



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Transit
Administration**

Administrator

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

May 2, 2023

Dear Colleague:

I am writing to inform you that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has established May 11, 2023 as the end of the incident period for all COVID-19 emergency and major disaster declarations, as well as the emergency work completion date for FEMA Public Assistance projects related to COVID-19. Because the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Emergency Relief Program (Section 5324) relies on emergency and disaster declarations to extend certain flexibilities to public transportation providers during an emergency, the ability to permit Urbanized Area Formula Funding (Section 5307) and Rural Area Formula Funding (Section 5311) to be used for capital activities directly attributable to responding to COVID-19 at 100 percent Federal share will also end on May 11, 2023. The ability to use those funds for operating activities that addressed COVID-19 at 100 percent Federal share had already expired after January 20, 2022. Therefore, no new Section 5307 or Section 5311 grants may be made under the authorities of the Emergency Relief Program.

This change does not impact any obligated or unobligated Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021, or American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 funding your agency may have received, of which over \$66.4 billion has already been put to use. Nor does it impact the usage of any other existing formula funding that your agency may have, including the ability to obligate Section 5307 and 5311 grants for capital expenses related to COVID-19 at an 80 percent Federal share under normal program requirements.

The end of the COVID-19 disaster declarations is a major milestone for our country and our industry. I would like to personally thank each of you for your unwavering commitment to your riders and your communities throughout the pandemic. Public transportation demonstrated its resilience in the face of unprecedented obstacles, and you continued to provide service to those in need. Whether it was to help people get to COVID-19 testing and vaccination sites; deliver meals to our neighbors who could not leave their home; or get nurses, doctors, and other essential workers to their workplace; you stepped up and kept America moving.

The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.

Should you have any questions, please contact your FTA regional office. Once again, thank you for your tireless work and for keeping public transportation moving throughout the pandemic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nuria I. Fernandez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "N".

Nuria I. Fernandez