

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

Announcement of Fiscal Year 2022 Passenger Ferry Grant Program, Electric or Low-Emitting Ferry Pilot Program, and Ferry Services for Rural Communities Program and Project Selections

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announces the award of a total of \$384,354,926, including \$34,350,349 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 funding to projects under the FY 2022 Passenger Ferry Grant Program (Passenger Ferry), \$97,587,018 in FY 2022 and FY 2023 funding to projects under the Electric or Low-Emitting Ferry Pilot Program (Low-No Ferry), \$252,417,559 in FY 2022 and FY 2023 funding to projects under the Ferry Service for Rural Communities Program (Rural Ferry), 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 Regional Offices can be found at www.transit.dot.gov/. Unsuccessful applicants may request a proposal debriefing within 30 days of this announcement by contacting:

- For the Passenger Ferry and Low-No Ferry programs: Vanessa Williams, Office of Program Management at (202) 366-4818.
- For the Rural Ferry Program: Sarah Clements, Office of Program Management at (202) 366-3062.
- Or, for either program email FTAFerryPrograms@dot.gov.

- A TDD is available at 1-800-877-8339 (TDD/FIRS).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Federal public transportation law (49 U.S.C. 5307(h)) authorizes FTA to make competitive grants for the Passenger Ferry Program. Section 71102 of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) (enacted as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Pub. L. 117-58) authorizes FTA to make competitive grants for the Low-No Ferry Program. Section 71103 of the BIL authorizes FTA to make competitive grants for the Rural Ferry Program.

Federal public transportation law (49 U.S.C. 5307(h)) authorizes \$30 million in FY 2022 contract authority funds for competitive grants under the Passenger Ferry Program. Additionally, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022 appropriated an additional \$6.5 million. Of that latter amount, \$3.25 million is available only for low or zero-emission ferries or ferries using electric battery or fuel cell components and the infrastructure to support such ferries.

Division J of the BIL provides an advance appropriation of \$50 million annually from FY 2022 through FY 2026 for competitive grants under the Low-No Ferry Program. Of that annual amount \$995,000 is for FTA oversight, \$5,000 is transferred to the DOT Office of the Inspector General (OIG), and \$49 million is available for award.

Division J of the BIL provides an advance appropriation of \$200 million annually from FY 2022 through FY 2026 for the Rural Ferry Program. Of that annual amount \$3,980,000 is for FTA oversight, \$20,000 is transferred to the OIG, and \$196 million is available for award. Additionally, the FY 2022 Consolidated Appropriations Act appropriated an additional \$12,965,000 that may be allocated to passenger ferry service

that serves at least two rural areas with a single segment of over 20 miles between the two rural areas and that is not otherwise eligible for funding under the Passenger Ferry Program.

On July 11, 2022, FTA published a joint Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) (87 FR 41168) announcing the availability of approximately \$36.5 million in FY 2022 Passenger Ferry Program funds, approximately \$49 million in FY 2022 Low-No Ferry Program funds and approximately \$209 million in FY 2022 Rural Ferry Program funds. Consistent with the NOFO, which stated that FTA “may award additional funding made available to the program prior to the announcement of project selections,” FTA is electing to allocate FY 2023 funding made available for the Low-No Ferry and Rural Ferry programs in this announcement. These funds will provide financial assistance to improve and expand ferry service in communities across the country, as well as accelerate the transition to low and zero emission transportation.

In response to the NOFO, FTA received 47 eligible project proposals totaling approximately \$602 million in Federal funds. Project proposals were evaluated based on each applicant’s responsiveness to the program evaluation criteria outlined in the NOFO.

Based on the criteria in the NOFO, FTA is funding 8 projects, as shown in Table 1, for a total of \$34,350,349 for the Passenger Ferry Program, 7 projects, as shown in Table 2, for a total of \$97,587,018 for the Low-No Ferry Program, and 8 projects, as shown in Table 3, for a total of \$252,417,559 for the Rural Ferry Program. Recipients selected for competitive funding are required to 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

must include only eligible activities applied for in the original project application. Funds must be used consistent with the competitive proposal and for the eligible capital purposes described in the NOFO.

In cases where the allocation amount is less than the proposer's total requested amount, recipients are required to fund the scalable project option as described in the application. If the award amount does not correspond to the scalable option, the recipient should work with the Regional Office to reduce scope or scale the project such that a complete phase or project is accomplished. Recipients may also provide additional local funds to complete a proposed project. A discretionary project identification number has been assigned to each project for tracking purposes and must be used in the TrAMS application.

Selected projects are eligible to incur costs under pre-award authority no earlier than the date projects were publicly announced. Pre-award authority does not guarantee that project expenses incurred prior to the award of a grant will be eligible for reimbursement, as 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 current FTA Apportionments, Allocations, and Program Information at <https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/apportionments>. Post-award reporting requirements include submission of Federal Financial Reports and Milestone Progress Reports in TrAMS (see FTA Circular 5010.1). 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 requirements set forth in Federal public transportation law (49 U.S.C. 5325(a)) and described in the FTA Third Party Contracting Guidance Circular (FTA Circular 4220.1). Funds allocated in this announcement must be obligated in a grant by September 30, 2028.

TECHNICAL REVIEW AND EVALUATION SUMMARY: The FTA assessed all project proposals that were submitted under the FY 2022 Joint Ferry Programs competition according to the following evaluation criteria. The specific metrics for each criterion were described in the July 11, 2022, NOFO:

1. Demonstration of Need
2. Demonstration of Benefits
3. Planning/Local Prioritization
4. Local Financial Commitment
5. Project Implementation Strategy
6. Technical, Legal, and Financial Capacity

For each project, a technical review panel assigned a rating of Highly Recommended, Recommended, or Not Recommended for each of the six criteria. The technical review panel then assigned an overall rating of Highly Recommended, Recommended, Not Recommended, or Ineligible to the project proposal.

Projects were assigned a final overall rating of Highly Recommended if they were rated Highly Recommended in at least four categories overall, with no Not Recommended ratings. Projects were assigned a final overall rating of Recommended if the projects had three or more Recommended ratings and no Not Recommended ratings.

Projects were assigned a rating of Not Recommended if they received a Not Recommended rating in any criteria. A summary of the final overall ratings for all 47 eligible project proposals is shown in the table below.

Overall Project Ratings (eligible submissions):

Highly Recommended	38
Recommended	8
Not Recommended	1
Total	47

As outlined in the NOFO, FTA made the final selections based on the technical ratings as well as geographic diversity, diversity in the size of transit systems receiving funding, and additional selection priorities including fighting climate change, the creation of good-paying jobs, deployment low or zero-emission ferry projects, and/or receipt of other recent competitive awards.

As further outlined in the NOFO, in some cases, due to funding limitations, proposers that were selected for funding received less than the amount originally requested.

TABLE 1

FY 2022 PASSENGER FERRY PROJECT SELECTIONS

State	Recipient	Project ID	Project Description	Award
CA	Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA)	D2023-PFGP-001	City of Avalon Cabrillo Mole Intermodal Ferry Terminal Project	\$5,000,000
LA	New Orleans Regional Transit Authority	D2023-PFGP-002	Algiers Point Facility Modernization Project	\$5,224,965
MA	Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority	D2023-PFGP-003	Hingham Ferry Dock Modification Project	\$6,639,134
MD	City of Baltimore, Department of Transportation	D2023-PFGP-004	Baltimore City Harbor Connector Low-Emission Ferry and Ferry Landing Replacement Project	\$5,086,250
NJ	County Treas County of Monmouth NJ	D2023-PFGP-005	Belford Ferry Improvement Project	\$4,000,000
VI	Government of the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Public Works	D2023-PFGP-006	US Virgin Islands Ferry Transportation Vessel Expansion Service	\$1,700,000
WA	Washington State Department of Transportation, Ferries Division	D2023-PFGP-007	Washington State Ferries (WSF) Credit Card Security Enhancement Project	\$1,700,000

State	Recipient	Project ID	Project Description	Award
WA	Washington State Department of Transportation, Ferries Division	D2023-PFGP-008	Southworth Ferry Terminal Multimodal Project	\$5,000,000
			Total:	\$34,350,349

TABLE 2
FY 2022 and 2023 ELECTRIC/LOW-EMITTING PROJECT SELECTIONS

State	Recipient	Project ID	Project Description	Award
AK	Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF)	D2023-ELFP-001	Construction of Electric Vessel Expansion Project	\$46,214,008
GA	Georgia Dept of Transportation – Office of Intermodal Programs	D2023-ELFP-002/D2023-ELFP-003	Electric Ferry and Charging Stations Acquisition Project	\$4,000,000
MA	Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority	D2023-ELFP-004	Construction of Zero Emission Ferry Expansion Project	\$4,200,000
MD	City of Annapolis	D2023-ELFP-005	Battery Electric Passenger Ferry Vessels Acquisition and Charging Infrastructure Improvements	\$2,975,000
ME	Maine Department of Transportation	D2023-ELFP-006	Margaret Chase Smith Ferry Expansion Project	\$28,000,000
NJ	New Jersey Transit Corporation	D2023-ELFP-007	Electrification of Diesel Ferry Vessels and Installation of Charging Infrastructure Project	\$7,298,010
WA	Washington State Department of Transportation, Ferries Division	D2023-ELFP-008	Mukilteo-Clinton Electrification Project	\$4,900,000
			Total:	\$97,587,018

TABLE 3
FY 2022 and 2023 RURAL FERRY PROJECT SELECTIONS

State	Recipient	Project ID	Project Description	Award
AK	Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF)	D2023-FSRC-001	Planning for functional design of new mainliner vessel	\$8,591,616
AK	Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF)	D2023-FSRC-002	Operations funding for Alaska Marine Highway System	\$44,823,800
AK	Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF)	D2023-FSRC-003	Modernization of four vessels	\$72,065,545
AK	Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF)	D2023-FSRC-004	Upgrade and replace docks	\$45,483,214
AK	Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF)	D2023-FSRC-005/D2023-FSRC-006	Replacement of the M/V Tustumena vessel serving Southwest Alaska	\$68,488,384
ME	Maine Department of Transportation	D2023-FSRC-007	Operations funding for Maine State Ferry Service	\$4,991,474
MI	Michigan Department of Transportation	D2023-FSRC-008	Construction of new ferry and engineering work for dock renovations for Beaver Island Transportation Authority	\$6,628,285

State	Recipient	Project ID	Project Description	Award
NC	North Carolina Department of Transportation Ferry Division	D2023-FSRC-009	Rehabilitate shipyard facility	\$1,345,241
			Total:	\$252,417,559