DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

**Federal Transit Administration (FTA)** 

**Announcement of Fiscal Year 2024 All Stations Accessibility Program Project Selections** 

**DATE:** May 31, 2024.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announces the award of a total of \$343,000,000 to projects under the All Stations Accessibility Program (ASAP) 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 <a href="www.transit.dot.gov/">www.transit.dot.gov/</a>. Unsuccessful applicants may contact Ciara Williams, Office of Program Management at (202) 366-7453, email: <a href="mailto:Ciara.Williams@dot.gov">Ciara.Williams@dot.gov</a> within 30 days of this announcement to arrange a proposal debriefing. Unsuccessful applicants that received an overall rating of Highly Recommended may potentially only receive application feedback via email. A TDD is available at 1-800-877-8339 (TDD/FIRS).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Division J of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (enacted as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Pub. L. 117-58) authorizes FTA to award grants for public transportation rail station accessibility projects, for "legacy" stations, through a competitive process, as described in the notice. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law appropriated \$350 million for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 grants.

On November 30, 2023, FTA published a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) (88 FR 83597) announcing the availability of \$343 million in FY 2024 ASAP funding after the administrative oversight and the Office of Inspector General takedown of \$7 million. These funds will help finance

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capital projects to upgrade the accessibility of legacy rail fixed guideway public transportation systems (e.g., subway, commuter rail, light rail) for persons with disabilities, including those who use wheelchairs, by increasing the number of existing stations or facilities, such as outdoor light-rail boarding and alighting areas, that are fully accessible.

In response to the NOFO, FTA received 17 eligible project proposals requesting approximately \$1.1 billion in ASAP funding. 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 8 projects, as shown in Table 1, for a total of \$343,000,000. 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 or as agreed upon in communications with FTA. 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 consistent with the statutory requirements of the program is accomplished. Recipients may also provide additional local funds to complete a proposed project. All stations for which ASAP funding is used to implement upgrades must be made so that all passenger-use publicly accessible areas in the station(s) or facilities for passenger use meet or exceed the standards for new construction under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12131 et seq.) as incorporated into

Appendix A of 49 CFR part 37, regardless of whether a recipient has been allocated the total requested amount or an amount less than the total requested amount.

For recipients that were allocated ASAP funds to upgrade multiple stations, recipients may obligate a portion of the allocated funds in order to facilitate expedited work on a subset of stations included in its competitive application.

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 on May 28, 2024. 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 <a href="https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/apportionments">https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/apportionments</a>. Post-award reporting requirements include submission of Federal Financial Reports and Milestone Progress Reports in TrAMS (see FTA Circular 5010.1E). 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, 2027.

**TECHNICAL REVIEW AND EVALUATION SUMMARY:** The FTA assessed all project proposals that were submitted under the FY 2024 All Stations Accessibility Program competition according to the following evaluation criteria. The specific metrics for each criterion were described in the November 30, 2024, 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 18 eligible project proposals is shown in the table below.

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

Highly Recommended 8

Recommended 7

Not Recommended 1

Ineligible 1

Total 17

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, Administration priorities including Justice40 and the creation of good-paying jobs and/or a 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 2024 ALL STATIONS ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT SELECTIONS

State	Recipient	Project ID	Project Description	Allocation
CA	San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency	D2024- ASAP- 001	Muni Light Rail System Accessibility Improvement Project	\$4,687,612
LA	New Orleans Regional Transit Authority	D2024- ASAP- 002	Unlimited Streetcar Access Upgrades	\$5,492,524
MA	Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority	D2024- ASAP- 003	Green Line Accessibility Improvements Project	\$67,609,672
MD	Maryland Department of Transportation/Maryland Transit Administration	D2024- ASAP- 004	College Park MARC Station 30% Design and NEPA Project	\$1,395,330
NJ	New Jersey Transit Corporation	D2024- ASAP- 005	Brick Church Station Modernization Project	\$83,311,809
NY	New York State Metropolitan Transportation Authority	D2024- ASAP- 006	NY MTA ADA Accessibility at Five Transit Stations in Bronx/Manhattan	\$156,503,053
ОН	Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority	D2024- ASAP- 007	Blue Line Light Rail ADA Station Rehabilitation Project	\$16,000,000
PA	Pittsburgh Regional Transit	D2024- ASAP- 008	Pittsburgh Regional Transit ADA System Access Program - Low Level Red Line Stations Phase 1 Continuation	\$8,000,000