



FEDERAL GRANT ALERT

Prepared by the Grants Development & Management Team



| Grant Program | FTA Section 5339(b) Buses and Bus Facilities (B&BF) Grant Program | FTA Section 5339(c) Low or No Emission (Low No) Grant Program |
|----------------------|--|--|
| Brief Description | The purpose of the B&BF Program is to assist in the financing of buses and bus facilities capital projects, including replacing, rehabilitating, purchasing, or leasing buses or related equipment, and rehabilitating, purchasing, constructing, or leasing bus-related facilities. | The purpose of the Low-No is to assist in the financing of capital projects to replace, rehabilitate, purchase or lease buses and related equipment, and to rehabilitate, purchase, construct, or lease bus-related facilities. |
| Funding | \$469 M total in FY 2023 | \$1.2 B total in FY 2023 |
| Cost Sharing | Maximum 80% federal share. The Federal share may exceed 80% (up to 90%) for certain projects related to the American Disability Act (ADA), the Clean Air Act (CAA), and certain bicycle projects. | |
| Justice40 | FTA will give priority consideration to projects that support the Justice40 Initiative, which ensures 40% of government investments flow to underserved and disadvantaged communities. | |
| Grant Amount | <p>No more than 10% of funds can be awarded to a single entity (\$46.9M). FTA may also cap the amount a single recipient or State may receive as part of the selection process.</p> <p>A minimum of 15% of the amount awarded will be awarded to projects in rural areas.</p> | <p>No minimum/maximum, but FTA may cap the amount a single recipient or State may receive as part of the selection process.</p> <p>A minimum of 25% (\$300M) of the amount awarded will be awarded to low emission projects other than zero emission vehicles (ZEV) and facilities.</p> |
| Eligible Projects | <p>Eligible projects include capital projects to replace, rehabilitate, purchase, or lease buses, vans, or related equipment; or to rehabilitate, purchase, construct, or lease bus-related facilities regardless of propulsion type or emissions.</p> <p>A single application may include both vehicle and facility components, along with associated equipment and workforce development activities.</p> | <p>Eligible projects include projects or programs of projects in an eligible area for: (1) Purchasing or leasing low or no emission buses; (2) acquiring low or no emission buses with a leased power source; (3) constructing or leasing facilities and related equipment for low or no emission buses; (4) constructing new public transportation facilities to accommodate low or no emission buses; or (5) rehabilitating or improving existing public transportation facilities to accommodate low or no emission buses.</p> <p>A single application may include both vehicle and facility components, along with associated equipment and workforce development plans.</p> |
| Eligible Applicants | Eligible applicants include designated recipients, States or local government entities that allocate funds and/or operate fixed route bus service. Eligible subrecipients include all otherwise eligible applicants and also private nonprofit organizations engaged in public transportation. | |
| Application Criteria | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstration of Need 2. Demonstration of Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - System Condition - Enhanced Access and Mobility 3. Planning and Local and Regional Prioritization 4. Financial Commitment 5. Project Implementation Strategy 6. Technical, Legal, and Financial Capacity | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrated Need 2. Demonstrated Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduce Energy Consumption - Reduce Harmful Emissions and - Reduce Direct Carbon Emissions 3. Planning and Local and Regional Prioritization 4. Financial Commitment 5. Project Implementation Strategy 6. Technical, Legal, and Financial Capacity |



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Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Requirements

Workforce Development

For applicants proposing projects related to ZEVs for either program, 5% of the requested Federal award must be used for workforce development to retrain the existing workforce and develop the workforce of the future, as outlined in the applicant's Zero-Emission Transition Plan unless the applicant certifies via the application that less funding is needed to carry out the Plan. Applicants that propose not to use the full 5% available must include an explanation as to why the funds are not needed. Absent an explanation, a zero-emission application that does not include 5% of its project budget for workforce development will be deemed ineligible.

Zero-Emission Fleet Transition Plan

Applicants proposing projects related to zero-emission vehicles (including vehicles, facilities, equipment, etc.) are required to submit a Zero-Emission Fleet Transition Plan. This plan must be a separate document from other local or regional planning documents and must: (1) Demonstrate a long-term fleet management plan with a strategy to use the current application and future acquisitions; (2) address the availability of current and future resources to meet costs for the transition and implementation; (3) consider policy and legislation impacts; (4) include an evaluation of existing and future facilities and relationship to the transition; (5) describe the partnership of the applicant with the utility/alternative fuel provider; and (6) examine the impact of the transition on the applicant's current workforce and avoid the displacement of the existing workforce. For applications related to Zero-Emissions Vehicles (including vehicles, facilities, equipment, etc), applicants must have Zero-Emission Transition Plans approved by their respective governing bodies. As a resource, FTA worked with the Transit Workforce Center to develop a template that transit agencies may use related to the workforce section of the fleet transition plan: <https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/zero-emission-fleet-transition-plan-element-6-workforce-evaluation-tool>

For agencies with smaller fleets, a fleet transition plan need not be complex and should be tailored as applicable, but it still must address all six elements. For applications from State departments of transportation, the state may either provide a fleet transition plan that covers some or all subrecipients, attach individual plans developed by the subrecipients, or a combination of both. FTA will rate a zero-emission project higher than other zero-emission projects if the applicant is able to demonstrate how the proposed project and fleet transition plan support the conversion of the agency's overall fleet to zero emissions.

Changes/New Requirements

Emissions Reductions Calculator

FTA will give priority consideration to applications that are expected to create significant community benefits relating to the environment, including those projects that incorporate low or no emission technology or specific elements to address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change impacts. Amongst vehicle applications that include at least twenty zero-emission 40-foot buses, FTA will give priority consideration to applications that identify greater emission reductions. To be considered for priority consideration, vehicle applications for at least twenty zero emission 40-foot buses must use the FTA FY 2023 Bus and Low-No Emission Reduction Calculator which can be found at <https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/fy-2023-bus-and-low-no-emission-reduction-calculator>, attach the file, and include the amount of reductions per vehicle in the supplemental form.

Application Format

1. A complete proposal submission consists of two forms: SF-424 in the GRANTS.GOV workspace at [FTA-2023-003-TPM-BUSC](#)
2. [FY23 B&BF and Low No Supplemental Form](#)

1. A complete proposal submission consists of two forms: SF-424 in the GRANTS.GOV workspace at [FTA-2023-002-TPM-LWNO](#)
2. [FY23 B&BF and Low No Supplemental Form](#)

Application Deadline

Friday, April 13, 2023 by 11:59 PM EST

Program Website and Other Links

FTA Bus and Bus Facilities [Webpage](#)
FTA Bus and Bus Facilities [NOFO](#)
[Zero-Emission Fleet Transition Plan](#)

FTA Low No [Webpage](#)
FTA Low No [NOFO](#)
[Zero-Emission Fleet Transition Plan](#)

WSP Assistance

WSP is available to help applicants develop a grant strategy to enhance project competitiveness, prepare grant applications, prepare technical analysis, and participate in QA/QC and compliance reviews.

WSP Contact for More Information

General support and questions: Eunice Lovi | Eunice.Lovi@wsp.com | 760-808-0029