

FTA

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

COVID-19 Response and Recovery- A Federal Perspective

November 18, 2020



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration

Overview

- Challenges
- COVID-19 Financial Challenges
- FTA's Role in Supporting Transit Recovery
- Emergency Relief Program
- CARES Act
- Impact of CARES Act Funding
- Other Relief
- COVID-19 Technical Assistance
- COVID-19 Recovery Listening Session
- DOT/FTA and HUD/PIH Partnership for COVID-19 Recovery
- Resources

COVID-19 Financial Challenges

- Lost revenue.
 - Sales taxes, fare revenue, etc.
- Operational adjustments and increased spending for health and safety activities.
- Requests from the community for additional activities such as meal delivery.

FTA's Role in Supporting Recovery

- **FTA's Role in Supporting Transit Recovery** – FTA adopted four primary approaches to support the transit industry's recovery from the COVID-19 public health emergency:
 - Provide Federal funding to support transit operations and economic recovery; and
 - Identify additional administrative and regulatory relief to support transit operations and economic recovery.
 - Provide proactive technical assistance to help transit agencies support recovery;
 - Facilitate acquisition of personal protective equipment (PPE) and supplies to protect transit workers and passengers;

Flexibility for Formula Funds under the Emergency Relief Program

- Expanded eligibility and increased federal shares for the Urbanized Area (5307) and Rural Area (5311) formula programs.
- Allowed Urbanized Area and Rural Area formula funds to be used for expenses related to a declared emergency.
- Provided recipients of these formula programs the flexibility to use previously-apportioned funds for capital and operating expenses directly related to COVID-19 response with an increased federal share of up to 100%.

CARES Act of 2020

- On March 27, 2020, the CARES Act provided an unprecedented \$25 billion for the transit industry to respond to, and mitigate the negative impacts of, the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- Funds provided at 100% federal share; no local match required.
- Funds are available to support planning, capital investment, maintenance, operating expenses, and any other expenses generally eligible under FTA programs.

CARES Act Funding to Date

As of November 13, 2020, FTA has awarded 760 CARES Act grants for \$23.4 billion, (94% of total CARES Act funding) and disbursed \$13,196,280,300 (53% of total CARES Act funding).

CARES ACT OBLIGATIONS AND DISBURSEMENTS				Current as of 11/13/2020	
TYPE OF GRANT	TOTAL FUNDS APPORTIONED	OBLIGATED AMOUNT	PERCENT OBLIGATED	AMOUNT DISBURSED	PERCENT DISBURSED
5307 Urbanized Area Formula	\$22,696,291,664	\$21,548,674,469	95%	\$12,858,520,799	57%
5311 Rural Area Formula	\$2,198,708,336	\$1,837,516,767	84%	\$333,894,317	15%
5311 Tribal Formula	\$30,000,000	\$21,583,928	72%	\$3,865,184	13%
TOTAL	\$24,925,000,000	\$23,407,775,164	94%	\$13,196,280,300	53%

Impact of CARES Act Funding

- Helped transit agencies avoid layoffs and furloughs.
 - The Rapid in Grand Rapids, Michigan, avoided at least 300 employee layoffs because of CARES funding.
 - In California, CARES funding helped prevent layoffs at Caltrain and SamTrans.
- Funded transit operating expenses during the public health emergency. Examples:
 - CARES funding helped Community Transit in Washington pay for employee leave related to reductions in service or being quarantined.
 - Also in Washington, CARES funding helped Everett Transit pay for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for employees.

Emergency Relief Docket

- Available for grantees to request additional regulatory or statutory relief above and beyond what is already provided, based on their specific circumstances.
- **Docket FTA-2020-000:** www.regulations.gov
- **FTA's COVID-19 FAQs:**
<https://www.transit.dot.gov/frequently-asked-questions-fta-grantees-regarding-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>

Other Relief

Administrative Relief

- Extended lapse date for some 2017 and 2018 grant program funds
- In-person data collection for NTD ridership stats not required
- Extended competitive program deadlines by 30 days
- Expanded eligibility for meal delivery and incidental use

Oversight

- Fiscal year 2020 Triennial and State Management Reviews postponed

COVID-19 FTA Safety Advisory

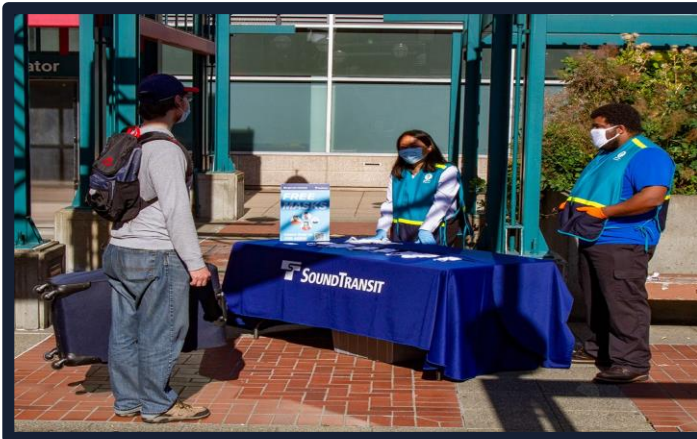
- Recommends transit agencies develop and implement procedures and practices consistent with guidance provided by the CDC and OSHA.
- The Safety Advisory is considered guidance pursuant to 49 CFR § 5.25 and is published on the FTA website.
- FTA recommends transit agencies take the following actions to protect workers and passengers:
 - Establishing policies on the use of face coverings and PPE,
 - Reinforcing healthy hygiene practices,
 - Maintaining routine cleaning, disinfecting and ventilation of vehicles and infrastructure,
 - Managing operational considerations for social distancing,
 - Communicating with passengers, and
 - Using technology and innovative practices.

COVID-19 Vendor List for Transit

- After initial publication of the *Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Recovery Vendor List for Public Transportation* on July 29, 2020, FTA has worked with APTA and CTAA to publish three biweekly updates.
- It is available on [APTA's Website](#) and [CTAA's Website](#) and can be accessed from [FTA's COVID-19 webpage](#).
- Since initial publication, over 30 new vendors have been added. In all, over 250 vendors are represented.
- Updates include new vendors of vehicle filters, barriers/shields, chemical disinfectants, COVID-19 tests, and infrared thermometers.
- APTA and CTAA continue to poll their membership for new vendors or products to add to the list.

COVID-19 Face Mask Distribution

DOT and the FTA have distributed **4.6 million** cloth facial coverings to more than **2,200** transit agencies with an additional **9.6 million** for passengers.



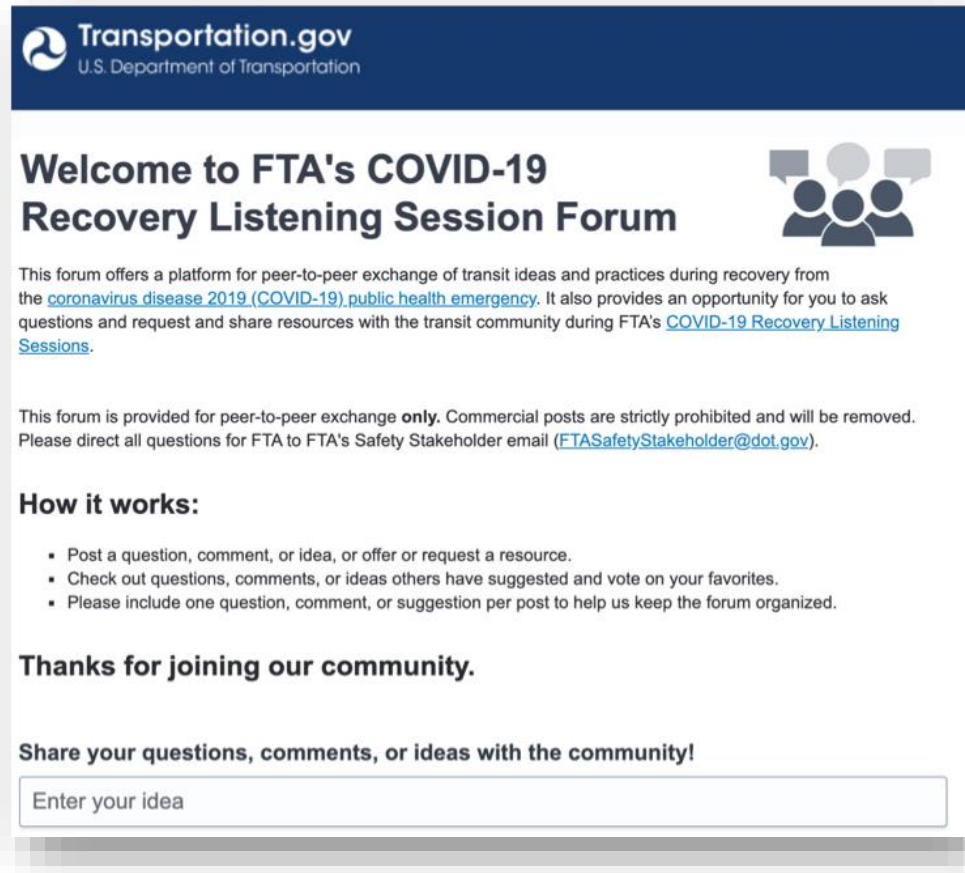
COVID-19 Recovery Listening Sessions

- ✓ **Supporting the Health, Safety, and Confidence of Transit Riders**
 - Held on Friday, July 31
- ✓ **Innovations in Restoring Passenger Confidence and Managing COVID-19 Operational Considerations**
 - Held on Thursday, October 29
- ✓ **Maintaining Healthy Operations and Keeping Transit Workers Safe**
 - Held on Thursday, August 20
- ✓ **Value-Added Services for Public Transportation as Communities Recover**
 - Held on Friday, November 13
- ✓ **Managing Vehicles and Facilities in a New Service Environment**
 - Held on Thursday, September 24
- Understanding and Addressing Changing Rider Needs**
 - December 15, 1:30-2:30pm EST (tentative)

Listening session presentations, recordings, and transcripts are available on FTA's COVID-19 website <https://www.transit.dot.gov/regulations-and-programs/safety/fta-covid-19-recovery-listening-sessions>

FTA's New COVID-19 Recovery Listening Session Forum

- FTA has launched the COVID-19 Recovery Listening Session Forum.
- This discussion forum provides a platform for peer-to-peer exchange of transit ideas, practices, and other information during and after FTA's COVID-19 Recovery Listening Sessions.



The screenshot shows the top of the forum page. At the top left is the Transportation.gov logo with the U.S. Department of Transportation text. The main heading reads 'Welcome to FTA's COVID-19 Recovery Listening Session Forum' next to an icon of three people with speech bubbles. Below this is a paragraph explaining the forum's purpose: 'This forum offers a platform for peer-to-peer exchange of transit ideas and practices during recovery from the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) public health emergency. It also provides an opportunity for you to ask questions and request and share resources with the transit community during FTA's COVID-19 Recovery Listening Sessions.' A second paragraph states: 'This forum is provided for peer-to-peer exchange only. Commercial posts are strictly prohibited and will be removed. Please direct all questions for FTA to FTA's Safety Stakeholder email (FTASafetyStakeholder@dot.gov).' Under the heading 'How it works:', there is a bulleted list: 'Post a question, comment, or idea, or offer or request a resource.', 'Check out questions, comments, or ideas others have suggested and vote on your favorites.', and 'Please include one question, comment, or suggestion per post to help us keep the forum organized.' Below this is the text 'Thanks for joining our community.' and 'Share your questions, comments, or ideas with the community!' followed by a text input field with the placeholder 'Enter your idea'.

Launch of DOT/FTA & HUD/PIH Partnership for COVID-19 Recovery



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- Educate FTA and HUD stakeholders on partnerships across municipalities, public housing authorities, and school districts.
 - These partnerships can provide targeted populations with access to transportation, education support services (such as Wi-Fi), food, medical appointments, and other essential services as communities recover from the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- Leverage federally-funded assets and available federal funding to carry out these activities.



Examples of Essential Services Partnerships



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- **Columbus, Ohio – Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA):**
Partnered with Columbus City Schools and the Central Ohio YMCA to provide Wi-Fi hotspots to school children.
- **Austin, Texas – Capital Metro:**
Partnered with Austin Independent School District to provide Wi-Fi hotspots to students and supported the Housing Authority of the City of Austin and Austin schools with delivering laptops to students.

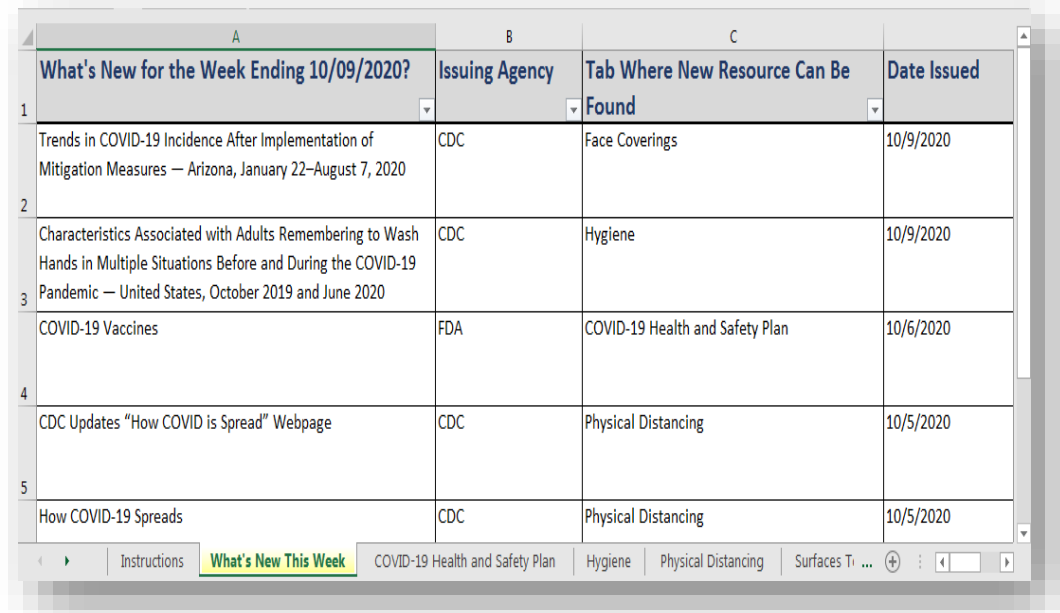


THIS BUS IS

ENABLED

FTA's COVID-19 Resource Tool

- One-stop-shop for Federal COVID-19 guidance and recommendations.
- Covers topics such as sanitizing transit facilities and vehicles, PPE, physical distancing, and more.
- Updated *weekly* to include new guidance and resources.



	A	B	C	
	What's New for the Week Ending 10/09/2020?	Issuing Agency	Tab Where New Resource Can Be Found	Date Issued
1				
2	Trends in COVID-19 Incidence After Implementation of Mitigation Measures — Arizona, January 22–August 7, 2020	CDC	Face Coverings	10/9/2020
3	Characteristics Associated with Adults Remembering to Wash Hands in Multiple Situations Before and During the COVID-19 Pandemic — United States, October 2019 and June 2020	CDC	Hygiene	10/9/2020
4	COVID-19 Vaccines	FDA	COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan	10/6/2020
5	CDC Updates “How COVID is Spread” Webpage	CDC	Physical Distancing	10/5/2020
	How COVID-19 Spreads	CDC	Physical Distancing	10/5/2020

Navigation tabs: Instructions | What's New This Week | COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan | Hygiene | Physical Distancing | Surfaces T...

Access the FTA's COVID-19 Resource Tool at
<https://www.transit.dot.gov/regulations-and-programs/safety/fta-covid-19-resource-tool>

Links to COVID-19 Resources

- [FTA's COVID-19 Resource](#) home page includes a number of other resources for transit agencies, including:
 - [FTA's COVID-19 Resource Tool](#)
 - [FTA's COVID-19 Listening Sessions](#)
 - [USDOT-FTA and HUD-PIH Partnership for COVID-19 Recovery](#)
 - [Safety Advisory 20-01: Recommended Actions to Reduce the Risk of COVID-19 Among Transit Employees and Passengers](#)
 - [FAQs from FTA Grantees Regarding COVID-19](#)
 - [Press releases, blogs, and announcements and other Federal resources](#)
 - [Industry resources](#)



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