

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Transit Administration (FTA), DOT

Fiscal Year 2021 Public Transportation on Indian Reservations Program (Tribal Transit Program) Project Selections

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration

ACTION: Public Transportation on Indian Reservations Program (Tribal Transit Program) Announcement of Project Selections and Implementation Guidance

DATE OF APPROVAL: January 19, 2022

SUMMARY: The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announces the selection of projects funded under the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Public Transportation on Indian Reservations Program (Tribal Transit Program) and provides administrative guidance on project implementation.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Successful applicants should contact the appropriate FTA Regional Office for information regarding applying for the funds or program-specific information. A list of Tribal Transit Liaisons at Regional Offices can be found at: <https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/federal-transit-administrations-regional-tribal-liaisons>. Unsuccessful applicants may contact Matthew Lange, Office of Program Management at (312) 353-4118, or email: TribalTransit@dot.gov within 30 days of this announcement to arrange a proposal debriefing. A TDD is available at 1-800-877-8339 (TDD/FIRS).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This program is authorized by Section 5311(c)(1)(A) of Title 49, United States Code. Federal public transportation law (49 U.S.C. 5338(a)(2)(F) and 49 U.S.C. 5311(c)(1)) authorized \$5 million in FY 2021 for competitive allocations. An additional \$5 million was made available from the American

Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021 for grants under the Tribal Transit Program. FTA is also allocating prior year funding in the amount of \$360,657 for a total of \$10,360,657.

On May 27, 2021, FTA published a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) (86 FR 28675) announcing the availability of \$10 million in competitive funding under the Tribal Transit Program. Eligible applicants included federally recognized Indian tribes or Alaska Native villages, groups, or communities as identified by the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). These program funds will provide financial assistance for capital, operating, and planning projects to support existing public transportation service or establish new public transportation services in rural areas. In response to the NOFO, FTA received 51 eligible project proposals from 47 tribes requesting \$18.8 million. Project proposals were evaluated based on each applicant's responsiveness to the program evaluation criteria outlined in the NOFO. FTA is funding 39 projects distributed amongst 36 tribal governments, as shown in Table 1, for a total of \$10.36 million.

Recipients selected for competitive funding should work with their FTA Regional Office to submit a grant application in FTA's Transit Award Management System (TrAMS) for the projects identified in the attached table to quickly obligate funds. Grant applications may only include eligible activities included in the original project application. Funds must be used consistent with the competitive proposal and for the eligible purposes established in the NOFO and described in the FTA Circular 9040.1G.

In some cases, the funding allocation amount is less than the proposer's total requested amount. Planning projects were capped at \$25,000. For other allocations less than the requested amount, the recipient should work with the Regional Office to reduce

the scope or scale the project such that a complete phase or project is accomplished.

Recipients are reminded that program requirements can be found in the NOFO.

A discretionary project identification number has been assigned to each project for tracking purposes and must be used in the TrAMS application. Recipients with projects listed with multiple project identification numbers should contact their FTA Regional Office regarding grant application structure in TrAMS. Funds made available through ARP, identified in Table 1 below as those identification numbers containing the series of letters “RPTC”, may not be included in the same grant application as other funds. Furthermore, funds made available through ARP must be used for payroll and operations, unless the recipient can certify to the Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration that it has not furloughed any employees since March 27, 2020. For more information, please see Frequently Asked Questions CA48 through CA57 at <https://www.transit.dot.gov/frequently-asked-questions-fta-grantees-regarding-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19#CARES>. FTA intends to only allocate ARP funds for expenses other than payroll and operations to recipients it believes can make such a certification. However, if you are a recipient that has received an allocation of ARP funds for expenses other than payroll and operations and do not believe you can make the above certification, please contact Matthew Lange, Office of Program Management immediately.

Selected projects are eligible to incur costs under pre-award authority no earlier than the date projects were publicly announced, **January 19, 2022**. Pre-award authority does not guarantee that project expenses incurred prior to the award of a grant will be eligible for reimbursement, eligibility for reimbursement is contingent upon other

requirements, such as planning and environmental requirements, having been met. For more about FTA’s policy on pre-award authority, please see the **FTA Fiscal Year 2021 Apportionments, Allocations and Program Information** found in 86 FR 38791 (July 22, 2021) and available on the FTA website. Post-award reporting requirements include submission of the Federal Financial Report and Milestone Progress Reports in TrAMS as appropriate (see FTA Circulars 5010.1E and 9040.1G). Recipients must comply with all applicable Federal statutes, regulations, executive orders, FTA circulars, and other Federal requirements in carrying out the project supported by the FTA grant. FTA emphasizes that recipients must follow all third-party procurement guidance, as described in FTA Circular 4220.1F. Funds allocated in this announcement must be obligated in a grant by **September 30, 2024**.

Grant funding made available through this program may be included in a Tribal Transportation Self-Governance funding agreement if there is an existing Self-Governance compact in place between the Tribe and the U.S. Department of Transportation. If funds are transferred to a Tribal Self-Governance funding agreement, the funds will be subject to the requirements and provisions of the Tribal Transportation Self-Governance Program regulation at 49 CFR part 29 and may be used only for the purpose for which they were awarded.

**TABLE 1
FY 2021 TRIBAL TRANSIT PROJECT SELECTIONS**

State	Recipient	Project ID	Project Description	Allocations
AK	Asa'carsarmiut Tribe	D2022-TRTR-037	Operating assistance and vehicle purchase	\$176,600
AK	Craig Tribal Association	D2022-TRTR-001	Purchase and install bus shelters	\$45,172

State	Recipient	Project ID	Project Description	Allocations
AK	Craig Tribal Association	D2022-TRTR-002 D2022-TRTR-003 D2022-TRTR-004	Public transit expansion plan	\$25,000
AK	Huslia Village	D2022-TRTR-005	New vehicle purchase	\$114,150
AK	Huslia Village	D2022-RPTC-002	Operating assistance	\$107,139
AK	Kenaitze Indian Tribe (IRA)	D2022-TRTR-006	Fixed-route transit service pilot capital	\$43,134
		D2022-RPTC-011	Fixed-route transit service pilot operating assistance	\$1,129,019
AK	Klawock Cooperative Association	D2022-TRTR-007 D2022-TRTR-008 D2022-TRTR-009 D2022-TRTR-010	Transit plan development	\$25,000
AK	Petersburg Indian Association	D2022-TRTR-011	Transit plan development	\$12,500
AK	Seldovia Village Tribe	D2022-TRTR-012	Ferry dock replacement	\$961,177
AZ	Ak-Chin Indian Community	D2022-TRTR-013	Transit vehicle and support infrastructure	\$157,700
AZ	Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians	D2022-TRTR-014	Transit vehicles replacement	\$76,900
AZ	Quechan Indian Tribe	D2022-TRTR-015	Transit plan development	\$25,000
AZ	White Mountain Apache Tribe Division of Transportation	D2022-TRTR-016	Vehicle purchase	\$100,000
CA	Hopland Band of Pomo Indians	D2022-TRTR-017	Vehicle purchase, training, and maintenance	\$144,699
CA	Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation	D2022-TRTR-018	Battery-electric vehicles purchase	\$612,000
CO	Southern Ute Indian Tribe	D2022-RPTC-003	Vehicle replacement	\$73,395
MN	Bois Forte Band of Chippewa	D2022-TRTR-019	Radio communications system installation	\$318,000
MN	Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	D2022-TRTR-020	Replacement vehicles purchase	\$373,435

State	Recipient	Project ID	Project Description	Allocations
MN	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	D2022-RPTC-004	Operating assistance for new transit services	\$882,882
MN	Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians	D2022-TRTR-021	Transit station upgrades	\$100,000
MT	Crow Tribe of Indians	D2022-RPTC-005	Operating assistance to initiate on-demand transit service	\$213,188
MT	The Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation	D2022-RPTC-006	Transit facility upgrade and replacement vehicle purchase	\$441,000
NM	Jicarilla Apache Nation	D2022-TRTR-022	Purchase replacement vehicles	\$415,580
NM	Jicarilla Apache Nation	D2022-TRTR-023	Bus shelters improvement	\$150,000
NM	Mescalero Apache Tribe	D2022-TRTR-024	Purchase and install new bus shelters and vehicle	\$276,421
		D2022-RPTC-012	Operating assistance	\$294,647
NM	Ohkay Owingeh	D2022-TRTR-025	Replacement vehicle purchase	\$64,323
NM	Pueblo of Taos	D2022-TRTR-026	Bus shelter upgrades	\$200,000
NV	Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe	D2022-RPTC-007	Operating assistance	\$244,747
NY	Seneca Nation of Indians	D2022-TRTR-027	Transit plan development	\$25,000
OK	Alabama Quassarte Tribal Town	D2022-TRTR-028	Transit plan development	\$18,500
		D2022-TRTR-029		
OK	Cherokee Nation	D2022-TRTR-030	New vehicles purchase	\$108,329
OK	Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma	D2022-TRTR-031	Expansion of on-demand public transit services	\$107,196
OK	Kaw Nation	D2022-TRTR-032	New vehicles and equipment	\$368,359
		D2022-RPTC-013	Operating assistance	\$416,604
OK	Otoe-Missouria Tribe of Indians	D2022-RPTC-008	Operating assistance	\$130,380

State	Recipient	Project ID	Project Description	Allocations
OK	United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma	D2022-RPTC-009	Operating assistance	\$198,000
OK	Wichita and Affiliated Tribes	D2022-TRTR-033 D2022-TRTR-034	Transit plan development	\$24,500
SD	Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe	D2022-TRTR-035	Replacement vehicles purchase	\$21,982
		D2022-RPTC-014	Replacement vehicles purchase	\$526,018
SD	Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation	D2022-RPTC-010	Operating assistance	\$342,981
WI	Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin	D2022-TRTR-036	Vehicles purchase	\$270,000
				\$10,360,657