

San Luis Obispo Regional Transit Authority

San Luis Obispo, CA



New Bus Operations and Maintenance Facility

Project Summary

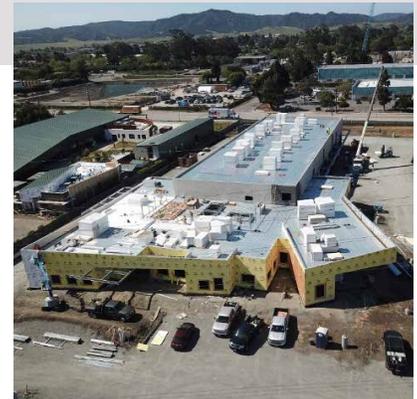
San Luis Obispo Regional Transit Authority needed a new bus operations and maintenance facility to accommodate a fleet of electric buses and add capacity to its service area. The existing facility cost the agency nearly \$700,000 per year in lease, tenant, and maintenance expenses, which is a sizable amount given its annual operating budget of \$14 million.

The Solution

Through the Build America Bureau's Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act Rural Projects Initiative (TIFIA RPI), San Luis Obispo Regional Transit Authority was awarded a low-cost loan to construct a new bus operations and maintenance facility for its fleet of electric buses. The agency applied to TIFIA RPI with help from a municipal financial advisory firm and bond counsel and became the first agency to receive a loan through this program.

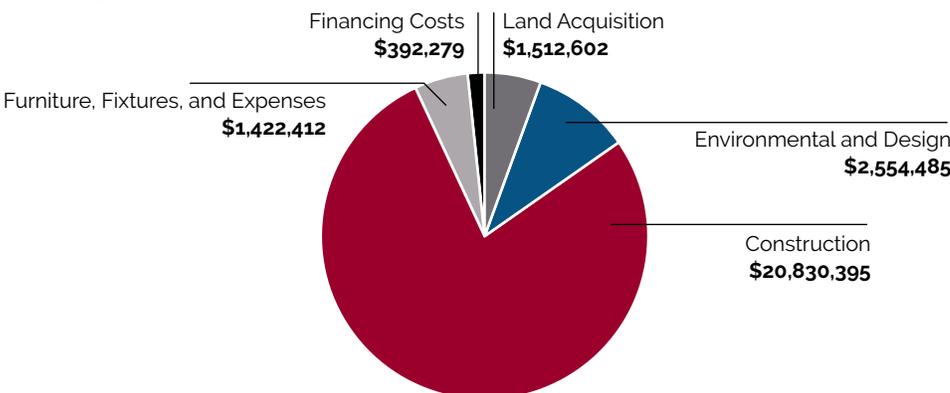
The Future

San Luis Obispo Regional Transit Authority's new 28,650-square-foot facility will be three times larger than the current one and will feature electric charging infrastructure for the new bus fleet as well as more space for administrative and operations staff. The new building is slated to open in winter 2022.



The new bus operations and maintenance facility under construction. Image source: San Luis Obispo Regional Transit Authority.

Funding Uses



Funding Sources



Questions? (202) 366-2300

San Luis Obispo Regional Transit Authority: New Bus Operations and Maintenance Facility

How TIFIA RPI Helps

Because of TIFIA RPI, San Luis Obispo Regional Transit Authority was able to finance its new bus operations and maintenance facility with significant savings compared to traditional TIFIA loans and funding options.

Specific TIFIA RPI Benefits

- Funds 49 percent of agency's \$26.7 million project costs.
- Provides agency 0.7 percent interest rate to repay loan, which is substantially lower than the interest on the commercial market.
- Offers debt service of \$470,000 per year, which is a large cost savings compared to the \$697,000 per year it costs the agency to lease and improve the existing facility.
- Offers loan maturity of more than 34 years, which is not available on the commercial market.
- Offers repayment profile tailored to fit within forecasted revenues and operating costs.

About TIFIA RPI

Rural communities frequently find it challenging to identify the financial resources required to fund critical infrastructure projects, which are key to improving the economy and the quality of life of all Americans. TIFIA RPI makes loans more accessible to small rural communities with transportation needs. With TIFIA RPI, eligible organizations in qualified rural areas with projects between \$10 million and \$100 million in total cost can see significant savings compared to traditional TIFIA loans and other commercial financing options.

For more information about TIFIA RPI, including detailed definitions of statutory terms and eligibility requirements, [visit the Bureau's TIFIA RPI web page](#).

TIFIA RPI Loan

Loans for up to **49 percent** of eligible project costs.

TIFIA RPI loans have fixed interest rates **equal to one-half** of the U.S. Treasury rate at the time of closing.

U.S. DOT can cover **borrower fees**.

Standard TIFIA Loan

Loans for up to **33 percent** of eligible project costs.

Traditional TIFIA loans have interest rates **equal to** the U.S. Treasury rate at the time of closing.

"We are extremely pleased to deliver this important project ... [and] it truly would not have been possible without the Bureau's assistance."

Geoff Straw
RTA Executive Director