



**THRIVING
COMMUNITIES**
PROGRAM



Transit Resource Sheet

Transit that is accessible and equitable can serve as a catalyst for mobility and economic development within communities. This resource list provides some planning, technical resources, and grant opportunities for transit systems to connect neighborhoods and people to important destinations and modernize bus and rail fleets, replace transit vehicles with cleaner, greener vehicles, improve transit service for communities that have historically had more limited access to transit, and upgrade station accessibility

Transit Related Technical Resources

- [Rural EV Infrastructure Toolkit](#): developed as part of the ROUTES Initiative to help rural communities plan and fund electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure.
- [Multi-State Technical Assistance Program \(MTAP\)](#)
- [National Center for Mobility Management \(NCMM\)](#)
- [National Aging and Disability Transportation Center \(NADTC\)](#)
- [National Center for Applied Transit Technology \(N-CATT\)](#)
- [National Rural Transportation Assistance Program \(RTAP\)](#)
- [National Transit Institute \(NTI\)](#)
- [Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan \(PTASP\) Technical Assistance Center \(TAC\)](#)
- [Shared Use Mobility Center \(SUMC\)](#)
- [Technical Assistance Coordination Library \(TACL\)](#)
- [Transit Workforce Development Technical Assistance Center \(TWC\)](#)
- More technical assistance and grant resources can be found on the [DOT Navigator](#)

Formula Grant Funding Programs

Most federal transportation funding flows through formula grants. Formula grant programs allocate funding to recipients based on formulas set by Congress. DOT distributes these funds directly to States, federally recognized Tribal recipients, and transit agencies. The funds may be further allocated to localities at State, Tribal, or agency discretion.

Among the largest formula funding programs are the Federal-Aid Highway Program, which apportions funding to state DOTs by formula, and the [Urbanized Area Formula Grants \(Section 5307\)](#) that fund transit capital and operating assistance. [Formula Grants for Rural Areas \(Section 5311\)](#) provide capital, planning, and operating assistance to States and Federally recognized Tribes to support public transportation in rural areas. States may choose to [transfer a portion of their Federal Highway formula funds to support transit](#).

FTA formula funds also support [Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities - Section 5310](#). This program provides formula funding to states and designated recipients to meet the transportation needs of older adults and people with disabilities when the transportation service provided is unavailable, insufficient, or inappropriate to meeting these needs.

FTA's Section 5310 program allows grantees to coordinate and assist in regularly providing meal delivery service for homebound individuals if the delivery service does not conflict with providing public transportation service or reduce service to public transportation passengers. Learn more about the [Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility \(CCAM\)](#).

Transit Specific Discretionary Grant Programs

- [Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program](#)
- [Low and No-Emission Component Assessment Program \(LoNo-CAP\)](#)
- [Innovative Coordinated Access and Mobility Grants](#)
- [Passenger Ferry Grant Program - Section 5307](#)
- [Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development Planning – Section 20005\(b\)](#)
- [Public Transportation on Indian Reservations \(Tribal Transit Program or TTP\) Program](#). The TTP is a set-aside from the Formula Grants for Rural Areas program that includes a [formula program](#) and a competitive grant program.
- See the [DOT Grant Discretionary Dashboard](#) for other programs that can fund transit

Whether pursuing formula or discretionary grant funds, communities should work with their state DOTs, metropolitan planning organizations, and transit agencies who play an important role in the planning and programming of these funds. For any project to be funded by DOT, it must be included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) or the metropolitan planning organizations' Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). For more information see: [Transportation Planning Capacity Building](#)

Other Resources

- [Equitable Transportation Community Explorer](#): is an interactive dashboard to allow users the ability to understand how a community or project area is experiencing transportation disadvantage compared to all other Census Tracts nationally across the five disadvantage component areas and forty indicators used to develop the five components.
- [Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success \(ROUTES\)](#): is an initiative to address disparities in rural transportation infrastructure by developing user-friendly tools and information, aggregating DOT resources, and providing technical assistance. The ROUTES Initiative aims to ensure rural transportation infrastructure's unique challenges are considered in order to meet priority transportation goals of safety, mobility, and economic competitiveness.
- [Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility \(CCAM\) Federal Fund Braiding](#): Federal fund braiding for local match allows grant recipients to use funds from one federal program to meet the match requirements of another