

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Federal Transit Administration (FTA)**

**Announcement of Fiscal Year 2023 Passenger Ferry Grant Program and Ferry Services for Rural Communities Program and Project Selections**

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**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announces the award of a total of \$220,189,473, including \$50,142,032 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 and prior year funding to projects under the FY 2023 Passenger Ferry Grant Program (Passenger Ferry) and \$170,047,441 in FY 2023 funding to projects under the Ferry Service for Rural Communities Program (Rural Ferry), and provides administrative guidance on project implementation.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Successful applicants should contact the appropriate FTA Regional Office for information regarding applying for the funds or program-specific information. A list of Regional Offices can be found at [www.transit.dot.gov/](http://www.transit.dot.gov/). Unsuccessful applicants may request a proposal debriefing within 30 days of this announcement by contacting:

- For the Passenger Ferry Program: Vanessa Williams, Office of Program Management at (202) 366-4818.
- For the Rural Ferry Program: Sarah Clements, Office of Program Management at (202) 366-3062.
- Or, for either program email [FTAFerryPrograms@dot.gov](mailto:FTAFerryPrograms@dot.gov).
- A TDD is available at 1-800-877-8339 (TDD/FIRS).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Federal public transportation law (49 U.S.C. 5307(h)) authorizes FTA to make competitive grants for the Passenger Ferry Program.

Section 71103 of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) authorizes FTA to make competitive grants for the Rural Ferry Program.

Federal public transportation law (49 U.S.C. 5307(h)) authorizes \$30 million in FY 2023 for competitive grants under the Passenger Ferry Program. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 appropriated an additional \$15 million. Of that latter amount, \$5 million is available only for low or zero-emission ferries or ferries using electric battery or fuel cell components and the infrastructure to support such ferries. Additionally, \$2,149,651 remains available for allocation from the amounts made available in FY 2022 and an additional \$3,000,000 from FY 2016 is available for reallocation.

Division J of the BIL provides an advance appropriation of \$200 million annually for the Rural Ferry Program. Of that amount, \$3,980,000 is for oversight, \$20,000 is transferred to the USDOT Office of the Inspector General. Additionally, \$43,452,559 of FY 2023 funding was awarded under the FY 2022 NOFO, making \$152,547,441 available for award. Furthermore, the FY 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act appropriated an additional \$17,500,000 for the program.

On May 18, 2023, FTA published a joint Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) (88 FR 31845) announcing the availability of approximately \$50.1 million in FY 2023 and prior year Passenger Ferry Program funds and \$170 million in FY 2023 Rural Ferry Program funds. These funds will provide financial assistance to improve and expand ferry service in communities across the country, as well as accelerate the transition to low and zero emission transportation.

In response to the NOFO, FTA received 28 eligible project proposals requesting \$417,894,235. Project proposals were evaluated based on each applicant's responsiveness to the program evaluation criteria outlined in the NOFO.

Based on the criteria in the NOFO, FTA is funding seven projects, as shown in Table 1, for a total of \$50,142,032 for the Passenger Ferry Program, and six projects, as shown in Table 2, for a total of \$170,047,441 for the Rural Ferry Program. Recipients selected for competitive funding are required to work with their FTA Regional Office to submit a grant application in FTA's Transit Award Management System (TrAMS) for the projects identified in the attached table to quickly obligate funds. Grant applications must include only eligible activities applied for in the original project application. Funds must be used consistent with the competitive proposal and for the eligible capital purposes described in the NOFO.

In cases where the allocation amount is less than the proposer's total requested amount, recipients are required to fund the scalable project option as described in the application. If the award amount does not correspond to the scalable option, the recipient should work with the Regional Office to reduce scope or scale the project such that a complete phase or project is accomplished. Recipients may also provide additional local funds to complete a proposed project. A discretionary project identification number has been assigned to each project for tracking purposes and must be used in the TrAMS application.

Selected projects are eligible to incur costs under pre-award authority no earlier than the date projects were publicly announced. Pre-award authority does not guarantee that project expenses incurred prior to the award of a grant will be eligible for

reimbursement, as eligibility for reimbursement is contingent upon other requirements, such as planning and environmental requirements, having been met. For more about FTA's policy on pre-award authority, please see the current FTA Apportionments, Allocations, and Program Information at <https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/apportionments>. Post-award reporting requirements include submission of Federal Financial Reports and Milestone Progress Reports in TrAMS (see FTA Circular 5010.1). Recipients must comply with all applicable Federal statutes, regulations, executive orders, FTA circulars, and other Federal requirements in carrying out the project supported by the FTA grant. FTA emphasizes that recipients must follow all third-party procurement requirements set forth in Federal public transportation law (49 U.S.C. 5325(a)) and described in the FTA Third Party Contracting Guidance Circular (FTA Circular 4220.1). Funds allocated in this announcement must be obligated in a grant by September 30, 2029.

**TECHNICAL REVIEW AND EVALUATION SUMMARY:** The FTA assessed all project proposals that were submitted under the FY 2023 Passenger Ferry and Rural Ferry Programs competition according to the following evaluation criteria. The specific metrics for each criterion were described in the May 18, 2023, NOFO:

1. Demonstration of Need
2. Demonstration of Benefits
3. Planning/Local Prioritization
4. Local Financial Commitment
5. Project Implementation Strategy
6. Technical, Legal, and Financial Capacity

For each project, a technical review panel assigned a rating of Highly Recommended, Recommended, or Not Recommended for each of the six criteria. The technical review panel then assigned an overall rating of Highly Recommended, Recommended, Not Recommended, or Ineligible to the project proposal.

Projects were assigned a final overall rating of Highly Recommended if they were rated Highly Recommended in at least four categories overall, with no Not Recommended ratings. Projects were assigned a final overall rating of Recommended if the projects had three or more Recommended ratings and no Not Recommended ratings. Projects were assigned a rating of Not Recommended if they received a Not Recommended rating in any criteria. A summary of the final overall ratings for all 28 eligible project proposals is shown in the table below.

**Overall Project Ratings (eligible submissions):**

Highly Recommended	24
Recommended	3
Not Recommended	1
Total	28

As outlined in the NOFO, FTA made the final selections based on the technical ratings as well as geographic diversity, diversity in the size of transit systems receiving funding, and additional selection priorities including fighting climate change, the creation of good-paying jobs, Justice40, deployment of low or zero-emission ferry projects, and/or receipt of other recent competitive awards.

As further outlined in the NOFO, in some cases, due to funding limitations, proposers that were selected for funding received less than the amount originally requested.

**TABLE 1****FY 2023 PASSENGER FERRY PROJECT SELECTIONS**

<b>State</b>	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Project ID</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Award</b>
CA	Golden Gate Bridge, Highway & Transportation District	D2024-PFGP-001/D2024-PFGP-002	Replacement of the Sausalito Ferry Landing Project	\$6,000,000
CA	San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Agency	D2024-PFGP-003/D2024-PFGP-004	Modification/Retrofitting Ferry Floats and Install Batteries Project	\$15,900,000
NJ	New Jersey Transit Corporation	D2024-PFGP-005/D2024-PFGP-006	Electrification of Diesel Ferry Vessels and Installation of Charger Infrastructure Project	\$6,944,032
NJ	South Amboy, City of (Inc.)	D2024-PFGP-007	Floating Dock System Project	\$6,018,000
NY	New York City Department of Transportation	D2024-PFGP-008	The Staten Island Ferry Off-Site Large Parts Storage Facility Rehabilitation Project	\$3,000,000
NY	New York City Department of Transportation	D2024-PFGP-009	The Shoreside Rapid Charging Infrastructure to Support Zero-Emissions Operations of the Governors Island Ferry	\$7,480,000
WA	Washington State Department of Transportation, Ferries Division	D2024-PFGP-010	Vessel Passenger Space Refurbishment Project	\$4,800,000
			<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$50,142,032</b>

**TABLE 2**  
**FY 2023 RURAL FERRY PROJECT SELECTIONS**

<b>State</b>	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Project ID</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Award</b>
AK	Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities	D2024-FSRC- 001	MV Tustumena Replacement Project	\$92,786,400
AK	Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities	D2024-FSRC- 002	Alaska Marine Highway System Operations	\$38,511,041
AS	American Samoa Department of Public Works	D2024-FSRC- 003	Purchase Two Passenger Ferry Vessels	\$21,250,000
ME	Maine Department of Transportation	D2024-FSRC- 004	Lincolnville- Islesboro Ferry Terminal Upgrades	\$7,100,000
MI	Michigan Department of Transportation	D2024-FSRC- 005	Construction of a New Ferry and Dock Renovations for the Beaver Island Transportation Authority	\$10,000,000
NC	North Carolina Department of Transportation Ferry Division	D2024-FSRC- 006	Cherry Branch Maintenance Depot Planning and Design Study	\$400,000
			<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$170,047,441</b>