DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

Announcement of Fiscal Year 2026 Passenger Ferry, Electric or Low-Emitting Ferry Pilot, and Ferry Service for Rural Communities Programs Project Selections

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of project selections and implementation guidance.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announces the award of a total of $664,764,382 for 23 projects. This includes $103,487,896 under the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Passenger Ferry Program for 8 projects, $107,312,982 under the FY 2026 Low-Emitting Ferry Pilot (Low-No Ferry) Program for 5 projects, and $453,963,504 under the FY 2026 Ferry Service for Rural Communities (Rural Ferry) Program for 10 projects. This notice 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 https://www.transit.dot.gov/about/regional-offices/regional-offices. Unsuccessful applicants may contact Matt Lange, Office of Program Management, at ftaferryprograms@dot.gov or (202) 366-2053 within 30 days of this announcement to arrange a proposal debriefing. Some unsuccessful applicants, such as those who received an overall rating of Highly Recommended or Ineligible, may receive feedback only via email. 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 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA, Pub. L. 117-58) authorizes FTA to make competitive grants for the Low-No Ferry Program. Section 71103 of the IIJA authorizes FTA to make competitive grants for the Rural Ferry Program.

The IIJA authorized $30 million in FY 2025 for competitive grants under the Passenger Ferry Program under. An additional $20 million was appropriated under the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025, for a total of $50 million. Of the additional $20 million, at least $5 million must be for low or zero emission ferries and related infrastructure. For FY 2026, the IIJA made an additional $30 million available, and an additional $25 million was appropriated under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 (Pub. L. 119– 75). Of the additional $25 million, at least $4 million must be for low or zero emission ferries and related infrastructure. Combined with prior years' unallocated Passenger Ferry funds of $584,993, a total of $105,584,993 is available for the Passenger Ferry Program in FY 2026.

Division J of the IIJA provides an advance appropriation of $49 million for both FY 2025 and FY 2026 for competitive grants under the Low-No Ferry Program. Combined with prior years' unallocated Low-No Ferry funds of $9,312,982, a total of $107,312,982 is available for award in FY 2026.

Division J of the IIJA provides an advance appropriation of $196 million for both FY 2025 and FY 2026 for the Rural Ferry Program. Combined with prior years' unallocated Rural Ferry funds of $14,531,504, there is $410,531,504 which may be allocated to passenger ferry service that includes at least one segment over 50 miles between two rural areas and is not otherwise eligible for funding under the Passenger Ferry Program.

The Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 and Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 both appropriated an additional $20 million for the Rural Ferry Program, for a total of $40 million, which may be allocated to passenger ferry service with at least one segment over 15 miles between two rural areas. In addition to $3,432,000 in FY 2024 funds that remain available for the same type of service, $43,432,000 is available for projects that meet the 15-mile threshold. In total, $453,963,504 is available under the Rural Ferry Program.

On April 6, 2026, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) published a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) announcing the availability of approximately $657 million in FY 2025 and FY 2026 funding. These funds will provide financial assistance to states and eligible public agencies to purchase, construct, replace, or rehabilitate ferries, terminals, related infrastructure and related equipment in urbanized or rural areas. For the Low-No Ferry Program, projects must be directly related to low or no-emission vessels and related infrastructure. In response to the NOFO, FTA received 49 eligible project proposals requesting approximately $1.16 billion 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 $103,487,896 for the Passenger Ferry Program, 5 projects, as shown in Table 2, for a total of $107,312,982 for the Low-No Ferry Program, and 10 projects, as shown in Table 3, for a total of $453,963,504 for the Rural Ferry program. A few items to note:

- A minimum of $9 million of the amount made available for the Passenger Ferry Program is set aside for projects with low or zero emission projects, which is reflected in FTA's selections.
- The Rural Ferry program includes one FY 2023 project that was not fully funded in FY 2023 and is receiving additional funds from FY 2026.
- Any project funded from more than one program is counted under the program providing most of the project funding.

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 tables to quickly obligate funds. A discretionary project identification number has been assigned to each project for tracking purposes and must be used in the TrAMS application. Grant applications must include only eligible activities applied for in the original project application.

When the allocated amount is less than the requested amount, recipients must reduce scope or scale the project so that a complete phase or a usable segment of the originally proposed project is implemented. Amounts may be reduced because they were capped or scaled due to more funding being requested than available, ineligible expenses may have been removed from the funded project scope, or funding was allocated for only the low-emission elements of a mixed-emission project. In all such cases where the amount allocated is less than the amount requested, the recipient should work with its Regional Office to reduce the scope appropriately. Recipients may also provide additional local funds to complete a proposed project.

Costs incurred for a selected project prior to the obligation of funds in TrAMS (pre-award costs) are ineligible for reimbursement and cost share requirements unless the recipient requests in writing the authority to incur pre-award costs and FTA approves the request in writing before the recipient incurs pre-award costs. Pre-award costs are costs incurred after the award announcement, but before obligating the grant agreement, where such costs are necessary for efficient and timely performance of the scope of work, as determined by FTA. To request authorization of pre-award costs, applicants must contact their local FTA Regional Office with a justification. Pre-award costs that are authorized must still meet all eligibility and other requirements, such as planning and environmental requirements. Post-award reporting requirements include submission of Federal Financial Reports and Milestone Progress Reports in TrAMS (see FTA Circular 5010.1F). 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, 2031**.

TECHNICAL REVIEW AND EVALUATION SUMMARY: The FTA assessed all project proposals that were submitted under the FY 2026 Passenger Ferry, Low-No Ferry, and Rural Ferry competition according to the following evaluation criteria. The specific metrics for each criterion were described in the April 2026 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 49 eligible project proposals is shown in the table below.

Overall Project Ratings (eligible submissions):

	Passenger	Low-No	Rural	**Total**
Highly Recommended	19	8	9	**36**
Recommended	3	1	0	**4**

Not Recommended	5	2	2	**9**
Total	27	11	11	**49**

Consistent with the NOFO, FTA made the final selections based on the technical ratings as well as geographic variety; vessel propulsion type; and additional considerations/administration priorities including benefits to Opportunity Zones, benefits to families and communities, use of universal wayfinding tools, and commitment to safety and accessibility standards.

TABLE 1
FY 2026 PASSENGER FERRY PROJECT SELECTIONS
(Note: Some projects have multiple project IDs.)

State	Recipient	Project ID	Project Description	Award
CA	Long Beach Transportation Company	D2026-PFGP-001 and D2026-PFGP-002	Rehabilitate multiple vessels	$544,904
FL	Jacksonville Transportation Authority	D2026-PFGP-003 and D2026-PFGP-004	Construct Dock Infrastructure	$7,846,268
FL	Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority	D2026-PFGP-005	Construct new vessel	$16,500,000
LA	Plaquemines Port Harbor and Terminal District	D2026-PFGP-006	Rehabilitate vessel landings	$2,027,910
NY	Fishers Island Ferry District	D2026-PFGP-007 and D2026-PFGP-008	Construct replacement vessel	$20,800,000
RI	Rhode Island Department of Transportation	D2026-PFGP-009 and D2026-PFGP-010	Construct vessel terminal	$13,500,000
VA	Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation	D2026-PFGP-011*	Construct replacement vessel	$17,622,018
VI	United States Virgin Islands Department of Public Works	D2026-PFGP-012 and D2026-PFGP-013	Purchase new vessel	$2,500,000
WA	King County Metro Transit	D2026-PFGP-014	Expand vessel terminal	$22,146,796
*Project also received funding under Low-No Ferry, see Table 2 below				

TABLE 2
FY 2026 LOW-NO FERRY PROJECT SELECTIONS
(Note: Some projects have multiple project IDs.)

State	Recipient	Project ID	Project Description	Award
CT	Connecticut Department of Transportation	D2026-ELEF-001 and D2026-ELEF-002	Purchase replacement vessel	$6,400,000
DE	Delaware River and Bay Authority	D2026-ELEF-003 and D2026-ELEF-004	Purchase replacement vessel	$30,000,000
MD	Baltimore City Department of Transportation	D2026-ELEF-007	Purchase multiple vessels	$10,935,000
NJ	New Jersey Transit Corporation obo Borough of Carteret	D2026-ELEF-008	Purchase expansion vessel	$9,600,000
VA	Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation	D2026-ELEF-005 and D2026-ELEF-006*	Construct replacement vessel	$50,377,982
*Project also received funding under Passenger Ferry, see Table 1 above				

TABLE 3
FY 2026 RURAL FERRY PROJECT SELECTIONS
(Note: Some projects have multiple project IDs.)

State	Recipient	Project ID	Project Description	Award
AK	Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities	D2026-FSRC-001 and D2026-FSRC-002	Construct new vessel facility (Lynn Canal)	$37,600,000
AK	Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities	D2026-FSRC-004	Construct new vessel facility (Ketchikan)	$20,604,102
AK	Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities	D2026-FSRC-003	Development and installation of equipment	$4,000,000
AK	Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities	D2026-FSRC-005 and D2026-FSRC-006	Construction of replacement vessel	$153,406,928
AK	Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities	D2026-FSRC-007*	Operating assistance	$304,474
AK	Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities	D2026-FSRC-008	Operating assistance	$161,200,000
AK	Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities	D2026-FSRC-009	Rehabilitate vessel terminal	$33,416,000
ME	Maine Department of Transportation	D2026-FSRC-010	Rehabilitate vessel terminals	$8,000,000
NC	North Carolina Department of Transportation	D2026-FSRC-011 and D2026-FSRC-012	Rehabilitate dock infrastructure	$28,166,628
WA	Washington State Department of Transportation	D2026-FSRC-013 and D2026-FSRC-014	Operating assistance	$7,265,372
*This is an FY 2023 project that was previously selected but not fully funded.				