



SFY22 IMPROVE Act Transit Investment Grant Program Fact Sheet

Program Purpose

The IMPROVE Transit Investment Grant program invests in transit projects and improvements that support ridership, congestion relief, local economies and demonstrated benefits to safety. Competitive projects will focus on providing a positive impact on system performance, increasing mobility, and delivering long-term value for Tennesseans.

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.

Eligible Applicants

Public transit providers currently receiving FTA 5307 or 5311 funds are eligible. Agencies must be in good standing with the Tennessee Department of Transportation and Federal Transit Administration

Eligible Projects

- Transit Centers, Maintenance, and Storage Facilities
- 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
- Park and Ride Lots
- Other Strategic Capital and Facility Projects

Available Funds

\$21 million in SFY2022
 Maximum Annual Project Award - \$3 million
 Multi-Year Projects are Eligible

Minimum Local Match Requirements

State – 75%, Local – 25%

Project Selection

Annual program funds are awarded using a competitive process. TDOT will organize applications into categories based on project character, including Rolling Stock, Infrastructure (Passenger-Facing), Facilities, and Technology. Projects will be assessed using evaluation criteria specific to the project type with weighting differentiated by category. In addition to the criteria below, awards will consider geographic distribution and agency type.

	Project Readiness	Local Planning & Support	Safety / State of Good Repair	Operational Improvement	Ridership & Mobility	Economic Development	Economically Distressed Areas
Rolling Stock	15	15	50	20	-	-	+10
Infrastructure	15	15	10	-	40	20	+10
Facilities	15	15	30	30	10	-	+10
Technology	15	15	30	10	30	-	+10

Description of Scoring Criteria

Criteria for All Project Types

Project Readiness

Applications that score well in this category will include:

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

Local Planning & Support

Applications that score well in this category will include:

- Evidence that project emerged from local strategic plans, capital plans, or other planning processes, and documentation of these processes is included in the application packet
- Letters of support from local agencies and organizations

Safety & State of Good Repair

Applications that score well in this category will consider:

- Transit system safety
- Replacing vehicles that have met useful life
- System reliability improvements
- Implementation of Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan Targets

Economically Distressed Areas

- Projects located in or serving one or more distressed county will receive bonus points additional to the base criteria. Distressed areas must make up 25% or more of the project area/population base to obtain points.

Criteria for Specific Project Types

Operational Improvement (Rolling Stock, Facilities, Technology)

Projects can address this goal with improvements that:

- Improve efficiency of operations
- Address demonstrated, existing operational challenges
- Provide new options for operations, including energy efficiency and fuel use reductions

Transit Ridership and Mobility (Infrastructure, Facilities, Technology)

Projects can address this goal with tangible improvements to or investments in:

- Transit stop improvements and amenities that improve the rider experience
- Customer satisfaction, such as real time arrival/bus capacity information
- Transit-oriented development
- Integrated fare systems
- Access to transit, including bicycle and pedestrian improvements
- Other improvements that attract riders and increase system-wide access

Economic Development (Infrastructure)

Projects can address this goal by demonstrating the impact of the project on:

- Long-term land-use to improve economic output in the area
- Job Growth and employee development
- Travel times, costs, and economic productivity