

Chambers, Blair

From: Chambers, Blair
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2023 11:23 AM
To: Chambers, Blair
Cc: NCDOT - Integrated Mobility Division; White, Julie A (NCDOT)
Subject: FY23 Low or No Emission Grant Program & the Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program Survey of Interest

Dear Transit Partners,

On January 27, 2023, FTA [announced](#) the [availability](#) of nearly \$1.7 billion in Fiscal Year 2023 funding to support state and local efforts to buy or modernize buses, improve bus facilities, and support workforce development. You can access the FY 2023 Low or No Emission Grant Program and the Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program NOFO here: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2023-01-27/pdf/2023-01654.pdf>. We have created a survey to gauge interest within NCDOT's subrecipients who have strong projects that fit the eligibility requirements of this grant. If you are interested in submitting for this opportunity and meet the criteria, please click on the link below and submit your project to us by **Close of Business on Wednesday, February 15th**.

It is highly recommended that applicants review the NOFO 'Review and Selection Process' section to gain an understanding of how FTA will prioritize projects to help determine the best projects to submit for this grant opportunity. See Federal Register / Vol. 88, No. 18 / Friday, January 27, 2023 / Notices 5407.

[5339 \(b\) & \(c\) Survey of Interest - 2023](#)

From the NOFO:

The Department seeks to fund projects under the Low-No and the Buses and Bus Facilities Programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation sector; incorporate evidence-based climate resilience measures and features; avoid adverse environmental impacts to air or water quality, wetlands, and endangered species; and address the disproportionate negative environmental impacts of transportation on disadvantaged communities, consistent with Executive Order 14008, Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad (86 FR 7619).

In addition, the Department seeks to award projects under the Low-No and the Buses and Bus Facilities Programs that proactively evaluate whether a project will create proportional impacts to all populations in a project area and increase equitable access to project benefits, consistent with Executive Order 13985, Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government (86 FR 7009).

The Department also seeks to award projects that address equity and environmental justice, particularly for communities that have experienced decades of underinvestment and are most impacted by climate change, pollution, and environmental hazards, consistent with Executive Order 14008, Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad (86 FR 7619).

In addition, the Department intends to use the Low-No and the Buses and Bus Facilities programs to support the creation of good-paying jobs with the free and fair choice to join a union and the incorporation of strong labor standards and training and placement programs, especially registered apprenticeships, in project planning stages, consistent with Executive Order 14025, Worker Organizing and Empowerment (86 FR 22829), and Executive Order 14052, Implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (86 FR 64335).

The Department also intends to use the Low-No and the Buses and Bus Facilities programs to support wealth creation, consistent with the Department's Equity Action Plan, through the inclusion of local inclusive economic development and entrepreneurship such as the utilization of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, Minority-owned Businesses, Women-owned Businesses, or 8(a) firms.

Summary:

The purpose of the Low-No Program is to support the transition of the nation's transit fleet to the lowest polluting and most energy efficient transit vehicles. The Low-No Program provides funding to state and local governmental authorities for the purchase or lease of zero-emission and low-emission transit buses, including acquisition, construction, and leasing of required supporting facilities.

The purpose of the Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program is to assist in the financing of buses and bus facilities capital projects, including replacing, rehabilitating, purchasing or leasing buses or related equipment, and rehabilitating, purchasing, constructing or leasing bus-related facilities.

Additionally, recipients are permitted to use up to 0.5 percent of their requested grant award for workforce development activities eligible under federal public transportation law (49 U.S.C. 5314(b)) and an additional 0.5 percent for costs associated with training at the National Transit Institute. For applicants proposing projects related to zero-emission vehicles for either program, 5 percent of the requested federal award must be used for workforce development activities.

Eligible Applicants:

The Low-No Program provides funds to designated recipients of FTA grants, including states, local governmental authorities, and Indian Tribes.

The Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program provides funds to designated recipients that allocate funds to fixed-route bus operators, states, or local governmental authorities that operate fixed- route bus service, and Indian tribes.

Eligible Activities:

Low-No Program - Eligible projects include:

- purchasing or leasing low- or no-emission buses
- acquiring low- or no-emission buses with a leased power source
- constructing or leasing facilities and related equipment (including intelligent technology and software) for low- or no-emission buses
- constructing new public transportation facilities to accommodate low- or no-emission buses
- rehabilitating or improving existing public transportation facilities to accommodate low- or no-emission buses
- Additionally 0.5% of a request may be for workforce development training and an additional 0.5% may be for training at the National Transit Institute (NTI). Applicants proposing any project related to zero-emission vehicles must also spend 5% of their award on workforce development and training as outlined in their Zero-Emission Transition Plan, unless the applicant certifies that their financial need is less.

Bus & Bus Facilities Program - Capital projects to replace, rehabilitate and purchase buses, vans, and related equipment, and to construct bus-related facilities, including technological changes or innovations to modify low or no emission vehicles or facilities. Additionally, 0.5% of a request may be for workforce development training, and an additional 0.5% may be for training at the National Transit Institute. Applicants proposing any project related to zero-emission vehicles must also spend 5% of their award on workforce development and training as outlined in their Zero-Emission Transition Plan, unless the applicant certifies that their financial need is less.

Match:

Low-No Program - All eligible expenses under the Low-No Program are attributable to compliance with the Clean Air Act and/or the Americans with Disabilities Act. Therefore, the Federal share of the cost of leasing or purchasing a transit bus is not to exceed 85 percent of the total transit bus cost. The federal share in the cost of leasing or acquiring low- or no-

emission bus-related equipment and facilities is 90 percent of the net project cost. Applicants must identify these specific activities in their application in order to receive this increased federal share.

Bus & Bus Facilities Program - The federal share of eligible capital costs is 80 percent of the net capital project cost, unless the grant recipient requests a lower percentage. The Federal share may exceed 80 percent for certain projects related to the ADA and the Clean Air Act. All low-no emission projects are attributable to compliance with the Clean Air Act and/or the Americans with Disabilities Act. Therefore, the Federal share of the cost of leasing or purchasing a low or no emission transit bus is not to exceed 85 percent of the total transit bus cost. The federal share in the cost of leasing or acquiring low- or no-emission bus-related equipment and facilities is 90 percent of the net project cost. Applicants must identify these specific activities in their application in order to receive this increased federal share.

Timothy Blair Chambers, Jr.
Compliance & Procurement Branch Manager
Integrated Mobility Division
North Carolina Department of Transportation

919 707 4693 (office)
984 218 7833 (cell)
tbchambers@ncdot.gov

Mail Service Center 1550
Raleigh, NC 27699-1550
1 S Wilmington Street, Room 549
Raleigh, NC 27601-1550



Email correspondence to and from this address is subject to the North Carolina Public Records Law and may be disclosed to third parties.

Email correspondence to and from this sender is subject to the N.C. Public Records Law and may be disclosed to third parties.