



**U.S. Department
of Transportation**



February 2024 Navigator Webinar

February 14, 2024



Today's Agenda

- Welcome and Introductory Remarks by USDOT Deputy Secretary Polly Trottenberg
- Overview of key resources on the DOT Navigator
- Environmental Review for Electric Vehicle (EV) Chargers
- FTA's Low or No Emission Grant Program
- Q&A

Please use the Q&A function to ask questions during the webinar – we'll address as many as we can!

Today's webinar is recorded and will be posted to the DOT Navigator.

Today's Speakers



U.S. Department
of Transportation



Ann Shikany
Deputy Assistant
Secretary for
Transportation Policy
USDOT



Kirsten Wiard-Bauer
Program Manager
Federal Transit
Administration (FTA)



Mariia Zimmerman
Strategic Advisor for
Technical Assistance and
Community Solutions
USDOT



Introductory Remarks from Deputy Secretary Polly Trottenberg



DOT Navigator Key Resources



U.S. Department
of Transportation

DOT Navigator – One Stop Shop

Search Technical Assistance Resources

At DOT, “technical assistance” includes programs, processes, and resources that provide targeted support to a community, region, organization, or other beneficiary to help them access and deploy federal funding and build local capacity to develop, design, and deliver transportation plans and projects.

View and search the table below to find existing technical assistance resources and programs funded or managed by DOT that can provide deeper levels of assistance, technical information, best practices, and training.

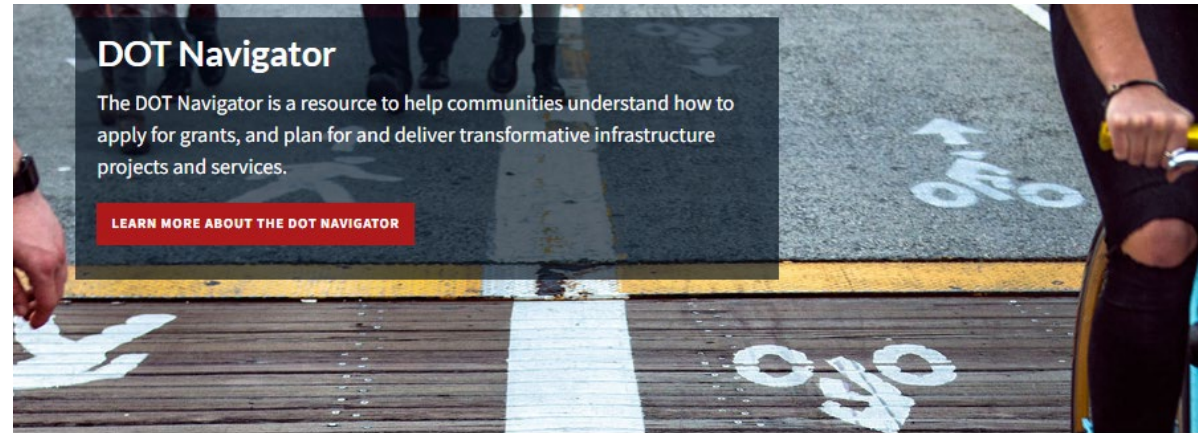
Keywords

▼ Advanced options

Stakeholder Type(s)	Resource Type(s)	Transportation Mode(s)
Select All	Select All	Select All
<input type="checkbox"/> Contractor	<input type="checkbox"/> Direct Support	<input type="checkbox"/> Air (airports, aviation, drones)
<input type="checkbox"/> Local Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Fact Sheet	<input type="checkbox"/> Bicycle
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Grant	<input type="checkbox"/> Electric or Autonomous Vehicles
<input type="checkbox"/> Regional/Metro Planning Orgs (MPO)	<input type="checkbox"/> Guidance Document	<input type="checkbox"/> Highway
<input type="checkbox"/> State DOT	<input type="checkbox"/> Report	<input type="checkbox"/> Intelligent Transportation and Data Systems
<input type="checkbox"/> Transit Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Resource Center	<input type="checkbox"/> Micromobility (bike share, scooters, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Toolkit	<input type="checkbox"/> Pedestrian
<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Territory	<input type="checkbox"/> Training	<input type="checkbox"/> Ports
	<input type="checkbox"/> Video/Webinar	<input type="checkbox"/> Railway
		<input type="checkbox"/> Transit

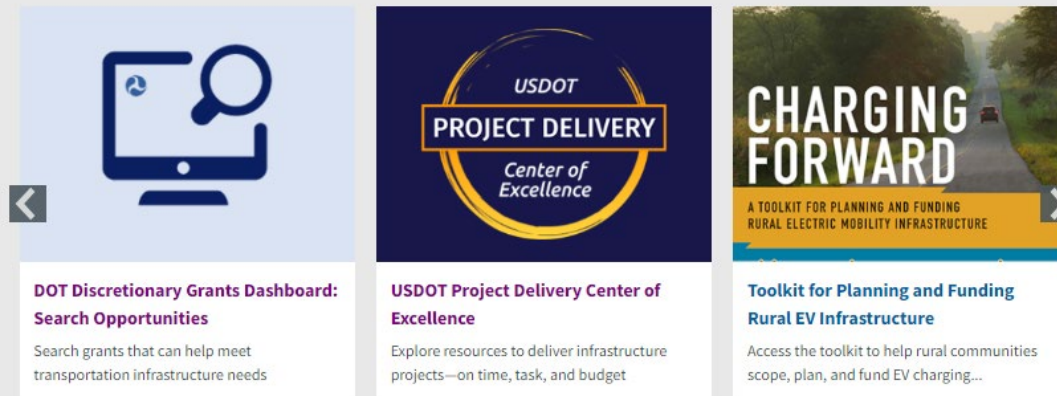
Apply

<https://www.transportation.gov/dot-navigator>



Spotlight on Technical Assistance Resources

Check out the featured technical assistance resources below and view a [searchable list of technical assistance resources](#).



DOT Discretionary Grants Dashboard: Search Opportunities
Search grants that can help meet transportation infrastructure needs

USDOT Project Delivery Center of Excellence
Explore resources to deliver infrastructure projects—on time, task, and budget

Toolkit for Planning and Funding Rural EV Infrastructure
Access the toolkit to help rural communities scope, plan, and fund EV charging...

SEARCH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RESOURCES

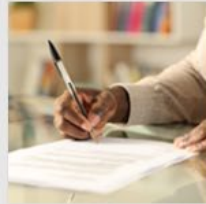




Decoding the Grant Process

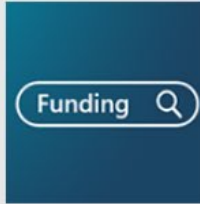
DOT Navigator: Focus on Helping to Develop Strong Discretionary Grant Applications

What Do You Want to Do?



PREPARE A SUCCESSFUL GRANT APPLICATION

Get planning tips, checklists, and information on applying for federal grants



FIND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Search grant opportunities to meet your community's transportation needs



GET TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RESOURCES

Find resources to get funding and build capacity to do transportation projects



LEARN ABOUT FUNDING AND MATCH

Learn about USDOT grant funding, including match requirements and flexibilities



ACCESS DATA AND MAPPING TOOLS

Access data and mapping tools to help write a strong grant application



LEARN ABOUT THE BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW

Get information to help access BIL funding programs

Spanish

- [Solicitud de subvenciones del USDOT](#)
- [Visión general de fondos del DOT y financiamiento](#)
- [Comprendiendo los requisitos no federales de pareo](#)
- [Herramientas federales para identificar comunidades desfavorecidas](#)
- [Financiamiento federal para transporte: Lista de cotejo de preparación de subvenciones "grants" discrecionales para posibles solicitantes durante el año fiscal 2023](#)
- [Lista de cotejo para solicitudes de subvención que alcancen una fuerza laboral de transporte sólida y un plan laboral](#)
- [Uso de Fondos del DOT para la Participación Pública](#)
- [¿Es el financiamiento federal el adecuado para mi organización?](#)

Sign up to get our bi-weekly email bulletins to stay in the know about new technical assistance resources, trainings and funding opportunities across a range of transportation topics!



These Resources Can Help in Writing Effective Grants

<https://www.transportation.gov/grants/dot-navigator/grant-application-resources>

Grant Preparation Checklist

The [Fiscal Year 2023 Discretionary Grant Preparation Checklist for Prospective Applicants](#) is intended to help local governments prepare for the year ahead and chart a strategic pathway to take advantage of historic infrastructure investments of over \$32 billion available in new fiscal year 2023 Budget Authority.

Workforce and Labor Plan Checklist

The [Grant Application Checklist for a Strong Transportation Workforce and Labor Plan](#) outlines the key components of a strong job quality and workforce plan and includes a checklist of considerations for each component.

Climate Change Application Checklist

The [Checklist for a Strong Climate Change Mitigation, Adaptation and Resilience Grant Application](#) notes core components of a strong application for grants associated with climate change, including reducing transportation greenhouse gas emissions and addressing climate resilience and adaptation.

USDOT Tip

The key to an “attractive” application is crafting an effective, compelling, and comprehensive story that demonstrates funding need, commitment, and impact.

Also explore the [Benefit-Cost Analysis Spreadsheet Template for Discretionary Grant Programs](#)

USDOT Grant Funding and Match Requirements

The following resources provide general information on U.S. Department of Transportation grant funding—including match requirements and flexibilities.

Overview of DOT Funding and Financing

What money is available? Learn about potential options—including discretionary grants, formula grants, loan financing, and public-private partnerships—in the [Overview of DOT Funding and Financing](#).



Is Federal Funding the Right Fit for My Organization?

[Is Federal Funding the Right Fit for My Organization?](#) provides an overview of general grant requirements, from applying through reporting and oversight.



Understanding Non-Federal Match Requirements

Are local funds required for projects that receive DOT funding? Find out in [Understanding Non-Federal Match Requirements](#).



Justice40 Match Flexibility

The Justice40 Initiative aims to ensure that 40 percent of the benefits of certain Federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities. As part of the Justice40 whole-of-government initiative, some USDOT grant programs offer non-Federal match flexibility. View a list of [Justice40-covered programs with non-Federal match flexibility](#).



Use of DOT Funds for Public Involvement

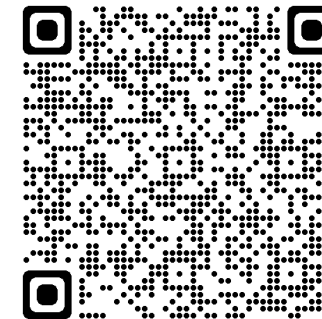
Can you include public involvement activities in your grant application budget? Find out in this list of frequently asked questions about the [Use of DOT Funds for Public Involvement](#).





Grant Preparation Checklist

- Coordinate Between Agencies and Engage Stakeholders
- Get Familiar with the DOT Calendar of Funding Opportunities
- Budget for and Secure Your Non-Federal Match
- Ensure Your Project Is on the TIP/STIP
- Get Ready to Apply for and Administer Federal Funding
- Know Your Justice40 Designated Census Tracts
- Prepare Your Capital Project's Benefit-Cost Analysis
- Budget for Meaningful Public Involvement
- Build a Strong Workforce Development and Labor Plan
- Understand NEPA and Other Federal Requirements as You Consider Whether to Seek Funding



*Scan QR code
with your phone
to access full
checklist*

Use Data to Tell a Compelling Story



Disclaimer: This curated list of federal data and mapping tools is maintained on the DOT Navigator website as a secondary source and does not supersede primary materials issued by each USDOT Operating Administration. USDOT does not promote one resource over another. Accordingly, please work directly with the USDOT Operating Administration managing the BIL discretionary grant program for specific guidance.



General Dataset and Mapping Tools

[General Dataset and Mapping Tools](#) provides an interactive way to explore and analyze population characteristics of a geographic area to help identify the need for a project, including to identify populations that may be covered by Title VI and Civil Rights federal requirements.



Climate Change, Air Quality, and Sustainability Analysis Tools

[Climate Change, Air Quality, and Sustainability Analysis Tools](#) provides resources for measuring transportation greenhouse gas emissions and air quality impacts, and incorporating climate adaptation and resilience features as they relate to a proposed project.



Equity and Justice40 Analysis Tools

[Equity and Justice40 Analysis Tools](#) provides resources to identify a disadvantaged community that may face transportation burdens or be impacted by climate change, pollution, environmental hazards, and other social or economic impacts to analyze how a potential project may reduce those identified inequities. These tools can also be useful for analysis needed to address Title VI and Civil Right compliance.



Safety Analysis Tools

[Safety Analysis Tools](#) provides resources to help analyze and convey safety benefits and risks, demonstrate safety needs in a community, and communicate the overall impact of a proposed project.



Specialized Data Resources

[Specialized Data Resources](#) provides information often needed to prepare a benefit-cost analysis and examine recommended monetized values, and other resources specific to intelligent transportation systems.



Transportation Analysis Tools

[Transportation Analysis Tools](#) provides resources to better understand, plan for, and convey trends around efficiencies—including connectivity, access, and frequency—across a transportation system.



Before Applying Consider Readiness of Project and Your Organization to Receive Federal Funding

How will you pay for the project?

- Most grants require a **non-federal match** that must be identified in the application and secured by the time of grant obligation.
 - Read the NOFO to see what match requirements exist, and what may be considered non-federal match. Some programs allow for in-kind match. How quickly can you secure, if selected?
- Most USDOT grants are provided as **reimbursable funds**; not lump sum or upfront payments.

How long will it take until you are ready to build?

- Most grant programs have deadlines for grants to be both **obligated** and **expended**
- The **obligation deadline** is the date by which a grant award recipient must have all necessary environmental approvals and, in many cases, a signed and executed grant agreement in place
- The **expenditure deadline** is the date by which all grant funding must be expended
- *For more information on Project Readiness see DOT Navigator “Project Readiness Checklist”*

The strongest grant applications are for projects that can comfortably be completed within the grant’s financial deadlines

Project Readiness Checklist

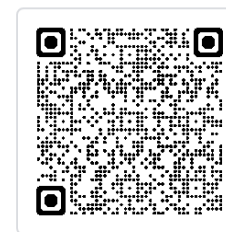
How ready is your project ready to receive and spend federal funding? Not all steps need to be completed when you apply for a federal grant. Federal planning grants and formula funds can also help move you along this process.

1. Complete the transportation planning process to set your project up for success.
2. Plan for completion of environmental review and permitting requirements.
3. Consider your project's civil rights compliance, and equity considerations and outcomes.
4. Ensure you have the ability to secure the [non-federal share](#) according to the program's requirements identified in the NOFO.
5. Ensure your organization has sound project management systems and sufficient staffing.
6. Develop a clear plan for project financing and management of the grant.



A high level of “project readiness” can help ensure that you, as the project sponsor, are able to meet statutory deadlines and that federal funds are used efficiently.

<https://www.transportation.gov/grants/dot-navigator/project-readiness-checklist-dot-discretionary-grant-applicants>



Scan QR code to explore the checklist!

BIL Key Notices of Funding Opportunity



Opening Date	NOFO	Operating Administration/Office	Closing Date (to be added for each program after the NOFO is issued)
Large Bridge NOFO: September 27, 2023	Bridge Investment Program	Federal Highway Administration	Large Bridge: August 1, 2024
11/30/2023	Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE)	Office of the Secretary	2/28/2024
Bridge Projects: December 20, 2023 Bridge Planning Grants: December 20, 2023	Bridge Projects Planning and other Bridge Projects	Federal Highway Administration	Bridge Project Grants: 19-Mar-24 Planning Project Grants: 19-Feb-24
January 2024	State Electronic Data Collection	National Highway Traffic Safety Administration	5/1/2024
2/8/2024	Buses and Bus Facilities Program	Federal Transit Administration	4/25/2024
2/8/2024	Low or No Emission (Bus) Grants	Federal Transit Administration	4/25/2024
February 2024	Congestion Relief Program	Federal Highway Administration	
February 2024	Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)	Office of the Secretary	
February 2024	Port Infrastructure Development Program	Maritime Administration	
March 2024	Low Carbon Transportation Materials Grants - State Request for Applications	Federal Highway Administration	

<https://www.transportation.gov/grants/dashboard>



- [DOT Navigator Home](#)
- [Grant Application Resources](#)
- [Technical Assistance Resources](#)
- [Learn About the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#)
- [Find Transportation Contacts Near You](#)
- [ROUTES Home](#)

DOT Discretionary Grants Dashboard

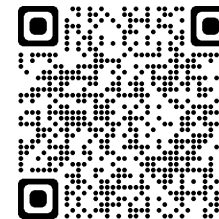
The DOT Discretionary Grants Dashboard provides communities with an overview of discretionary grant opportunities that can help meet their transportation infrastructure needs. Designed with all communities in mind, the Dashboard identifies grant programs with rural and Tribal set-asides or match waivers available. The Dashboard also includes Federal grant programs outside of DOT that may be of particular interest to rural communities. An updated Rural Grant Applicant Toolkit will soon be published to help rural communities harness the Dashboard. The Dashboard is updated weekly.

The [DOT Navigator](#) is a resource to help communities understand the best ways to apply for grants, and to plan for and deliver transformative infrastructure projects and services.

[Download CSV](#)

Related Links

- [FHWA Tribal Funding Opportunities](#)
- [EV Funding Opportunities](#)
- [National Roadway Safety Strategy](#)
- [J40 Initiative](#)



Keywords

Eligible Activities

Eligible Applicants

Agency/Office

Transportation Type

Match Waiver

Rural Set-Aside

Tribal Set-Aside

Status

[Apply](#)

<https://www.transportation.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/key-notices-funding-opportunity>

Environmental Review for Electric Vehicle (EV) Chargers



U.S. Department
of Transportation

Biden-Harris Administration EV Goals

- A nationwide network of **500,000 EV chargers by 2030** that is convenient, reliable, affordable, and equitable charging experience for all users.
- **Half of all new vehicles sold in 2030** zero-emissions vehicles, including battery electric, plug-in hybrid electric, or fuel cell electric vehicles.



EV Infrastructure Funding Opportunities

DOT has more than 25 programs that can fund EV infrastructure, including:

- National EV Infrastructure Program
- Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Program
- National Highway Performance Program
- Surface Transportation Block Grant Program
- National Highway Freight Program
- State Planning and Research
- Metropolitan Planning
- Carbon Reduction Program
- Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity
- Infrastructure for Rebuilding America
- Advanced Transportation and Technologies Innovative Mobility Deployment
- Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program
- Reduction of Truck Emissions at Port Facilities Program
- Federal Lands and Tribal Transportation



NEPA Reviews

- **NEPA** directs Federal agencies to conduct environmental reviews to consider the potential impacts on the environment by their proposed actions. NEPA's Levels of Review (i.e., Classes of Action) are:
 - **Categorical Exclusion (CE)**: projects that do not cause significant effects (typically requires the least amount of time)
 - **Environmental Assessment (EA)**: projects that may cause significant effects
 - **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**: projects that cause significant effects
- **Unusual circumstances** (e.g., significant environmental impacts, substantial controversy on environmental grounds, etc.) may require a higher Class of Action and could preclude a CE.



Applicable Statutes and Executive Orders

- Reviews and permitting may also be required under **other environmental resource laws** (e.g., Endangered Species Act, Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, National Historic Preservation Act, etc., depending on the project site).
- Projects must also comply with Environmental Justice **Executive Order (EO) 12898** Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations and **EO 14096** Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All



EV Categorical Exclusions

- **Most EV projects will qualify for a CE.**
- DOT has borrowed the [Department of Energy's EV CE](#) for the installation, modification, operation, and removal of electric vehicle charging stations, using commercially available technology, within a previously disturbed or developed area.
 - Must meet specified criteria outlined in [10 CFR 1021, subpt. D, app. B](#).
- FHWA also has other CEs at [23 CFR 771.117\(c\)](#) ("C-list CEs") that EV projects may qualify for.



FHWA C-List CEs

- **“C-list CE” (23 CFR 771.117(c)) examples:**
 - Approval of utility installations along or across a transportation facility. [23 CFR 771.117\(c\)\(2\)](#)
 - Projects that take place entirely within the existing operational right-of-way. [23 CFR 771.117\(c\)\(22\)](#)
 - Federally funding projects that receive less than \$6,546,000. [23 CFR 771.117\(c\)\(2\)](#)
 - Having a total estimated cost of not more than \$35,000,000 (adjusted annually reflect increases in the Consumer Price Index) and federal funding of less than 15 percent of the total estimated project cost. [23 CFR 771.117\(c\)\(23\)](#)



Minimizing Environmental Impacts

To maximize chance of qualifying for a CE and minimize need for other environmental reviews or permits...

- **Avoid**

- Floodplains
- Ground disturbance to the maximum extent possible
- Existing tall vegetation
- Designated Endangered Species Act Critical Habitat
- Wetlands
- Section 4(f) properties

- **Select**

- Existing parking facilities with no major electrical modifications and close to an existing service panel
- Reversible, minimally invasive techniques to affix the infrastructure
- Lowest profile EVSE reasonably available
- Minimally visibly intrusive areas
- Colors complementary to surrounding environment



Other Streamlining Tools

- **State Programmatic Agreements (PAs)**
 - PAs establish streamlined processes for handling routine environmental requirements for commonly encountered project types. FHWA has numerous PAs under several environmental statutes, such as the Endangered Species Act.
- **Checklists:**
 - FHWA and State DOTs prepare checklists to make gathering information for environmental reviews easier and faster.
- **Exemption from Section 106 Review (National Historic Preservation Act)**
 - All federal agencies have been released from the Section 106 requirement to consider the effects of their undertakings involving the installation and placement of EV supply equipment (with conditions)



Bundling CEs

- **“Bundling” refers to the simultaneous review of CE documentation for multiple locations being proposed by the same funding recipient.**
 - CE documentation for multiple sites is submitted as a **single package** (for example, the floodplain impacts for all locations is discussed within the same section of the same document).
 - This **reduces the resources required** to prepare and review environmental reviews for both the funding recipient and the Federal agency.
 - Each CE still receives **its own separate approval**.
 - Bundling requires a reasonable nexus between the stations and logical termini for the "network" of stations being sited.



Toolkits and Technical Assistance

- **DOT has prepared multiple EV toolkits** that are meant to be a one-stop resource to help rural communities scope, plan, and identify ways to fund EV-charging infrastructure.
 - **Rural Electric Mobility Toolkit:** <https://www.transportation.gov/rural/ev>
 - **Urban Electric Mobility Toolkit:** <https://www.transportation.gov/urban-e-mobility-toolkit>
- **The Joint Office of Energy and Transportation** provides technical assistance on planning and implementation of a national network of electric vehicle chargers and zero-emission fueling infrastructure as well as zero-emission transit and school buses.
 - Additional information can be found at <https://driveelectric.gov/technical-assistance>



Available Resources

- **NEPAssist:** <https://www.epa.gov/nepa/nepassist>
- **EJ Screen:** <https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen>
- **Section 106 Exemption:** <https://www.achp.gov/digital-library-section-106-landing/exemption-historic-preservation-review-electric-vehicle-supply>
- **DOE EV CE Adoption Notice:** <https://www.transportation.gov/mission/office-secretary/office-policy/transportation-policy/adoption-does-categorical-exclusion>
- **FWHA Environmental Review Toolkit:** <https://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/>
- **FHWA EV Environmental Review One-Pagers:**
 - <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/nevi/resources/nepa.pdf>
 - <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/nevi/resources/ce-electric-vehicle-charging-infrastructure.pdf>
 - <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/nevi/resources/ce.pdf>



FTA's Low or No Emission Grant Program



U.S. Department
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Overview of the Low or No Emission Program

FTA has awarded a total of \$2.9 billion under the Low-No Program since FY16. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law greatly expanded available funding to \$1.1 billion per year from FY22 to FY26.



Low- or No-Emission Program - (Section 5339(c))

Supports the transition to cleaner more efficient transit fleets through the:

- Purchase or lease of zero-emission and low-emission transit buses;
- Acquisition, construction, or leasing of supporting facilities; and
- Workforce development for new technologies.



Zero-Emission Bus Technologies

Includes (but is not limited to): battery-electric, hydrogen fuel cell, and rubber tire trolley buses powered by overhead catenaries.



Eligible Applicants and Subrecipients

- Designated recipients, States, territories, and Washington, DC, local governmental authorities, and Indian tribes.
- Rural projects must be submitted by the State, except for tribal applications.



Overview of the Bus Competitive Program

The Low-No Program has a sister program that also funds zero-emission buses and related bus facilities, and expands subrecipient eligibility to include private nonprofit organizations that operate public transportation.



Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program – Section 5339(b)

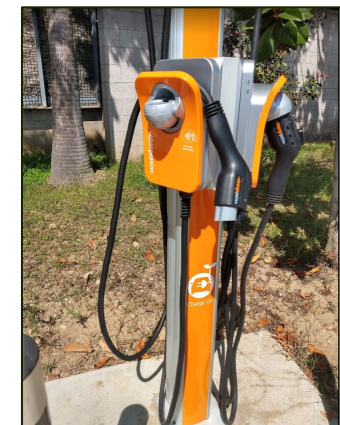
Supports the financing of buses and bus facilities capital projects, including the:

- Replacement, rehabilitation, purchase or lease of buses or related equipment; and
- Rehabilitation, purchase, construction or lease of bus-related facilities.



Eligible Applicants and Subrecipients

- **Eligible Applicants:** Designated recipients, States, territories, and Washington, DC, local governmental authorities, and Indian tribes.
 - Must allocate funds to or operate fixed-route bus service (except for tribes).
- **Eligible Subrecipients:** All eligible applicants and private nonprofit organizations that operate public transportation.
 - The fixed-route service provision does not apply.
- Rural projects must be submitted by the State, except for tribal applications.



Examples of Low-No Projects Selected in FY23

North County Transit District (CA)

Applicant Type: Large Urban

Funding Amount: \$29.3 million

Project: 23 hydrogen fuel cell buses and a workforce development program with a local college

Iowa City (IA)

Applicant Type: Small Urban

Funding Amount: \$23.3 million

Project: 4 battery-electric buses and 2 chargers, and a replacement operations/maintenance facility

Comanche Nation (OK)

Applicant Type: Tribe

Funding Amount: \$300,000

Project: 2 battery-electric buses and worker training in the new technology



FY24 Notice of Funding Opportunity: \$1.5 Billion



Key Dates: FY24 Bus/Low-No NOFO is accepting applications through April 25 at 11:59 pm ET. FTA will announce project selections by July 9.



New in FY24:

- Prioritizing standard model buses and advance/progress payments
- Simplified application for tribes
- Bus Procurement [Dear Colleague Letter](#)



Upcoming Webinars:

- Thursday, February 22 at 1 pm ET: [NOFO Webinar](#) (general session)
- Thursday, February 29 at 2:30 pm ET: [Bus Procurement Best Practices](#)
- Tuesday, March 5 at 2 pm ET: [NOFO Webinar](#) (with rural and tribal Q&A)



Additional Resources:

- [Low-No Program Webpage](#)
- [Bus Competitive Program Webpage](#)
- [FY24 Bus/Low-No NOFO](#)
- [Bus/Low-No FAQs](#)
- [Joint Office of Energy and Transportation: Zero-Emission Planning Technical Assistance](#)



Questions? Email us at USDOTassist@dot.gov

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Questions?

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