

FTA Region One

NEWSLETTER



MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Dear New England Transit Colleagues,

As spring approaches, FTA Region 1 is looking to improve our external communication with all of you. We will be using this newsletter to give you the latest news from FTA, to share news from transit agencies around New England, and to provide further information or references to common questions.

It has been a challenging year for all of us in the transit industry and beyond due to the global pandemic. I applaud all your efforts to provide essential community services and transporting frontline workers. Our Region 1 team has been proud to assist you by awarding CARES and CRRSAA relief fund grants in addition to our standard grants. I encourage everyone to review FTA recently published FAQs on these relief funds. <https://www.transit.dot.gov/frequently-asked-questions-fta-grantees-regarding-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19> We look forward to continuing to support you as we award funds from the recently signed American Rescue Plan Act, which contains \$30.4 Billion in Transit Infrastructure Grants.

FTA recently launched a new online application for the Transit COVID-19 Response Program to collect COVID-19 data from transit agencies. Last week, I emailed the agencies and state DOTs that are required to submit reports. These specified entities will provide monthly updates on the impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency through FTA's existing Transit Integrated Appian Development Platform.

As the availability of vaccines continues to increase, I emailed agency CEOs this week information about how FTA formula funds and CARES and CRRSAA funds can be used to support the local vaccination efforts. The FTA recommends that recipients check with their State Office of Emergency Services to support their vaccine distribution activities. Thank you for all you do to provide essential transportation services to your communities.

Be safe, healthy.

Sincerely,

Pete

AWARDS UPDATE

TOWN OF ENFIELD MOVES
CLOSER TO TRAIN
STATION

After years of planning and hard work between the Town of Enfield, Greater Hartford Transit District, and Connecticut DOT, the Town has announced a project location and plan to construct a new permanent platform along the Hartford Line. With support from CTDOT the project location was selected in the setting where a bus turn-a-around, kiosks, parking, sidewalks, and roadway improvements can best be utilized with existing conditions. The project will utilize an existing federal earmark for transit functions supporting the upcoming train platform. [For more information on available awards including discretionary programs click here.](#)

FTA NEWS

NEW ADMINISTRATION
BEGINS TERM

Secretary Pete Buttigieg and Nuria Fernandez began their terms as Secretary of Transportation and Acting Administrator for FTA, respectively earlier this quarter. The main goals laid out by the administration include recovering from the pandemic, safety, addressing climate change, and ensuring transportation is an engine for equity.

Recent FAQ's

For what time period must a CARES Act or CRRSAA grant applicant be able to certify that it "has not furloughed any employees?"

A: To certify that a grant applicant "has not furloughed any employees," the proposed recipient—as well as its subrecipients and contractors that are providers of public transportation—cannot have furloughed any employees since March 27, 2020 (the enactment date of the CARES Act).

If a recipient (or its subrecipient or contractor that is a provider of public transportation) has previously furloughed employees but brought them back, can the recipient direct CARES Act and CRRSAA funding to expenses other than operating and payroll purposes?

A: Yes. A recipient can direct unobligated CARES Act funds and CRRSAA funds to expenses other than for operating and payroll purposes so long as both the applicant and any subrecipient or contractor that is a provider of public transportation (a) are currently not furloughing any employees; (b) have, to the maximum extent possible, brought back any previously furloughed employees as of the time of certification; and (c) have rehired or posted to rehire any positions of employees who were laid off as a result of financial difficulties caused by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

PROJECTS UPDATE

CASCO BAY BEGINS PHASE
II/III OF THE TERMINAL
RENOVATION PROJECT

Construction activities have begun on the project which includes adding a second floor to parts of the terminal allowing for higher flows of both pedestrian and freight traffic through their system. Along with the facility, the foundations of the existing pier will be strengthened and necessary work to prepare for a potential future lengthening of the pier will help modernize the system and prepare them to handle service well into the future.

Phase I was completed in August 2014 and included designing and constructing a new waiting and ticket area at their Portland facility.

The project is funded through a combination of different Federal and Local funds. [To view more projects, click here](#)

OTHER NEWS

\$180 Million Funding opportunity for Low or No Emission Program announced! Instructions for applying by the deadline of April 12, 2021 can be found on [FTA's website](#)

DISCLAIMER:

The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies. Grantees and subgrantees should refer to FTA's statutes and regulations for applicable [subject matter (i.e. Buy America, ER, Joint Development)] requirements.