



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Transit
Administration**

Administrator

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

March 10, 2023

Dear Colleague:

This letter is to inform you that the Federal Transit Administrator (FTA) has approved a waiver of the non-Federal match for the Metropolitan Planning Program (MPP) and the State Planning and Research Program (SPRP) authorized at 49 U.S.C. § 5305 for Complete Streets planning activities conducted by States and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) in their transportation planning processes. The waiver will support the full consideration of public transportation in the development and implementation of Complete Street policies that require or encourage a safe, comfortable, integrated transportation network for all users, regardless of age, ability, income, ethnicity, or mode of transportation. Therefore, the Administrator has determined that it is in the interests of the Government not to require a State or local match.

FTA is taking this action in coordination with the January 5, 2023, decision by the Federal Highway Administrator, Shailen Bhatt, to waive the non-Federal match requirement for State Planning and Research and Metropolitan Planning funds for eligible Complete Streets planning activities under Section 11206 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). (See: [Waiver of Non-Federal Match for State Planning and Research \(SPR\) and Metropolitan Planning \(PL\) Funds in Support of Complete Streets Planning Activities \(BIL § 11206\) \(dot.gov\)](#)). The MPP and SPRP (23 CFR part 450) are jointly administered by FTA and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

The non-Federal match waiver for SPRP and MPP funds is limited to Complete Streets planning activities identified in BIL § 11206(C). If permissible under State and local laws, these may include:

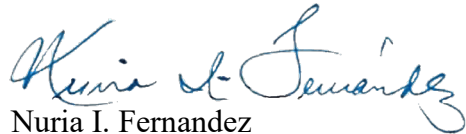
- (1) Adoption of Complete Streets standards or policies;
- (2) Development of a Complete Streets prioritization plan that identifies a specific list of Complete Streets projects to improve the safety, mobility, or accessibility of a street;
- (3) Development of transportation plans to:
 - (A) Create a network of active transportation facilities, including sidewalks, bikeways, or pedestrian and bicycle trails, to connect neighborhoods with destinations such as workplaces, schools, residences, businesses, recreation areas, healthcare and childcare services, or other community activity centers;
 - (B) Integrate active transportation facilities with public transportation service or improve access to public transportation;

- (C) Create multiuse active transportation infrastructure facilities (including bikeways or pedestrian and bicycle trails) that make connections within or between communities;
 - (D) Increase public transportation ridership; and
 - (E) Improve the safety of bicyclists and pedestrians.
- (4) Regional and megaregional planning (i.e., multi-jurisdictional transportation planning that extends beyond MPO and/or State boundaries) that address travel demand and capacity constraints through alternatives to new highway capacity, including through intercity passenger rail; and
- (5) Development of transportation plans and policies that support transit-oriented development.

The waiver of the non-Federal match of SPRP and MPP funds for Complete Streets planning activities is in effect for each fiscal year under the BIL and subject to the following conditions: (1) the SPRP and MPP funds would be expended on Complete Street planning activities identified under BIL § 11206(c)); and (2) the waiver will end once a State or MPO receives FHWA approval of a request to opt out of meeting the requirements described in BIL § 11206(e). Once a State or MPO opts out, they must notify FTA.

Should you have any questions or need additional information regarding this matter, please contact Mr. Fleming El-Amin, Director, Office of Planning at (202) 493-0316 or Fleming.El-Amin@dot.gov.

Sincerely,



Nuria I. Fernandez