



## SUMMARY OF JOINT NOFO FOR LOW-NO AND BUS AND BUS FACILITIES

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**Agency:** FTA

**Applications Due:** April 13, 2023 11:59 PM Eastern

**Federal Cost Share:** 80/20 (or up to 90/10 for CAA and ADA applicants)

### **Additional Information**

This is a **joint** NOFO for both the Low or No Emissions grant and the Bus and Bus Facilities grant. Because there is overlap between eligible projects, applicants can apply for either or both grants using the same application, but they will only be awarded funding from one program. Between both programs, there is **\$1.69 Billion available**.

FTA requires that 25% of the Low-No awards go to low emission projects other than zero emission vehicles or related facilities. Not all of the available 25% low emission project set-aside funding was allocated for FY22 awards and the remainder rolled over to FY23. Therefore, for FY23 there is a \$357,113,282 set aside for low emission projects. FTA requires that 15% of the Bus and Bus Facilities awards will go to rural areas.

FTA intends to award as many meritorious projects as possible. See the Table 1 below for more information.

**Table 1. Available Funding for FY23**

	<b>Low-No</b>	<b>Bus and Bus Fac.</b>
FY23 Authorization	\$ 73,056,178	\$ 383,544,933
BIL Advance Appropriation	\$ 1,029,000,000	\$ -
Additional Appropriation	\$ 49,625,000	\$ 90,000,000
FY22 Rollover	\$ 69,668,939	\$ -
Oversight Takedown	\$ -	\$ (4,099,509)
<b>FY23 Total Available</b>	<b>\$ 1,221,350,117</b>	<b>\$ 469,445,424</b>

FTA allows up to 0.5% of federal share of project cost to go toward general workforce development not specific to low or no emission vehicles. Projects that include zero emission vehicles (including vehicles, facilities, or equipment) **must spend 5% of the federal share of the project cost on workforce development** including to retrain the existing workforce and develop the workforce of the future, including registered apprenticeships and other joint labor-management training programs, as outlined in the applicant's Zero Emission Fleet Transition Plan. Supportive services such as childcare and transportation assistance may be an eligible use of the program (further guidance forthcoming).

### **Eligible Projects**

Eligible projects for **Low-No** include the following [see NOFO section C(3)]:

- Purchasing or leasing low or no emission buses
- Acquiring low or no emission buses with a leased power source
- Constructing or leasing facilities and related equipment for low or no emission buses
- Constructing new public transportation facilities to accommodate low or no emission buses



- Rehabilitating or improving existing public transportation facilities to accommodate low or no emission buses

Eligible projects for **Bus and Bus Facilities** include the following [see NOFO section C(3)]:

- Capital projects to replace, rehabilitate, purchase, or lease buses, vans, or related equipment
- Rehabilitation, purchase, construction, or lease of bus-related facilities regardless of propulsion type or emissions

### **Eligible Applicants**

Eligible applicants for **Low-No** include [see NOFO section C(1)]:

- Designated recipients
- States, territories, and Washington DC
- Local governmental authorities
- Tribes

Eligible applicants for **Bus and Bus Facilities** include [see NOFO section C(1)]:

- Designated recipients that allocate funds to fixed route bus operators
- States, territories, and Washington DC
- Local governmental entities that operate fixed route bus service
- Tribes

Eligible subrecipients include otherwise eligible applicants and private nonprofit organizations engaged in public transportation. Partnerships with vehicle manufacturers, equipment vendors, owners or operators of related facilities, and project consultants is allowed.

### **Min and Max Awards**

Maximum award for Bus and Bus Facilities: **\$46.9 million** (10% of total available)

No Maximum award for Low-No.

**No minimum award for either grant.**

### **Primary Selection Criteria**

The following selection criteria will be used [see NOFO section E]:

1. Demonstration of need
2. Demonstration of benefits
  - a. For Low-No, must demonstrate that project will lead to reduced energy consumption, reduced harmful emissions, and reduced direct carbon emissions
  - b. For Bus and Bus Facilities, must demonstrate how project will enhance access and mobility within the service area, particularly for low-income or underserved communities, and how it will expand accessibility for people with disabilities.
3. Planning and Local/Regional Prioritization
4. Local financial commitment
5. Project implementation strategy
6. Technical/Legal/Financial capacity

For zero-emission projects, a Zero Emission Fleet Transition Plan is required. For all projects, Buy America, Title VI, DBE, and other requirements apply.



### **FTA Review and Selection Process**

A technical evaluation committee will evaluate projects based on the above criteria. The FTA Administrator will select the final projects for program funding. In addition to the above criteria, FTA can consider the size and location of the project and the applicants, as well as whether the project is the recipient of other Federal funds. FTA may consider capping the amount a single applicant may receive.

Additional considerations may be used to select projects.

- FTA will give priority to projects that are expected to **create significant community benefits relating to the environment**.
  - For applications that include at least 20 zero-emission 40-foot buses: to be eligible for priority consideration, applicants must use the FTA's FY2023 Bus and Low-No Emissions Reduction Calculator to demonstrate greater emissions reductions.
- FTA will prioritize a zero-emission project 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**.
- FTA will prioritize applications that describe how their projects **support workforce development, job quality, and wealth creation**, specifically:
  - For all facility projects: commit to registered apprenticeship positions and detail partnerships with high-quality workforce development programs with supportive services to help train, place, and retain underrepresented communities.
  - For facility projects over \$35 million: use a Project Labor/Community Workforce Agreement and commit to participate in US DOL's OFCCP Mega Construction Project Program, if selected
- FTA will prioritize applications that **commit to limiting customization to streamline procurement** of vehicles and equipment.
- For zero-emission applications, FTA will prioritize applicants that **demonstrate consultation with workforce representatives** on all aspects of the workforce section and fleet transition plan and commit to use one of the following:
  - Labor-management partnerships for training
  - Use of registered apprenticeship training to support skilling of incumbent and entry-level workers with focus on using registered apprenticeship to advance groups facing systemic barriers to employment that may be underrepresented in the current workforce, especially in higher-paying positions.
- FTA will prioritize projects that **support the Justice40** initiative.