Financial Update	Matt Lyle
13. Other New Business	
Combined July and August MTPA Meeting During Conference	
Next MTPA Meeting - In-Person on April 16th	
14. Adjournment	Laurel Joseph



**MEETING MINUTES / FEBRUARY 20, 2024 / 10:30 AM**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Joseph called the meeting to order at 10:33 AM.

**2. INTRODUCTIONS**

Barry Hicks and Peter Klomparens provided introductions. Barry is the new MPO Manager at Networks Northwest and Peter is a Senior Planner at the St. Clair County Transportation Study.

**3. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

There were no changes to the agenda.

**4. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 16, 2023 MEETING MINUTES\***

A motion was made by Steve Stepek, supported by Jason Latham, to approve the January 16, 2024 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

**5. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Anton Schauerte indicated that he was currently switching account information into his name and that the current balance is \$18,457.

**6. EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Joel Fitzpatrick mentioned that he has been working with FHWA on the Tuesday Technical Session, the mobile session is almost finalized, and both the save-the-date and the call for sessions will be sent out soon.

Chair Joseph stated that typically the July MTPA meeting is held during the conference. However, this year, the conference will be held beginning in late July and ending in early August. We will not have a July meeting and will hold the August meeting during the conference.

---

*A voluntary association of public organizations and agencies responsible for the administration of transportation planning activities throughout the State of Michigan*



**7. FHWA / FTA UPDATE**

Andrew Sibold stated that the next round of SS4A grants should be announced this month. The DOT Navigator Tool is helpful in terms of applying for grants. There is also a NOFO out for comments for National Performance Management Measures.

Kathleen Russell indicated Susan Weber was promoted to FTA Team Lead at the Regional Office.

**8. TAMC UPDATE**

Anton Schauerte mentioned that Ryan was not in the meeting but he provided the following updates. They are working through the final details of updates for the UWPs and there were a lot of good applications for the Non-Federal Aid applications. He also wanted to remind the group that local agencies must be reimbursed for their participation in federal aid data collection.

**9. FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Chair Joseph stated there were no updates.

**10. POLICY COMMITTEE**

Steve Stepek stated there were no updates but welcomed any discussion topics.

**11. JOBNET TECH**

Luke Walters indicated that the group discussed scheduling a demo for air quality conformity in the coming months, likely in April. Additionally, Luke asked for participation related to examining and suggesting updates to JobNet reports.

**12. TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

Jim Koenig stated that the committee was reinstated in January and has now met twice. Topics that have been discussed so far have been the Greenhouse Gas Emissions performance measure and various NOFOs. There are about 10-15 people involved in the committee and more updates will be provided in the future.



### **13. MDOT UPDATES**

SPS General Update: Don Mayle stated templates should be updated as a result of the new allocations sent out in November. The new templates for the Title VI plans, which includes changes to the complaint procedures, have been sent out. Some attendees stated they had not received the document, but it was provided in the chat and was also sent out in a follow up email after the meeting. Kelly Travelbee provided an overview of changes related to the GHG performance measure, including the delaying of the target-setting date for State DOTs.

Updated STIP Development Schedule: Mark Kloha stated the draft FY26-29 S/TIP development schedule has been updated in order to incorporate the comments received. The changes include the development of the revenues and the MPO local call for projects. Previously it was slated to October, but it's been moved up to August and September.

2020 ACUB Review Update: David Fairchild indicated that MDOT is waiting for five more resolutions and that he will be providing an ACUB update at the UWP meetings that will be taking place soon.

### **14. OTHER NEW BUSINESS**

2024 Michigan Rail Conference: Jason Latham stated that the conference will be held in Holland this fall (exact dates are TBD). Jason mentioned that Tim Hoeffner is requesting feedback, ideas, and topics from MPOs to be included in the conference, as conference planning is beginning.

FY24 Rural Transit SGR Targets: Chair Joseph mentioned that targets will remain the same as 2023. Michelle Weber-Currie indicated that the targets will be sent out soon.

### **15. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Joseph adjourned the meeting at 11:08 AM.

**Michigan Transportation Planning Association (MTPA)**

**Meeting Attendance - 2/20/2024**

<b>AGENCY</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>AGENCY</b>	<b>NAME</b>
BayCATS	Bryan Gillett	MDOT	Josh Grab
Bay County	James Deweerdt	MDOT	Karen Faussett
BCATS	Jeff Franklin	MDOT	Katie Beck
EMCOG	Cody Bodrie	MDOT	Kelly Travelbee
FHWA	Andrew Sibold	MDOT	Lindsey Dowswell
FHWA	Christina Nicholaides	MDOT	Luke Walters
FHWA	Jenny Staroska	MDOT	Mark Kloha
FTA	Kathleen Russell	MDOT	Max Gierman
GCMPC	Jacob Maurer	MDOT	Meredith Fryer
GCMPC	McKenna Dutkiewicz	MDOT	Michele Zawerucha
GVMC	Andrea Faber	MDOT	Michelle Weber-Currie
GVMC	Laurel Joseph	MDOT	Orlando Curry
GVMC	Mike Zonyk	MDOT	Sharion Waithe
KATS	Ali Townsend	NN	Barry Hicks
KATS	Megan Mickelson	R2PC	Brett Gatz
KATS	Steve Stepek	SATA	Demetra Manley
MACC	Alec Miller	SCCOTS	Lindsay Wallace
MACC	Eric Dykstra	SCCOTS	Peter Klomparens
MACC	Jason Latham	SEMCOG	Adam Elghoul
MATS	Maja Bolanowska	SEMCOG	Ally Racisz
MDOT	Alex LaPorte	SEMCOG	Ian Thompson
MDOT	Areli Cardenas	SEMCOG	Michele Fedorowicz
MDOT	Blake Wright	SEMCOG	Steve Brudzinski
MDOT	Brian Sanada	SWMRPC	Kim Gallagher
MDOT	Brian Stark	TCRPC	Jim Koenig
MDOT	Bruce Kadzban	TCRPC	Laura Tschirhart
MDOT	Cameron Hoard	WATS	Anton Schauerte
MDOT	Craig Newell	WATS	Maggie Huntley
MDOT	David Fairchild	WATS	Nick Sapkiewicz
MDOT	Deanna Donahoo	WMSRDC	Brian Mulnix
MDOT	Don Mayle	WMSRDC	Joel Fitzpatrick
MDOT	Ellen Kent		Mahir S
MDOT	Heather Bowden		
MDOT	James VanSteel		
MDOT	Jim Sturdevant		
MDOT	John Lanum		

**Updates from FHWA to MTPA  
March 19, 2024**

**Grants - [Key NOFO List](#)**

**Currently open notices of funding opportunities (NOFOs) include:**

Opening Date	NOFO	Operating Administration/Office	Closing Date
Large Bridge NOFO: September 27, 2023	<a href="#">Bridge Investment Program</a>	Federal Highway Administration	Large Bridge: August 1, 2024
Bridge Projects: December 20, 2023 Bridge Planning Grants: December 20, 2023	<a href="#">Bridge Projects</a> <a href="#">Planning and other Bridge Projects</a>	Federal Highway Administration	Bridge Project Grants: 3/19/2024 Planning Project Grants: 10/1/2024
January 2024	<a href="#">State Electronic Data Collection</a>	National Highway Traffic Safety Administration	5/1/2024
2/8/2024	<a href="#">Buses and Bus Facilities Program</a>	Federal Transit Administration	4/25/2024
2/8/2024	<a href="#">Low or No Emission (Bus) Grants</a>	Federal Transit Administration	4/25/2024
2/21/2024	<a href="#">Congestion Relief Program</a>	Federal Highway Administration	4/22/2024
2/21/2024	<a href="#">Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)</a>	Office of the Secretary	Planning & Demonstration: 4/4/2024
2/21/2024	<a href="#">Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)</a>	Office of the Secretary	Implementation: 5/16/2024
3/8/2024	<a href="#">Port Infrastructure Development Program</a>	Maritime Administration	5/10/2024
March 2024	Low Carbon Transportation Materials Grants - State Request for Applications	Federal Highway Administration	
March 2024	Consolidated Rail Infrastructure Safety Improvements (CRISI)	Federal Railroad Administration	
3/8/2024	<a href="#">Asset Concessions and Innovative Finance Assistance</a>	Office of the Secretary	5/10/2024
March 2024	Pilot Program for Transit Oriented Development Planning	Federal Transit Administration	
March 2024	Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program	Federal Highway Administration	

March 2024	National Infrastructure Project Assistance (MEGA)	Office of the Secretary	
March 2024	Nationally Significant Freight & Highway Projects (INFRA)	Office of the Secretary	
March 2024	Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program (Rural)	Office of the Secretary	

**Other funding and grant-related information:**

Freight: the NOFO for the **FY 2024 High Priority Program – HP-ITD** is now posted on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).

Here’s how to view the announcement via Grants.gov: Click the tab “search grants”. For the HP-ITD grant, enter the CFDA number 20.237 and/or Funding opportunity number FM-MHP-24-003.

Funding Conference. The 2024 HP CMV & ITD Funding Conference Webinar will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, 02:00 PM Eastern Time. Here’s the registration link: <https://usdot.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlsce-gqzotHK5-E7Tlv8F4JDIIQkkiwE0>.

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.

**FHWA Announces \$30 Million in Available Funding for Prioritization Process Pilot Program (PPPP)**

On February 22, 2024, FHWA announced the availability of \$30 million in funding through the [Prioritization Process Pilot Program \(PPPP\)](#). The PPPP provides funding to develop and implement a publicly accessible, transparent prioritization process for the ranking and selection of projects for inclusion in short-range and long-range transportation plans. Eligible applicants include MPOs that serve a Census delineated urban area with a population of over 200,000, and States. The application deadline is May 1, 2024. FHWA is hosting an informational webinar on Thursday, March 7. The registration information is available [here](#).

**FHWA Publishes Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for Highway Safety Improvement Program**

On February 21, 2024, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in the Federal Register [[89 FR 13000](#)] to update the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) regulations under [23 CFR Part 924](#). The NPRM addresses provisions in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) (also known as the “Bipartisan Infrastructure Law” (BIL)) and reflects current agency priorities and state-of-practice. The comment deadline is April 22, 2024. FHWA is hosting an informational webinar on Monday, March 4. The registration information is available [here](#).

## **FHWA Extends Comment Period for NPRM on National Performance Management Measures**

On February 13, 2024, FHWA published a notice in the Federal Register [[89 FR 10018](#)] to extend the comment period to March 12, 2024 for the NPRM [[89 FR 4857](#)] on the National Performance Management Measures. On January 25, 2024, FHWA proposed non-substantive changes throughout [23 CFR Part 490](#) to provide increased clarity, and substantive changes to three subparts:

- 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.

## **FHWA Announces \$1.25 Billion in Available Funding for Safe Streets and Roads**

On February 21, 2024, FHWA [announced](#) the availability of \$1.25 billion in funding through the [Safe Streets and Roads for All \(SS4A\)](#) discretionary grant program. The SS4A program is focused on improving roadway safety for all users by reducing and eliminating serious injury and fatal crashes through comprehensive safety action plans and their subsequent implementation. The SS4A program provides funding for two types of grants: Planning and Demonstration Grants and Implementation Grants. The application deadlines for Planning and Demonstration Grants are April 4, 2024; May 16, 2024; and August 29, 2024. The application deadline for Implementation Grants is May 16, 2024. More information is available at [Grants.Gov](#).

## **FHWA Announces \$150 Million in Available Funding for Congestion Relief Program**

On February 21, 2024, FHWA [announced](#) the availability of \$150 million in funding through the [Congestion Relief Program](#). The vision for the Program is to fund operational improvement projects that increase the effectiveness of existing transportation system capacity, improve and integrate travel modes other than single-occupant vehicles, and give travelers sufficient motivation to use those modes or to avoid peak-period travel. Eligible applicants include a State, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), city, or municipality, carrying out a project in an urbanized area with a population greater than 1,000,000. The application deadline is April 22, 2024.

## **FTA Announces \$1.5 Billion in Available Funding to Modernize Buses and Bus Facilities**

On February 8, 2024, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) [announced](#) the availability of approximately \$1.5 billion in funding through the [Low- or No-Emission \(Low-No\) Program](#) and the [Buses and Bus Facilities Program](#). Approximately \$1.1 billion is available through the Low-No Program, and approximately \$390 million is available through the Buses and Bus Facilities Program. The application deadline for both programs is April 25, 2024.

## **Application Deadlines Approaching for Other U.S. DOT Discretionary Grant Opportunities**

Please be aware of the approaching application deadlines for the following discretionary grant opportunities from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT):

- [March 19 – Bridge Investment Program, Planning and Bridge Project Grants](#).

## **U.S. DOT Announces Complete Streets Artificial Intelligence Initiative for Small Businesses**



On February 1, 2024, the U.S. DOT [announced](#) the [Complete Streets Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) Initiative](#) for small businesses to leverage advancements in technology to improve transportation. The Complete Streets AI Initiative will be offered through the Department's Small Business Innovation Research Program, and will consist of a multi-phase effort to develop powerful new decision-support tools for State, local, and Tribal transportation agencies that assist in the siting, design, and deployment of Complete Streets. The Phase I solicitation is tentatively scheduled to open on March 11, 2024.

### **U.S. DOT Publishes Update to the Department's Equity Action Plan**

On February 14, 2024, the U.S. DOT [announced](#) the 2023 update of the Department's [Equity Action Plan](#). The 2023 update outlines new actions the U.S. DOT is committing to across the following focus areas: (1) Wealth Creation; (2) Power of Community; (3) Proactive Intervention, Planning, and Capacity Building; (4) Expanding Access; and (5) Institutionalizing Equity.

### **FHWA Accepting Applications for Vision Zero Community Pairing Program**

On February 13, 2024, the FHWA Office of Safety announced that FHWA is accepting applications for mentors, mentees, and peer organizations for the next cycle of the [Vision Zero Community Pairing Program](#). The Program provides a platform among Vision Zero peers for sharing information and best practices, assessing strategies and actions, and forging beneficial learning relationships. The application deadline is March 15, 2024.

### **Resources on Economic Opportunity, Electric Vehicles, System Performance, Freight, and Statistics**

The U.S. DOT recently published the following resources:

- [Investing in America: Best Practices to Expand Access to Jobs and Economic Opportunity Through Transportation Infrastructure Investments](#);
- [Community Charging: Emerging Multifamily, Curbside, and Multimodal Practices](#);
- [How Pavement and Bridge Conditions Affect Transportation System Performance](#);
- [National Peer Exchange on Freight Resiliency for Climate-Related Disruptions](#);
- [Pocket Guide for Transportation 2024](#); and
- [Transportation Statistical Annual Report 2023](#).

### **Webinars on Equity, Safety, Public Involvement, Resilience, and Transit-Oriented Development**

Here is the registration information for some upcoming webinars and virtual meetings:

- [March 25 – U.S. DOT Climate Change Center Webinar Series: Transit-Oriented Development](#); and
- [March 27 – FHWA Equity in Roadway Safety Webinar Series: Tools and Strategies for Equitable Design](#).

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

# March 2024 Updates from FTA to MTPA

President Biden signed the \$460 billion government spending legislation which funds FTA's programs (as well as military construction, water development and the departments of Veterans Affairs, Agriculture, Commerce, Justice, Energy, Interior, Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development and other programs) **through the end of FY24.**

## Partial Year [Apportionment Tables](#)

On February 29, 2024, FTA announced \$9.9 billion in federal funding available to support public transportation throughout the country, the latest tranche of support made possible thanks to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The funding to states, urbanized areas and tribal governments is based on statutory formulas and represent a partial year of federal support for transit.

Two changes in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 impact apportionment amounts:

- FY24 apportionments reflect the U.S. Census Bureau's new urbanized area boundaries and population figures released in December 2022.
- FTA used transit agencies' most recent service numbers (2022) reported to the National Transit Database (NTD) to calculate apportionments.
  - In FY 2022 and FY 2023, due to the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on ridership nationwide, FTA used the service data from each NTD reporter's annual report that had the highest vehicle revenue miles from either 2019 or the most recent year reported.

## Certifications & Assurances

FTA has released the 2024 version of the annual [Certifications and Assurances](#) for execution by grant applicants. An applicant for financial assistance typically must execute current Certifications and Assurances in any year in which an applicant applies for an award or an amendment to an existing award.

The 2024 Certifications and Assurances are posted on FTA's website along with a "redline" version showing changes between the 2023 and 2024 versions. Execution is accomplished electronically in FTA's [Transit Award Management System \(TrAMS\)](#).

## Notices of Funding Opportunity

[Low or No Emission Grant Program and the Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program](#)

Open: February 8, 2024

Closes: April 25, 2024

Funding Available: \$1.1B

## [Safe Streets and Roads for All \(SS4A\)](#)

Open: February 21, 2024

Closes: The FY 2024 NOFO has multiple deadlines, depending on the grant type:

April 4, 2024, 5 p.m. (EDT): Deadline #1 for Planning and Demonstration Grants.

May 16, 2024, 5 p.m. (EDT): Sole deadline for Implementation Grants. Deadline #2 for Planning and Demonstration Grants.

August 29, 2024, 5 p.m. (EDT): Deadline #3 for Planning and Demonstration Grants. NOFO closes.

Funding Available: \$1.256B

## REGISTER NOW: 2024 FTA Advancing Safety Risk Management and Safety Assurance Workshops

[Register](#) now for FTA's workshop on *Advancing Safety Risk Management and Safety Assurance*. This workshop, the first in a new series of FTA workshops titled *SMS in Practice*, will spotlight two critical components in a Safety Management System (SMS). Reserve your spot now! Space is limited to 50 participants due to the interactive format.

FTA's *Advancing Safety Risk Management and Safety Assurance Workshop* will explore common challenges identified during FTA technical assistance center inquiries, audits, and Agency Safety Plan reviews and will include group discussions and scenario-based exercises. The workshops will allow participants to apply the knowledge of the processes and practices to improve safety at their agencies.

FTA will offer the following workshops:

In-person

Denver, CO on April 17-18, 2024

Atlanta, GA on May 15-16, 2024

Virtual

June 5-6, 2024

Transit agency safety department personnel, rail and bus transit operations and maintenance managers who oversee agency safety performance, and State Safety Oversight Agency managers and staff are encouraged to attend the *SMS in Practice Workshop* series. All participants should have a basic understanding of the four components of SMS as they are applied to the transit industry prior to taking this class.

## FTA Releases Report on Expanding Access to Construction Jobs in Transit Agencies

The U.S. Department of Transportation released a new report, [Investing in America: Best Practices to Expand Access to Jobs and Economic Opportunity Through Transportation Infrastructure Investments](#), on ways for states and local jurisdictions to expand access to construction jobs following the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The report includes recommendations for transportation agencies to expand access to jobs and opportunity for underrepresented groups such as women, youth, people with disabilities, and people of color.

The report also highlights ways state and local transportation agencies, including transit agencies, can enhance workforce training programs to help people secure good jobs, such as:

Tracking data on local demographics

Setting targets for hiring underrepresented populations

Establishing apprenticeships programs

Incentivizing union hiring

USDOT recently issued an update to the Department's [Equity Action Plan](#) that focuses on groups underrepresented in the transportation workforce and in transportation planning. The plan outlines progress the Department has made in promoting wealth creation; capacity building; expanding access; and spreading equity. USDOT will update the equity plan annually to reflect new actions to ensure all communities receive the benefits that transportation brings.

## FTA Announces Approximately \$631 Million in Grants to Replace Aging Passenger Railcars in Three Transit Systems

FTA [announced](#) the selection of [three projects in three states](#) to replace aging passenger railcars. These selections represent second-time funding from the [Rail Vehicle Replacement Program](#), which was created to improve safety, service, and customer experience on subways, commuter rail, and light rail systems.

Older railcars contribute to service delays and increased costs. They may also lack accessibility features – such as direct access into the railcar – for people with disabilities or anyone pushing a stroller. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law invests a total of \$1.5 billion in funding through FY2026 for railcars under this program.

## Apply for Clean Bus Planning Awards through the Joint Office of Energy and Transportation

The new [Clean Bus Planning Awards](#) program from the [Joint Office of Energy and Transportation](#) and the [National Renewable Energy Laboratory](#) leverages federal dollars for technical assistance to develop fleet electrification transition plans. The initiative also offers deployment assistance for participating transit agencies, making it easy to transition from planning to implementation.

Establishing a zero-emission transition plan is the first step in creating an economically and environmentally sound fleet and is [required in applications](#) for FTA's low- and no-emission bus grants. Plans will create a vision backed by realistic targets and serve as a foundation and reference point for day-to-day operations during zero-emission bus deployment.

Eligible applicants include FTA grant recipients, including state and local governmental authorities, and tribes.

The [application](#) opened on February 20, 2024, and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory will review applications on a rolling basis.

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.

## FTA Announces Availability of \$9.9 billion in FY 2024 Funding

FTA announced that \$9.9 billion in federal funding, part of the largest investment in public transit in U.S. history, is available to support public transportation in communities throughout the country. This is the latest round of funding made possible thanks to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The partial-year Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 funding is detailed in [apportionment tables](#) that specify funding to states, urbanized areas, and Tribal governments based on statutory formulas.

The announcement reflects funding available for five months (October 1, 2023, to March 1, 2024) at FY 2023 levels while the federal government operates under a Continuing Resolution. The publishing of apportionment tables allows transit providers nationwide to move forward with applications for FY24 funds to support expanding and modernizing transit systems and operations.

This year, due to [changes resulting from the 2020 Census](#), some areas will see changes to funding amounts due to new urbanized area boundaries, as well as changes in populations. The apportionments reflect changes occurring in areas that exceed or fall below the 50,000 population threshold for urban areas as well as other thresholds within the urban programs that determine whether funds are apportioned to the states or directly to urbanized areas.

Full-year formula funding will be available once Congress passes an FY24 appropriations bill. Once enacted, transit funding will be available at the levels proscribed by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to support transit in urban communities across the country and rural transit systems nationwide, allowing hundreds of transit agencies to buy new buses and railcars, improving reliability and transit service.

## Streamlined Requirements for Tribal Applicants for FY24 Buses and Bus Facilities and Low- or No-Emission Programs

FTA's FY24 Notice of Funding Opportunity for the [Low-or No Emission \(Low-No\)](#) and [Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities programs](#) introduces streamlined application requirements for tribes requesting less than \$1 million, making it easier for tribes with relatively small requests to apply.

FTA has released a new resource to help tribes navigate the streamlined requirements. The [resource](#) reviews:

What the streamlined requirements are and how to access them in the application form;

What to do if requesting \$1 million or more; and

Whether tribes can split requests across multiple applications.

FTA will host a [webinar](#) on the FY24 Bus/Low-No funding opportunity on Tuesday, March 5 at 2 p.m. ET. Staff will discuss program eligibility, evaluation criteria and selection considerations. It will also feature a Q&A session focused on questions from rural and tribal applicants.

Tribal applicants are encouraged to apply before the application deadline on Thursday, April 25.

## FTA to Co-Host Webinar on the Role of Hydrogen Fuel Cell Buses in a Zero-Emission Future

On Wednesday, March 20, FTA will co-host a webinar, “The Role of Hydrogen Fuel Cell Buses in a Zero-Emission Future,” with the American Public Transportation Association (APTA). The webinar will feature transit executives providing their perspective on using hydrogen fuel cells as a power source for their zero-emission operations. [Registration](#) for the 2 p.m. ET webinar is required.

The session is part of FTA’s [Sustainable Transit for a Healthy Planet Challenge](#), which supports President Biden’s [goal](#) of achieving a 50-percent reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from 2005 levels by 2030. The challenge encourages transit agencies to adopt strategies to reduce GHG emissions, such as creating climate action or sustainability plans, converting fleets to electric buses, or making facilities more energy efficient.

## FTA Announces Nearly \$4 Billion in Support for 14 Major Transit Construction Projects Across the U.S.

FTA [recommended](#) 14 large transit projects in 11 states across the nation to receive nearly \$4 billion for construction. These large rail and bus rapid transit projects were recommended to receive federal support in President Biden’s Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Request to Congress.

Seven of those projects would receive funding recommendations for the first time. Others on the list are already under construction or far along in the planning process.

The [Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Report on Funding Recommendations](#) accompanies President Biden’s FY 2025 Budget Request. The listed projects, which require a local funding match, seek funding through FTA’s [Capital Investment Grants](#) and [Expedited Project Delivery](#) Pilot programs. The report recommends \$2.37 billion in annual appropriations requested from Congress and \$1.6 billion in FY 2025 funding provided through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law advanced appropriations.

FTA’s Annual Report on Funding Recommendations includes [links](#) to individual project profiles.