

# Flexible Funding for Transit Investments

## Additional Information

Transportation Planning Capacity Building  
[planning.dot.gov/flex.aspx](https://planning.dot.gov/flex.aspx)

Flex Funding  
[flexfunds@dot.gov](mailto:flexfunds@dot.gov)

FHWA Division Offices  
[fhwa.dot.gov/about/field.cfm](https://fhwa.dot.gov/about/field.cfm)

FTA Regional Offices  
[transit.dot.gov/about/regional-offices/](https://transit.dot.gov/about/regional-offices/)

## What is it?

Broad authority granted to States and MPOs to transfer transportation funds from several Federal Highway Programs to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for support of transit activities.

## Why do I need flexible funding?

- Increases pool of funding available for transit activities and projects
- Provides an integrated approach for meeting local and regional mobility needs
- Removes funding barriers to achieving more equitable and balanced transportation systems
- Supports resiliency, climate change and air quality goals
- Enables accessibility and ADA improvements to and around public transportation
- Advances implementation of Complete Streets policies, ensuring accommodation for all users
- Reduces project delivery costs through a more flexible and streamlined process
- Improves safety and security of the transit network
- Leverages a variety of formula funds for alternative financing

# Where is Flexible Funding Supporting Transit?



## Bissonnet Pedestrian Transit Improvements - Houston, TX

Flexed Surface Transportation Block Grant Program

Total cost: \$8M - 23% federal, 77% local

(Source: [The Goodman Corporation](#))

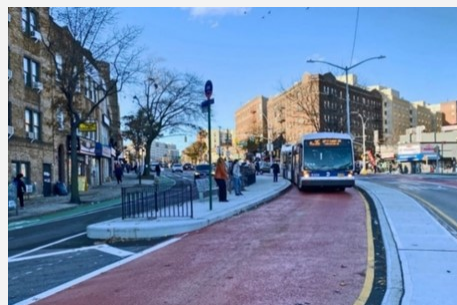


## Montague Pedestrian Overcrossing - Milpitas, CA

Flexed Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program

Total cost: \$21.7M - 49% federal, 16% state, 35% city

(Source: [Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority](#))



## Edward L Grant Highway Bus Accessibility and Ped Safety Improvements - New York, NY

Flexed Transportation Alternatives Funds

Total cost: \$614,000 - 80% federal, 10% state, 10% local

(Source: [NYC DOT](#))



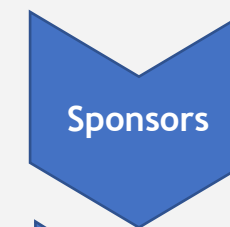
## Milford Rail Station Bike Lockers - Milford, CT

Flexed Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program

Total cost: \$70,000 - 80% CMAQ, 20% local

(Source: [Milford Transit District](#))

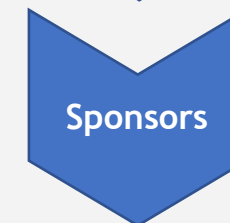
## What are the steps involved to receive flexible funds?



- Identify the transit investment need
- Develop project and submit for consideration at regional or state level



- Confirm project eligibility with FTA/FHWA
- Add project to regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) or Statewide TIP



- Initiate formal transfer process with state Department of Transportation (DOT)
- Coordinate with FTA direct recipient to add project to Program of Projects



- Approve and send request to FHWA Headquarters

**FHWA-FTA transfer funds (up to 60 days)**



- Receive funds and FTA direct recipient submits grant application
- Obligate funding and manage federal award

**Project is implemented**

- **Project Sponsors:** Develop project, support flex request, may implement the project
- **Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs):** Regional stakeholder in the flexing process
- **State DOTs:** Principal grantee for FHWA funds, must submit request to flex to FHWA Division Office
- **Transit Agencies:** May be FTA direct recipient, may directly implement projects or establish agreement with subrecipient
- **FTA:** Approves flex request, oversees flexed projects
- **FHWA:** Approves flex request, transfers obligation authority to FTA