



TRANSIT ASSET MANAGEMENT

TAM News

July 2023

FTA's Transit Asset Management (TAM) newsletter keeps you up to date on asset management initiatives and creates a forum for the industry to share information and learn from one another.

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Announcements

FTA Announces More Than \$700 Million in Grants to Replace Aging Passenger Railcars in Six Transit Systems: In May, [FTA](#) announced the selection of [six projects in six states](#) to replace aging passenger railcars, improving reliability, safety, and accessibility on the nation's rail transit systems. Funded by the President's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the approximately \$703 million in project selections represents first-time funding from the new [Rail Vehicle Replacement Program](#), which was created to improve safety, service, and the customer experience on subways, commuter rail, and light rail systems.

Supporting Bus Rapid Transit in Pittsburgh: In June, FTA announced a \$149.9 million construction grant award to Pittsburgh Regional Transit for the new Downtown-Uptown-Oakland bus rapid transit (BRT) line. Funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Downtown-Uptown-Oakland BRT project will provide fast, convenient transit for residents and commuters along a heavily congested corridor from Downtown Pittsburgh to Oakland.

Research Grants to Support Automated Technology to Improve Bus Safety: In June, FTA announced \$11.6 million to support [six transit bus automation research projects](#) that will improve safety, efficiency, and accessibility on the road and in bus maintenance yards. Examples of projects include strategies for avoiding collisions with pedestrians, improved emergency braking, and precision movement for bus fueling, charging, and maintenance.

FTA Announces Nearly \$1.7 Billion to Help Put Better, Cleaner Buses on the Roads in Communities Across the Country: In June, [FTA announced](#) 130 awards totaling nearly \$1.7 billion for transit projects in 46 states and territories. The funding invests in more than 1,700 American-built buses, nearly half of which will be zero-emission models. Twenty-two of the funded projects will operate with project labor agreements to ensure their efficient and timely completion, and 34 projects will offer registered apprenticeships, with supportive services such as childcare for employees. The investment is the second bus grant package funded by President Biden's signature [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#), which has now invested more than

\$3.3 billion in American transit buses and the infrastructure that supports them. Over the next three years, record funding for American transit investment will provide almost \$5 billion more.

Stay in touch with FTA's programs and initiatives by [following FTA on social media](#) or subscribing to [email updates](#).

New Resources

2023 FTA Transit Asset Management Roundtable: On Sunday, July 9, FTA hosted the 14th TAM Roundtable in Boston. The TAM Roundtable was held in conjunction with [TRB's 14th National Conference on Transportation Asset Management](#). The TAM Roundtable brought together participants from across the country who are directly involved in the management of transit capital assets. It included a [presentation](#) from FTA staff highlighting TAM program updates.

FTA TAM Program Evaluation Report: The FTA TAM Program completed a multi-year evaluation to better understand how the [TAM RULE](#) has affected the practice of transit system management and operations at transit agencies that receive federal grants or funding, as well as any changes to related activities. The report summarizes the gaps, opportunities, and lessons learned from the deployment of the TAM Rule.

Back to TAM Basics: This FTA webinar provided an [overview of the TAM Rule](#) and the elements that go into the TAM Plan. The presentation focused on providing a refresher for transit agency staff that are new to TAM and those seeking a refresher on the TAM Rule requirements.

Articles

Connecticut to Develop Unified Statewide Public Transit Information System for Mobile Devices: The [Connecticut Department of Transportation \(CTDOT\)](#) is receiving \$2 million in SMART grant funding to develop a unified, statewide public transit information system for mobile devices which will incorporate real-time arrival information for Connecticut's entire public transportation system, resulting in a better customer experience while promoting equitable access to transportation. CTDOT will use the funding to support the Connecticut Integrated Transit Mobility Project (CT-ITMP), which includes the development of a system for mobile devices that will integrate public transit information across Connecticut, while also allowing users to pay fares directly from their smartphones.

Atlanta's First Bus Rapid Transit Route to Break Ground and will operate with new electric buses: In June, officials from Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) and the city of Atlanta gathered for a ceremony to commemorate the [groundbreaking on a new bus rapid transit \(BRT\) route](#)—the first in the city. The five-mile BRT route—MARTA's first new transit line since the Sandy Springs MARTA station opened in the year 2000—will link downtown to neighborhoods such as Summerhill and Peoples town before ending near the BeltLine's Southside Trail. Along the way will be connections to MARTA's heavy rail system at Five Points, Georgia State, and Garnett Stations. About 85 percent of the corridor will have dedicated bus-only lanes with transit-signal priority, meaning buses shouldn't be bogged down in traffic and that travel times should be quicker.

Macon Transit Authority hopes to continue excellent results in electric bus fleet expansion by introducing 20 e-buses by the end of 2024: Macon Transit Authority (MTA) introduced 2 electric buses in 2020 and is on [track to have almost 20 e-buses by next year](#). In 2017, [Macon Transit Authority was notified of a \\$50 million grant by the Federal Transportation Administration](#) (FTA) to introduce electric buses. Three years later, FTA awarded the transit authority \$1.75 million to get two. By October 2020, [two electric buses hit the roads and were introduced to riders in Macon](#).

Rock Region Metro launches first five zero-emission buses and will remove the last diesel buses in its fleet from service, effectively achieving a goal to complete its transition away from diesel-fueled vehicles by the end of 2025 : [Rock Region Metro](#) has launched its first five zero-emission buses, the first in Arkansas. The 40-foot [Proterra ZX5 Max vehicles](#) will be placed in service on area streets in July following additional staff training. The buses were primarily funded by a 2021 \$4.9 million [“Shock the Rock” Federal Transit Administration 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities competitive grant](#), the agency’s largest competitive grant award to date.

Rochester (RTS) breaks ground on new bus maintenance facility: The [Rochester-Genesee Regional Transit Service \(RTS\)](#) broke ground July 21 on its new bus maintenance facility in Wyoming County, N.Y. Construction of the new facility is now underway and scheduled for completion in late summer or early fall of 2024. Ninety percent of the funding for this \$10.3 million project comes from the federal and state governments, with the remaining 10 percent covered by RTS. After completion, the facility will house nine indoor bus bays, a vehicle wash bay with an automated drive-through bus wash system, administrative office space, a break room that doubles as a training room, and designated parking.