



TRANSIT ASSET MANAGEMENT

TAM News

December 2024

Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) 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

Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$5.1 Million to the University of Cincinnati to Improve, Accelerate Transit Construction Projects

FTA announced that the University of Cincinnati will receive approximately \$5.1 million to [promote the adoption of digital platforms](#) that speed up and improve the delivery of transit construction projects while reducing costs. Many transit agencies have implemented elements of construction management, such as asset management systems, but few have adopted a fully integrated solution to track all phases of an infrastructure project. With the funding, University of Cincinnati faculty will produce a best practices guide to help transit agencies plan and deploy advanced digital construction management solutions.

Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$85 Million to Build Faster, Greener, More Reliable Public Transit in Rochester, Minnesota

FTA announced an \$84.9 million grant award to the city of Rochester, Minnesota, to [build faster, more reliable, all-electric bus service](#). The Link Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project will vastly improve the travel experience for riders along Rochester's 2nd Street SW corridor, one of the city's most heavily traveled roads. The Link will feature 12 all-electric buses. Federal support for the Link BRT, which is estimated to cost \$161.5 million, comes from FTA's Capital Investment Grants (CIG) program, which helps communities carry out transformational transit projects.

Upcoming Events

TAM Webinar: Resource Updates and Learning Opportunities: On Tuesday, December 10, at 3 p.m. ET, FTA is hosting a webinar to discuss the latest updates on TAM Program resources, a sneak peek into peer program activities, and insights on a National Transit Database (NTD) narrative report analysis. The webinar will be led by Tamalynn Kennedy, TAM

Program Manager, and feature speaker Mohammed Abdul Karim, TBP ORISE Fellow. [Register](#).

TRB Annual Meeting 2025: The [TRB Annual Meeting](#) will take place in Washington, DC, January 5-9, 2025. The meeting is an opportunity to network with fellow transportation peers, learn about innovative research, and see what's coming next for the industry. [Register](#).

National Transit Institute TAM Lifecycle Management Training: Stay tuned for the upcoming 2025 sessions of National Transit Institute's (NTI) *Introduction to Transit Asset Management* and *Enhancing Your Transit Asset Management Program with Lifecycle Management* trainings. Check [NTI's website for course details](#).

New Resources

TAMPLATE New Functionality: [TAM Planning Asset Template \(TAMPLATE\)](#) is provided as a tool to assist transit providers and group plan sponsors in developing their TAM Plans according to best practice and in alignment with requirements of FTA's Final Rule on Transit Asset Management (49 CFR Part 625). New functionality allows more than one user to edit a single TAM Plan and allows users to share their plan with stakeholders/executives. The updated user manual will be made available soon.

State of the Practice Report: Nine agencies participated in a technical assistance pilot project to identify and evaluate asset management processes and promote best practices as part of a voluntary review of recipients' TAM programs. The review included TAM plans and implementation of those plans for transit agencies and TAM plan group sponsors. A summary report of the pilot will be published on the TAM website soon.

Technical Assistance Opportunity: FTA will introduce a new technical assistance opportunity in January 2025. Agencies can volunteer to participate in an assessment of their TAM practices by the FTA's TAM Program and receive a summary report with ratings and recommendations for improvements. Selected agencies must provide documentation for review and have various departments participate in information-seeking interviews. Registration information will be provided through FTA's GovDelivery e-mail subscription service; sign up for the TAM and SGR subscriber groups [using this link](#) to ensure you will receive TAM Program announcements.

NTD Narrative Template: In October 2024, FTA published an [updated NTD Narrative Template](#) to help agencies complete an annual narrative report to NTD describing changes to asset condition from the previous year and detailing progress to meet performance targets set in the previous year. While there is no specific format requirement, [this resource](#) provides an example format for the narrative report.

Articles

Ohio: Greater Cleveland RTA's Plan to Replace Old Buses by Adding New Ones With \$4.2M Funding: The Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority has been awarded \$4.2 million in funding from the Ohio Department of Transportation's Urban Transit Program to [purchase 40 buses, including new 40-foot CNG \(compressed natural gas\) buses](#).

Nebraska: Lincoln Unveils New Compressed Natural Gas Fueling Station for Public Transit: Lincoln officials unveiled a [new \\$6.3 million compressed natural gas \(CNG\) fueling](#)

[station](#), a project expected to save the city thousands of dollars while increasing daily service for StarTran riders. The upgraded facility, which is 15 times larger than the previous site in northeast Lincoln, allows StarTran to reduce fueling time from 45 to 10 minutes per bus.

Massachusetts: Orange Line Now Without Slow Zones for the First Time in 15 Years, MBTA Says: The Orange Line is [running free of slow zones](#) for the first time in 15 years. This announcement followed several days of “critical” Orange Line shutdowns. Announced last year, the T’s Track Improvement Program has used periodic shutdowns to repair and replace tracks across each subway line, with a goal of eliminating all speed restrictions by year’s end. Data underscores the agency’s success so far; while the MBTA’s subway system had 191 restrictions in early November 2023, it’s now down to just seven.

California: LA Metro Awards Full Funding to Extend Light-Rail Line Into San Bernardino County: LA Metro awarded \$798 million to [build a short but historic A \(Gold\) Line extension](#) from Pomona to Claremont and Montclair, the first time the agency funded the construction of a light-rail train line across county lines. It’s expected to draw thousands of commuters between the two counties and reduce car trips on the 210, 10 and 60 freeways.

Texas: CapMetro to Build Second Set of Train Tracks in East Austin: Capital Metro is planning to [build a second set of train tracks](#) along the Red Line in East Austin along with new sidewalks, pedestrian crossings and another platform at Plaza Saltillo Station. A second set of tracks — known as a double-track — can improve the frequency and reliability of train service by allowing trains to travel in both directions at the same time. CapMetro won an \$18 million RAISE grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund more than half of the \$32.2 million project cost.