FY26 Joint Notice of Funding Opportunity

FY26 Buses and Bus Facilities Infrastructure Programs Webinar

Kirsten Wiard-Bauer, Senior Program Manager

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U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration

Agenda

Objective

Provide information on how to apply to the Buses and Bus Facilities Infrastructure Programs NOFO

Agenda

1. Funding and Program Overview
2. Eligibility Information
3. Evaluation Criteria
4. Additional Selection Considerations
5. Application and Additional Resources
6. Frequently Asked Questions

1. Funding and Program Overview

Program Overviews

Jointly referred to as the **Buses and Bus Facilities Infrastructure Programs**, the Bus and Low-No Programs make funding available as follows:

Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program – 5339(b)

Available for:

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

Low- or No-Emission Program – 5339(c)

Available for:

- Purchase or lease of low-emission and zero-emission transit buses; and
- Acquisition, construction, and leasing of required supporting facilities.

Authorized Funding

Program Component	FY 2022 (in millions)	FY 2023 (in millions)	FY 2024 (in millions)	FY 2025 (in millions)	FY 2026 (in millions)
Formula	$603.99	$616.61	$632.71	$645.78	$662.20
Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive	$375.70	$383.54	$393.56	$401.69	$411.90
Low or No Emissions Competitive	$1,121.56	$1,123.06	$1,124.96	$1,126.51	$1,128.46
5339 Program TOTAL	$2,101.25	$2,123.21	$2,151.23	$2173.98	$2,202.56

Please Note: *Funding amounts before subtracting administrative and oversight takedown.*

FY 2026 Authorized Funding

Total FY 2026 authorized funding: ~$1.5 billion

Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program: ~$408 million

- Available in this NOFO: ~$21 million
    - Minimum of 15% must go to projects in rural areas: ~$3 million
- Already allocated to selected projects: ~$387 million

Low- or No-Emission Program: ~$1.1 billion

- Available in this NOFO: ~$589 million
    - Minimum of 25% must go to low-emission projects: ~$147 million
- Already allocated to selected projects: ~$518 million

TOTAL AVAILABLE IN THIS NOFO: ~$610 MILLION

Please note: Additional funds made available prior to project selection may be allocated to eligible projects

Current Year FY 2026 Competition

Important Dates	
Notice of Funding Opportunity Publication	July 27, 2026
Applications Due	September 21, 2026 at 11:59 pm ET
Available for Obligation	September 30, 2030 (fiscal year of award plus 3 years)

FTA strongly encourages applicants to submit their proposal at least 72 hours before the due date.

Joint NOFO Application Information

1

An applicant may submit a project to <u>both</u> the Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program and the Low- or No-Emission Program.

- If a project submitted for consideration under both programs is selected for funding, FTA will exercise its discretion to determine under which program the project will receive funding.
- Projects must be eligible under both programs.
  - Low- or no-emission project AND
  - Federal request or scalable amount is not more than the amount available under the Bus program ($21 million)

OR

2

An applicant may choose to submit to only <u>one</u> of the two programs.

Please note: *If submitting to both programs, the same application package must be submitted to <u>both</u> Bus and Low-No* ***Opportunity IDs*** *in Grants.Gov.*

Statutory Requirements under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

Zero-Emission Projects

Zero-Emission Projects Only (Under Either Program)

- Applicants *must* attach Zero-Emission Fleet Transition Plan
- Applicants *must* include 5% for workforce development or certify that less than 5% is needed

This includes all projects with zero-emission vehicles and/or facilities built to serve zero-emission vehicles, including projects with gas, diesel, or low-emission components.

2. Eligibility Information

Eligible Applicants (NOFO Section 2)

Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program

- **Recipients:** Designated recipients, States (including territories and Washington, DC), local governmental authorities, and Indian tribes
  - Must allocate funds to or operate fixed-route bus service (except for tribes)
- **Subrecipients:** All otherwise eligible recipients, with these exceptions:
  - Private nonprofit organizations engaged in public transportation are eligible
  - The fixed route requirement does **NOT** apply to subrecipients

States must submit applications for projects in rural (non-urban) areas, except for tribes

Low- or No-Emission Program

- **Recipients:** Designated recipients, States (including territories and Washington, DC), local governmental authorities, and Indian tribes
- **Subrecipients:** All otherwise eligible recipients

States must submit applications for projects in rural (non-urban) areas, except for tribes

Partnership Provision (NOFO Section 6)

What is the partnership provision?

Some applicants may include partnerships with other entities that intend to participate in the implementation of the project. If a project that involves project partners is selected, the project will be deemed to satisfy the requirement for a competitive procurement

What types of organizations may be project partners?

This includes, but is not limited to, specific vehicle manufacturers, equipment vendors, owners or operators of related facilities, or project consultants.

Which applications may use the partnership provision?

The provision only applies to low- or no-emission projects proposed under (i) both the Bus Competitive and Low-No Programs or (ii) only the Low-No Program. *It does not apply to projects proposed only under the Bus Competitive Program.*

Pre-Award Authority (NOFO Section 7)

- Pre-award authority permits project expenses incurred before the execution of a grant to be reimbursed by the grant if all requirements are met
- Automatic pre-award authority is NOT provided under the FY26 Bus Infrastructure Programs NOFO
- In the absence of pre-award authority, recipients will not be reimbursed for expenses before grant obligation
- Pre-award authority may be provided if requested and approved by FTA in writing.

Cost Sharing or Matching (NOFO Section 2)

Maximum Federal Share	Project Type
90%	**Equipment or components of facilities** related to low- or zero-emission buses or are to make the facility accessible to people with disabilities *Costs associated with related equipment and facilities must be itemized in application to receive maximum Federal share*
85%	**Vehicles** that are low- or zero-emission or are accessible to people with disabilities
80%	**All other projects**, including workforce development/NTI training and most facility construction costs

Eligible Projects (NOFO Section 2)

- Replace, rehabilitate, purchase, or lease transit buses or related equipment
  - Including power sources (e.g., batteries)
- Rehabilitate, purchase, construct, or lease bus-related facilities
- Rehabilitate or improve existing facilities to accommodate low- or no-emission buses
- Costs incidental to the acquisition of buses or construction of a facility
- Workforce development activities *(see the next three slides for more information)*

Low-No-eligible propulsion types include (but are not limited to):

- **Low Emission:** Hybrid-electric, compressed natural gas (CNG), propane
- **Zero Emission:** Battery-electric and hydrogen fuel cell

Please note: *Projects under the Low- or No-Emission Program must be low- or no-emission to be eligible. Facilities must directly support low- or no-emission vehicles.*

Eligible Projects: Workforce Development (NOFO Section 2)

Standard Emission and Low-Emission Projects

Standard emission and low-emission recipients **are permitted** to use:

- Up to 0.5% of the requested Federal amount for workforce development activities
- Up to an additional 0.5% for training at the National Transit Institute

See 49 U.S.C. 5314(b)

Examples include:

- On-the-job training
- Apprenticeships
- Research for training programs
- Employment outreach programs
- Supportive services

Please see supportive services FAQs posted at:
https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/federal-transit-administration-faqs-supportive-services

Eligible Projects: Workforce Development (NOFO Section 2)

Zero-Emission Projects

Zero-emission project recipients **are required** to use:

- 5% of the requested zero-emission Federal amount for zero-emission workforce development activities
    - Unless the applicant explains in the application why less funding is needed
    - This amount is additional, not a take-down, from other eligible project expenses

If a project includes both zero-emission and standard/low-emission project components:

- 5% of the Federal request for zero-emission project components **must** be for workforce development
- 0.5% of the Federal request for standard and low-emission project components **may optionally** be for workforce development

Please see FAQs posted at:
https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/low-no-and-buses-and-bus-facilities-faqs

Eligible Projects: Workforce Development (NOFO Section 2)

Zero-Emission Projects

Calculation Steps

1. Add the Federal request for all other zero-emission line items
2. Divide this total by 0.95
3. Multiply this total by 0.05 (round to nearest dollar)

Example Calculation

1. Zero emission buses and chargers:
   $2,700,000 + $300,000 = $3,000,000
2. $3,000,000 / 0.95 = $3,157,895
3. $3,157,895 x 0.05 = $157,895

Example Budget

Item	Federal Request
Zero-emission buses	$2,700,000
Bus chargers	$300,000
Low-emission vans	$400,000
Workforce development	?
TOTAL	$3,400,000

Applicants can double check the calculation by adding the Federal request for all zero-emission line items, including workforce development, and multiplying by 0.05.

Please note: *Projects that include multiple emission types are required to include the 5% for zero-emission components and may optionally include 0.5% for the low-emission and standard emission components.*

Ineligible Projects

- Non-public transportation projects
  - E.g., school buses, prisoner transport, intra-facility shuttles, services not open to the general public (49 USC 5302(15))
- Operating expenses
- Preventive maintenance
- Development or deployment of prototype/demonstration vehicles
- Previous project expenses
- Mobility management
- Planning and design studies
- Low-No only: Standard emission buses, and facilities and equipment that do not directly support the deployment of low- or zero-emission vehicles

3. Evaluation Criteria

Evaluation Criteria (NOFO Section 6)

There are six evaluation criteria used to score applications:

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

Evaluation Criteria (NOFO Section 6)

1. Demonstration of Need

- How will the proposed project address an unmet need for capital investment?

2. Demonstration of Benefits*

- Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program: How will the proposed project improve safety? The condition of the transit system? Access and mobility?
- Low- or No-Emission Program: How will the proposed project support the program objectives?

******Please note:*** *Demonstration of Benefits is the only criterion where the requested information is different for each program. To apply for both programs, an applicant must provide two responses.*

Evaluation Criteria (NOFO Section 6)

3. Planning and Local/Regional Prioritization

- How is the proposed project consistent with local and regional long-range planning documents?
- How is the proposed project consistent with local government priorities?
- Zero-emission applicants only: Did the applicant include a Zero-Emission Fleet Transition Plan that includes all 6 required elements?

4. Local Financial Commitment

- When will the funds be fully secured?
- What is the source of the local share?

Evaluation Criteria (NOFO Section 6)

5. Project Implementation Strategy

- How soon can the proposed project be obligated (within 12 months)?
- How will the project be implemented?

6. Technical, Legal, & Financial Capacity

- Does the applicant have the knowledge to carry out the proposed project?
- What technical, legal, or financial capacity issues exist, if any?

Zero-Emission Fleet Transition Plan (NOFO Section 6)

ALL projects related to zero emissions are required by law to submit a Zero-Emission Fleet Transition Plan. This includes vehicle and equipment procurements as well as facility projects that support zero-emission vehicles.

This plan must include the following six elements identified in law:

1. Demonstrate Long Term Fleet Management Plan
2. Address Availability of Current and Future Resources
3. Consider Policy and Legislation Impacts on Technologies
4. Evaluation of Existing and Future Facilities
5. Describe Partnership with Fuel Provider
6. Examine Impact on Applicant's Workforce

Please visit https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/zero-emission-fleet-transition-plan for more information.

Zero-Emission Fleet Transition Plan (NOFO Section 6)

- **All zero-emission applicants** must attach plans with all six elements clearly labeled
- **Applicants with existing plans** may add a cover letter or addendum identifying the location of the six elements and/or adding any missing elements
- **Small agencies** may have simpler plans (e.g., 1-2 pages total) as long as they are tailored and address all six elements
- **State Departments of Transportation** may provide a plan that covers multiple subrecipients, individual plans developed by the subrecipients, or a combination of both

Useful resources may include:

- FTA Zero-Emission Fleet Transition Plan Resources
- Transit Workforce Center Resources and Best Practices for a Zero-Emission Workforce Fleet Transition Plan
- Joint Office of Energy and Transportation Technical Assistance and Resources for Transit Agencies

Streamlined Tribal Application Requirements (NOFO Section 6)

Applications from tribes requesting less than $1 million have streamlined application requirements:

- **1. Demonstration of Need:** Narrative required
- **2. Demonstration of Benefits:** Narrative NOT required
- **3. Planning and Local/Regional Prioritization:** Narrative NOT required but (if applicable) Zero-Emission Fleet Transition Plan IS required
- **4. Local Financial Commitment:** Narrative required
- **5. Project Implementation Strategy:** Narrative NOT required, but project timeline and (if applicable) a description of project partners' qualifications ARE required
- **6. Technical, Legal, and Financial Capacity:** Narrative NOT required
- **Additional Considerations:** Narratives NOT required

4. Additional Selection Considerations

Additional Selection Considerations (NOFO Section 6)

When selecting projects, FTA may consider the following factors in conjunction with evaluation criteria ratings:

Additional Considerations

- Geographic variety
- Variety of transit system sizes
- Propulsion type
- Diversity of large urban, small urban, rural, and tribal areas
- Receipt and management of other Federal transit funds
- Prioritization of reducing vagrancy

Administration Priorities

- Opportunity Zones
- Cost-Effective Vehicle Procurements
- Strengthen U.S. Vehicle Manufacturing Industry
- Benefits for Families and Communities

Within the Low-No Program, FTA intends to prioritize low-emission projects over zero-emission projects to the maximum extent permitted by law. FTA intends to prioritize zero-emission projects that are highly innovative, particularly those utilizing automated vehicle technology, over other zero-emission projects.

Administration Priority: Opportunity Zones

FTA will give priority consideration to applications that…

1. Are located in or support public transportation service in a qualified opportunity zone designated pursuant to 26 U.S.C. 1400Z-1; AND

2. Identify the Census Tract Numbers of the opportunity zone(s); AND

3. Demonstrate how the proposed project will benefit the opportunity zones.

More information on Opportunity Zones, including a list of Census Tract Numbers of opportunity zones can be found on the IRS Website at https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/businesses/opportunity-zones .

Administration Priority: Cost-Effective Vehicle Procurements

Vehicle Projects

FTA will give priority consideration to applications that identify their intent to…

1. Procure vehicles from a state schedule without selecting customization options; OR
2. Use a joint procurement with at least 3 total transit agencies for a common specification; OR
3. *For low- and no-emission projects where the applicant proposes a vehicle original equipment manufacturer (OEM) as a project partner:* Commit to using a standard vehicle model without customization
   - Applicants must attach a letter from the vehicle OEM that certifies the applicant will use the OEM's standard model
   - For information on the partnership provision, see NOFO Section 6, Project Implementation Strategy.

Administration Priority: Strengthen U.S. Vehicle Manufacturing Industry

Vehicle Projects Only

FTA will give priority consideration to applications that identify their intent to…

1. Use advance payments; OR
2. Use progress payments

For applicants that identify their intent to use advance payments, FTA will not require securitization beyond the advance payment amount.

Administration Priority: Benefits for Families and Communities

FTA will give priority consideration to applications that…

1. Improve the accessibility of transportation to families with young children, to include improved access to jobs, healthcare facilities, recreational activities, and commercial activity; OR

2. Improve the quality of life, raise the standard of living, or enable fuller participation in the economy by families.

5. Application and Additional Resources

Application Materials

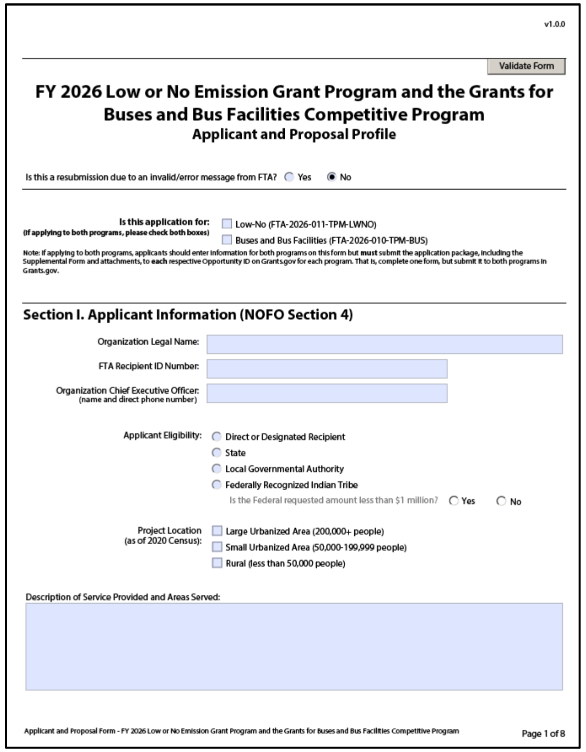
- Application packages found at: www.grants.gov

- Application must include:
    - SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance
    - Supplemental Form
    - Lobbying Form
    - Supporting Documentation
        - Examples may include: List of vehicles to be replaced and their age and mileage, board resolution regarding local funds availability, letter from State DOT affirming access to TDCs, letters of support, letter from vehicle OEM affirming intent to use standard vehicle, Zero-Emission Fleet Transition Plan

- Opportunity IDs:
    - Low-No: FTA-2026-011-TPM-LWNO
    - Buses and Bus Facilities: FTA-2026-010-TPM-BUS

Supplemental Form

✔ Supplemental Form Opened in Adobe



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Validate Form

FY 2026 Low or No Emission Grant Program and the Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program
Applicant and Proposal Profile

Is this a resubmission due to an invalid/error message from FTA? ◯ Yes ◉ No

Is this application for:
(If applying to both programs, please check both boxes)
☐ Low-No (FTA-2026-011-TPM-LWNO)
☐ Buses and Bus Facilities (FTA-2026-010-TPM-BUS)

Note: If applying to both programs, applicants should enter information for both programs on this form but **must** submit the application package, including the Supplemental Form and attachments, to **each** respective Opportunity ID on Grants.gov for each program. That is, complete one form, but submit it to both programs in Grants.gov.

Section I. Applicant Information (NOFO Section 4)

Organization Legal Name:

FTA Recipient ID Number:

Organization Chief Executive Officer:
(name and direct phone number)

Applicant Eligibility:
◯ Direct or Designated Recipient
◯ State
◯ Local Governmental Authority
◯ Federally Recognized Indian Tribe
Is the Federal requested amount less than $1 million? ◯ Yes ◯ No

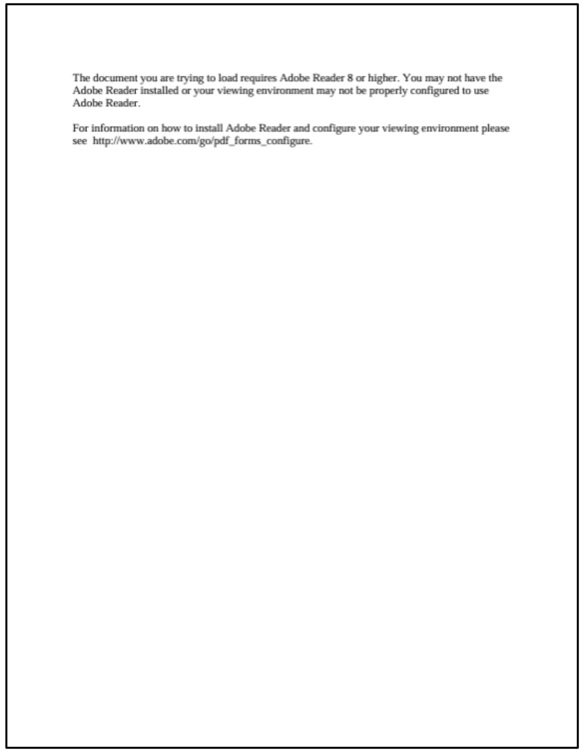
Project Location
(as of 2020 Census):
☐ Large Urbanized Area (200,000+ people)
☐ Small Urbanized Area (50,000-199,999 people)
☐ Rural (less than 50,000 people)

Description of Service Provided and Areas Served:

Applicant and Proposal Form - FY 2026 Low or No Emission Grant Program and the Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program

Page 1 of 8

✗ Supplemental Form Opened in Browser



The document you are trying to load requires Adobe Reader 8 or higher. You may not have the Adobe Reader installed or your viewing environment may not be properly configured to use Adobe Reader.

For information on how to install Adobe Reader and configure your viewing environment please see http://www.adobe.com/go/pdf_forms_configure.

Be sure to open the Supplemental Form in Adobe or you will receive an error message. The Supplemental Form is a dynamic PDF with fillable fields. The Supplemental Form submitted in your application must still be in this dynamic PDF format or your application will be automatically rejected by the system.

How to Apply on Grants.Gov

- To learn more about how to apply for FTA funding opportunities on Grants.Gov, please watch this informational video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r4Ling0ID1g&t=3s

- For questions relating to Grants.Gov, please contact the Grants.Gov applicant support team at:
  - Phone: 1-800-518-4726
  - Email: support@grants.gov

Remember FTA's advice to apply at least 72 hours before the application deadline. This will give you time to address potential technical difficulties and contact the Grants.Gov support team if needed.

Important Links

- **FTA Funding Opportunities:** https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/notices
- **FY26 Bus Infrastructure Notice of Funding Opportunity:** https://www.transit.dot.gov/notices-funding/fy-2026-notice-funding-opportunity-grants-buses-and-bus-facilities-infrastructure
- **Application Information:** https://www.grants.gov/ (search for "Buses and Bus Facilities" or "Low-No")
- **Buses and Bus Facilities Program Webpage:** https://www.transit.dot.gov/bus-program
- **Low-No Program Webpage:** https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/lowno
- **FAQs:** https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/low-no-and-buses-and-bus-facilities-faqs

Bus/Low-No NOFO Email:
FTALowNoBusNOFO@dot.gov

GRANTS.GOV Applicant Support
1-800-518-4726
support@grants.gov

6. Frequently Asked Questions

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Question:** Has project eligibility changed now that the NOFO is called the Buses and Bus Facilities Infrastructure Programs? Does this mean Low-No funding is no longer restricted to low and no emissions?

   Answer: *Project eligibility has not changed. The Bus and Low-No Programs still retain their individual eligibility requirements, including the propulsion type requirement under Low-No.*

2. **Question:** Is pre-award authority offered this year?

   Answer: *Automatic pre-award authority is not offered under this NOFO. However, if selected for funding, recipients may request from FTA the ability to use pre-award authority.*

3. **Question:** Can school districts apply for funding?

   Answer: *The Bus Infrastructure Programs may only fund public transportation projects. Federal transportation law specifically excludes school bus service from this definition. (See 49 U.S.C. 5302(15))*

Frequently Asked Questions

4. **Question:** How many attachments may I include?

   Answer: *Applicants may include up to 15 attachments including the Supplemental Form. If you wish to include more than 15 documents, you may combine multiple documents into a single PDF. Please be mindful of the amount of additional materials you include in your application and state the attachment name and page number in the Supplemental Form when referencing attachments.*

5. **Question:** Will FTA select any zero-emission projects this year?

   Answer: *As stated in the NOFO, FTA will consider propulsion type when selecting projects. FTA intends to prioritize low-emission projects over zero-emission projects within the Low-No Program to the maximum extent permitted by law. Among zero-emission projects, FTA intends to prioritize those that are highly innovative, particularly those utilizing automated vehicle technology, over other zero-emission projects.*

Frequently Asked Questions

6. **Question:** How do I determine what parts of my facility project are eligible for 90% Federal share?

   Answer: *In general, facility and equipment projects are eligible for an 80% Federal share. Only discrete equipment or portions of a facility that are attributable to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act or Clean Air Act may be eligible for a 90% Federal share. Those discrete parts of the project must be itemized in the project budget as separate line items or they are only eligible at an 80% Federal share. Examples include adding a wheelchair ramp, CNG fueling equipment, specific safety equipment required for low- or zero-emission vehicles, and solar panels.*

7. **Question:** Can applicants submit more than one proposal?

   Answer: *Yes, applicants may submit multiple proposals and there is no maximum number of proposals an applicant may submit. That said, please ensure that any projects that are dependent on one another are in the same proposal. (For example, if a transit agency wants to purchase its first CNG buses and also needs fueling equipment, the buses and fueling equipment should be in a single proposal. This is because the buses are not operable without fueling equipment and the fueling equipment would not be beneficial to an agency without a CNG bus fleet.)*

Frequently Asked Questions

8. **Question:** Are transit agencies that do not provide fixed-route service eligible to receive Bus funds? Can transit agencies request funds for demand response vehicles?

Answer: *Applicants that do not provide (or allocate funds to) fixed-route bus service are not eligible Bus Program recipients, but may be eligible subrecipients. Applicants proposing projects in rural areas should also keep in mind that their proposals may only be submitted by their State, so they would always be considered a subrecipient. Please note the fixed-route service requirement does not apply to tribes, which may apply directly as recipients regardless of whether they operate fixed-route service. Additionally, the fixed-route service requirement does not apply to the Low-No Program.*

Applicants may request funds for demand-response vehicles and associated equipment and facilities. The fixed-route service provision relates to recipient eligibility, not project activity eligibility.

Still have questions? Please visit the program FAQ page:
https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/low-no-and-buses-and-bus-facilities-faqs

Thank you!

Questions? Email FTALowNoBusNOFO@dot.gov