

Call for Projects - Residual 5303 Funding Fact Sheet (SFY26)

Purpose

Residual Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5303 Program funding will be awarded to eligible transit planning projects aiming to support ridership, invest in multimodal communities and improve community resilience. Project proposals will focus on planning public-facing transit-related benefits, increasing mobility, and delivering long-term value for Tennesseans.

The funds awarded in this Call for Projects are a distribution of residual funds. Residual funds distributed as part of this Call for Projects will not impact related annual formula allocations of funding. This Call for Projects is not designed as a recurring program.

Eligible Applicants

5303: Metropolitan Planning Organizations, in partnership with FTA Section 5307 Direct Recipients

Eligible Projects

- Strategic Planning
- Comprehensive Operational Analysis
- Systems Planning, Corridor-level Alternatives Analysis, or Network Redesign
- Transit Needs Assessments
- Fare Structure Analysis
- Transit-oriented Development (TOD) Planning
- Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Planning
- Feasibility Studies for New Transit Service, including Service Plan Development
- Planning and Design for Capital Projects, including:
 - Bus Rapid Transit and Fixed Guideway Stations
 - Transit Centers
 - Mobility Hubs, providing access for various modes of transportation and including curb management delineating how each mode accesses facilities
 - Transfer Point and Bus Stop Improvements
 - Transit Fueling and Electric Charging Stations
 - Multimodal Infrastructure Improving Access to Facilities, including Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements
 - Other Strategic Capital and Facility Projects

Residual 5303 funds are not eligible for agency staffing expenses

Available Funds

5303: Up to \$700,000 in SFY2026

\$250,000 maximum award per project

Minimum Local Match Requirements

5303: Federal – 80%, State – 10%, Local – 10%

Regulatory Requirements

Agencies are required to comply with all state and applicable federal procurement rules and requirements.

Project Selection

Project proposals will be considered for the limited residual funds available. TDOT will consider the following evaluation criteria, geographic distribution, and agency type. Evaluation factors include:

Transit Ridership and Mobility (0 - 50 points)

Applicants can address this goal with planning projects that aim to provide:

- Improved network design and frequency of service
- Transit priority in the roadway network, such as dedicated transit lanes or traffic signal pre-emption
- Integration of various transportation modes at transit centers, mobility hubs, transfer centers, and transit stops to improve transit access
- Improvements to the rider experience, such as stop improvements and amenities, real time arrival and bus capacity information, and integrated fare systems
- Long-term planning that allows strategic, targeted, and phased investment in capital and operating projects that will improve mobility for transit riders

Community Resilience (0 - 25 points)

Projects can address this goal by specifically incorporating:

- Transportation demand management, including strategies for mode shift and vehicle miles traveled reductions
- Transit-oriented development
- Energy efficiency, fuel use reduction and cleaner fuel sources
- Resilience to natural disasters and climate change impacts (flooding, pandemics, heat)
- Other environmental mitigation strategies

Local Participation and Coordination (0 - 25 points)

Applicants can address this goal by supporting the application with:

- Letter of support from relevant transit agency (required for 5303 funding)
- Evidence that project that emerged from community comprehensive, transportation or long-range plans
- Evidence that project used or will use public involvement to identify needs and develop projects
- Letters of support from community and rider organizations