Transit-Oriented Development

Opportunities to Finance Smart Growth Projects from U.S. DOT

Build America Bureau TOD Financing Opportunities

The U.S. Department of Transportation’s Build America Bureau can finance transit-oriented development (TOD) projects that improve or construct public infrastructure or advance economic development. The Bureau provides low-interest loans with flexible repayment terms to incentivize investment in critical transportation infrastructure projects and transit-supportive land uses and related infrastructure. These loans have supported dozens of infrastructure projects nationwide to move goods and people more efficiently and safely.

TIFIA - Public Infrastructure

The Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) program provides loans for qualified surface transportation projects, including projects to improve or construct public infrastructure (owned/operated by the public sector, open to the public, or serving a public purpose). The project must be within walking distance (roughly 1/2-mile) of a public transportation facility such as a fixed guideway station or facility, passenger rail station, intercity bus station, or intermodal facility. Projects must be at least $10 million in size and may borrow up to 33% of eligible project costs.

RRIF - Economic Development

The Railroad Rehabilitation & Improvement Financing (RRIF) program provides loans for passenger and freight railroad equipment and infrastructure, including projects that support economic development (commercial and residential development, and related infrastructure and activities). Projects must be located at or near a passenger rail station, incorporate private investment, and have a high likelihood of reducing the need for funding under other federal programs through revenues exceeding costs. A RRIF loan may cover up to 75% of eligible project costs and there is no minimum project size.

For more information including detailed definitions of the key statutory terms and eligibility criteria, visit the Bureau’s TOD Resources webpage.

We’re Easy to Reach!

Build America Bureau staff are able to provide technical assistance for TOD projects exploring TIFIA, RRIF, and public-private partnerships, or any other kind of innovative finance.

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