

## **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

### **Federal Transit Administration (FTA)**

#### **Announcement of Fiscal Year 2024 Passenger Ferry Grant Program, Electric or Low-Emitting Ferry Pilot 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 \$299,339,723, including \$56,303,227 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 and prior year funding to projects under the FY 2024 Passenger Ferry Grant Program (Passenger Ferry); \$49,000,000 under the Electric or Low-Emitting Ferry Pilot Program (Low-No Ferry); and \$194,036,496 in FY 2024 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 and Low-No Ferry programs: 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).

Unsuccessful applicants that received an overall rating of Highly Recommended may potentially only receive feedback via email.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Federal public transportation law (49 U.S.C. 5307(h)) authorizes FTA to make competitive grants for the Passenger Ferry Program. Section 71102 of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) (enacted as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Pub. L. 117-58) authorizes FTA to make competitive grants for the Low-No 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 2024 for competitive grants under the Passenger Ferry Program. The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (Pub. L. 118-42) made an additional \$20 million available, of which at least \$5 million must be for low or zero-emission ferries and related infrastructure. The Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (Pub. L. 118-47) made an additional \$1 million available. Combined with available prior year Passenger Ferry funds of \$5,880,601, a total of \$56,880,601 is available for the Passenger Ferry Program in FY 2024.

Division J of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) provides an advance appropriation of \$50 million in FY 2024 funds for competitive grants under the Low-No Ferry Program. Of that amount, \$995,000 is for FTA oversight, \$5,000 is transferred to the DOT Office of Inspector General (OIG), and \$49 million is available for award.

Division J of the BIL provides an advance appropriation of \$200 million in FY 2024 funds for the Rural Ferry Program. Of that amount, \$3,980,000 is for FTA

oversight, and \$20,000 is transferred to the U.S. Department of Transportation Office of the Inspector General. The FY 2024 Consolidated Appropriations Act appropriated an additional \$20 million for the program.

On April 17, 2024, FTA published a joint Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) (89 FR 27486) announcing the availability of approximately \$51 million in FY 2024 Passenger Ferry funds, \$49 million in Low-No Ferry funds and \$216 million in Rural Ferry funds. Consistent with the NOFO, which stated that FTA “may award additional funding made available to the program prior to the announcement of project selections,” FTA is electing to allocate available prior year funds for the Passenger Ferry program in this funding opportunity. 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 43 eligible project proposals requesting \$638,711,077. 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 eight projects, as shown in Table 1, for a total of \$56,303,227 for the Passenger Ferry Program, six projects, as shown in Table 2, for a total of \$49,000,000 for the Low-No Ferry Program, and four projects, as shown in Table 3, for a total of \$194,036,496 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.

Except for continuations of projects previously funded under the Rural Ferry Program, selected projects are eligible to incur costs under pre-award authority no earlier than the date projects were publicly announced, September 16, 2024. For projects selected under the FY 2022 and FY 2023 Rural Ferry Program, pre-award authority is only permissible for activities included and approved in the application submitted for those competitions. 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 2024 Passenger Ferry, Low-No Ferry, and Rural Ferry Programs competition according to the following evaluation criteria. The specific metrics for each criterion were described in the April 17, 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 43 eligible project proposals is shown in the table below.

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

Highly Recommended	29
Recommended	11
Not Recommended	3
Total	43

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 2024 PASSENGER FERRY PROJECT SELECTIONS**

[Note: Some projects have multiple project IDs]

<b>State</b>	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Project ID</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Award</b>
FL	Jacksonville Transportation Authority	D2024-PFGP-101 / D2024-PFGP-102	St. Johns River Ferry Regional Connectivity Project	\$15,600,000
LA	Plaquemines Port Harbor & Terminal District	D2024-PFGP-103	Ferry Service Infrastructure Improvements	\$4,732,022
MA	Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority / City of Quincy MA	D2024-PFGP-104	Squantum Point Park Passenger Ferry Pier Upgrade	\$4,224,246
NJ	NJ Transit	D2024-PFGP-105	Construction of a new Wave Attenuator for the NYWW Weehawken Ferry Maintenance	\$6,328,309
NY	County of Suffolk, NY, Department of Public Works	D2024-PFGP-106	Cross Sound Ferry Service Terminal Rehabilitation Project	\$1,120,000
NY	New York City Department of Transportation	D2024-PFGP-107 / D2024-PFGP-108	Staten Island Passenger Bus Ramp and Chiller Upgrades St. George Terminal	\$5,750,000
VA	Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation	D2024-PFGP-109	Jamestown Scotland Ferry Facility Rehabilitation Project (Phase II) Revised	\$5,048,650
WA	Kitsap County Public Transportation Benefit Area Authority	D2024-PFGP-110 / D2024-PFGP-111	Kitsap Transit Fast Ferry Passenger-Only Vessel Replacement	\$13,500,000
			<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$56,303,227</b>

**TABLE 2****FY 2024 ELECTRIC/LOW-EMITTING PROJECT SELECTIONS**

<b>State</b>	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Project ID</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Award</b>
CA	Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District	D2024-ELFP-101	Golden Gate Bridge Ferry Vessel Replacement Del Norte II	\$4,900,000
CA	San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority	D2024-ELFP-102	Construction of Two (2) 149-Passenger Electric Ferry Vessels	\$11,514,000
DE	Delaware River and Bay Authority	D2024-ELFP-103	Transitioning the CMLF fleet to a low-carbon future: Vessel 1 of 3	\$20,000,000
GA	Chatham Area Transit	D2024-ELFP-104	Savannah Belles Marine EV Charging Stations	\$691,000
IL	Rock Island County Metropolitan Mass Transit District	D2024-ELFP-105	Expansion & Electrification of MetroLINK's Bi-State Passenger Ferryboat Network	\$8,000,000
MD	Anne Arundel County, Maryland	D2024-ELFP-106	Anne Arundel Electric Ferry Program	\$3,895,000
			<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$49,000,000</b>

**TABLE 3****FY 2024 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-101	Replacement of the M/V Tustumena Vessel Serving Rural Southwest Alaska	\$106,418,096
AK	Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities	D2024-FSRC-102	Restoring the Health of the Alaska Marine Highway System for Sustainable Operations to Rural Communities	\$66,050,400
AK	Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities	D2024-FSRC-103	Deploying Systemwide WiFi to Benefit Transit Passengers and Operations	\$5,000,000
ME	Maine Department of Transportation	D2024-FSRC-104	Lincolnton/Islesboro Ferry Terminal Upgrades Phase Two	\$16,568,000
			<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$194,036,496</b>