



SFY21 IMPROVE Act Transit Investment Grant Program Fact Sheet

Program Purpose

The IMPROVE Act Transit Capital Grant program invests in transit projects and improvements that support ridership, congestion relief, local economies and community resilience. Competitive projects will focus on providing public-facing benefits, increasing mobility, and delivering long-term value for Tennesseans.

Eligible Applicants

Public transit providers currently receiving FTA 5307 or 5311 program funds are eligible.

Eligible Projects

- Bus Rapid Transit and Fixed Guideway Stations
- Bus Stop & Right of Way (ROW) Improvements, including Network Redesign Investments
- ROW Acquisition for Transit and Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Projects
- Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) and Technology
- Passenger Amenity Projects
- Transit Centers
- Transit Fueling and Electric Charging Stations
- Rolling Stock and Associated Equipment
- Planning
- Park and Ride Lots
- Other Strategic Capital and Facility Projects

Minimum Local Match Requirements

State – 75%, Local – 25%

Program Requirements

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

Agencies may wish to partner with regional stakeholders or participate in a statewide, joint procurement. Joint procurements between eligible applicants are now allowed and encouraged.

Available Funds

\$21 million in SFY2021

Maximum Annual Project Award - \$3 million

Multi-Year Projects are Eligible

budget and awards contingent upon TDOT's approved budget by TN General Assembly and Governor

Project Selection

Annual program funds are awarded through a competitive selection process. TDOT considers the following evaluation criteria, geographic distribution, and agency type. Evaluation factors include:

Transit Ridership and Mobility (0 - 30 points)

Projects can address this goal with tangible improvements to:

- Network designs and frequency
- Service, travel time and reliability
- Customer satisfaction, such as real time arrival/bus capacity information
- Access to transit, including bicycle and pedestrian improvements
- Stop improvements and amenities
- Multimodal facilities and mobility hubs
- Integrated fare systems

Economic Development (0 - 15 points)

Projects can address this goal with tangible improvements to:

- Transit oriented development
- Built environment improvements that create and retain jobs
- Bus Rapid Transit roadway investments
- Comprehensive and land use plan implementation

Community Resilience (0 - 15 points)

Projects can address this goal by specifically addressing:

- Social and environmental justice
- Energy efficiency and fuel use reductions
- Cleaner fuel sources
- Other environmental impact of transit service and facilities (including LEED certified buildings)
- Resilience to natural disasters and climate change impacts (flooding, pandemics, heat)

Project Readiness (0 - 15 points)

- Comprehensive project timeline
- Comprehensive project budget and independent cost estimates
- Anticipated method of procurement outlined
- Demonstrated ability to meet project deadlines, milestones, & deliverables for previously awarded projects
(if applicable)

Local planning and support (0 - 15 points)

- Match exceeds minimum
- Letters of support from local agencies and rider organizations
- Project emerged from local strategic plans, capital plans
- Public outreach used to identify and develop the project

Economically Distressed Area (0 - 5 points)

- Located in or serves one or more distressed county and opportunity zone. Distressed areas must make up 25% or more of the project area or population base to obtain points.

Compliance Status (0 - 5 points)