

Public Transportation Webinar

Department of Transportation

Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2022

Key Presenter: Florence Chen: (Associate Director of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Implementation, DOT) Director: Katie Thomso; Paul Kincaid: Associate Administrator for Communications and Congressional Affairs

Overview of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law:

- \$660 Billion over 5 Years
- 375 Unique Programs across 12 federal agencies
- 125 new programs (25% of total spending)
- 90% of all investments delivered by non-federal partners
- 60% flow through funding to states
- 38% particularly reserved for rural and disadvantaged communities/federal cost sharing arrangements

4 Formula Grants:

(Flow charts are on the website that determine the funding)

Because of BIL, these formula grants will increase 30%

Major change: Change in percentage growth for programs, overall not so much structural changes

1) Urbanized Area Formula:

Authorized \$33.4 billion over 5 years to support 500 communities across large and small Planning, operating assistance, capital projects

Many transit agencies use these funds for preventative maintenance

Increase will allow for safer more frequent rides, fix old and build new equipment

2) Repair and Maintenance:

Railfix guideway systems, ferry, and bus/rapid transit

105 billion backlog currently

Will support: Railcars, stations, maintenance and support facilities, power systems

3) Grants for Rural Areas

4.1 billion over 5 years

1,300 rural transit systems

Purchase transit vehicles and infrastructure, operations

4) Enhance Services for Seniors and People with Disabilities

Capital, to improve systems, deliver transportation above and beyond the ADA,
Many funds will be delivered through non-profits across the country

Capital Investment Grant Program:

Transformative projects. Such as Hudson Tunnel in NYC.

Ex: White rail, streetcars, heavy rail expansion, bus, rapid transit

8bil guaranteed, every year congress has authorized another 3 bil

Community defining projects.

3 major types of projects:

- 1) New start: fixed guideways new line or extension
- 2) Core capacity designed to improve capacity of existing line
- 3) Small start: fixed guideway or chord

Bus and Bus Facilities & Low or No Emission: being combined this year.

Expanding and modernizing transit, building equity by connecting rural and urban communities

Generally busses, new, replacing older vehicles with 0 emission as well as associated facilities and equipment such as charging infrastructure and maintenance facilities

Variety of transit agencies: rural, small, urban, large all eligible

Asking transit leaders to plan transitions of their fleets to electric and help transition bus drivers to get them on board with electric

Maritime: Passenger Ferry Grants

2 new: electric and low-emission and bringing ferries to rural communities

Existing ferry service upgrades

New: electric/low emission designed for vessels that use alternative fuel sources

Tribal transit funding

Newest discretionary programs:

\$350 million upgrading existing railway stations to make sure they're accessible

Railcar Replacement Grants:

Part of State of Good Repair

Railcars are designed to last 25-35yrs, the average subway car in the United States is 24 yrs old

Provide up to 3 grants per year

Estimate it could replace 500 railcars

All Stations Accessibility Grants

ADA required key stations, but that still left almost 28% still inaccessible for 17 legacy rail systems

Targeted and dedicated to improving accessibility of these systems which provides a lifeline to these riders

Additional Public Transportation Programs on Build.Gov

Finance Options:

Real estate development around rail systems (residential, low-income, public infrastructure, govt buildings, libraries)

Two programs to evaluate whether these programs are suitable:

Rural + Tribal areas: \$2mil/year for 5 years. Can provide advisors to project sponsors

Targeting existing assets that are under-utilized: parking lot around a transit station “asset recycling” or “asset concession.” Can partner with private developer who could do that development and then take advantage of the asset. Private partner can finance but share the benefits with you, such as building infrastructure or sharing cash from savings with you. If you don’t have in-house expertise, there’s a grant that has advisors come in and scan for assets and do preliminary work to examine what could be a project

Ready to set up one-on-one meetings. Team provides brainstorming sessions.

Contact: Mortesa

Financing:

TIFIA:

Expands transit oriented development eligibility

Relaxes the requirements for investment-grade ratings for some loan sizes

Expands loan terms from 35 years to up to 75 years

Streamlines processing and increases transparency

RRIF:

Definition of rail service being reviewed for BIL language

Provides funds for Credit Risk. Premium repaid to the borrower with interest when loan repaid

Up to 75 year loans for some

Q&A:

Biggest change?

Change in formula grant program. 30% or more increase for every community in the country they serve.

Capital Investment Grant Program, massive projects will have tremendous impact across the country

How does this program impact 5307-5310 Grant Programs

(Urbanized Enhancement and Seniors/Disabilities)

Substantial growth. (30-50%)

Slight changes to formula themselves to provide more funding to smaller communities

Requirement for .75% of funding required for safety projects in large communities

Will these funds flow through FTA?

Changes amount and programs that funds are appropriated to FTA, so yes.

Discretionary grant programs, competitive,

When will funds be released?

Posted partial year apportionment tables are released on FTA website now

And advanced appropriations as well.

Once they have a full year appropriation, they'll release more

Working on Discretionary NOFOs now

Is there funding to plan transit systems?

Yes: Planning Programs

States and metropolitan transit orgs can work on existing and plan new systems

Can include serving areas they're not currently serving

Funding for public transportation including electrification?

Yes

Goal is to become Net zero by 2050

Transportation is largest single emitter in this country