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# Biden-Harris Administration Announces Nearly \$1.7 Billion to Help Put Better, Cleaner Buses on the Roads in Communities Across the Country

Monday, June 26, 2023

*Beyond Cleaner Buses, Grant Winners Invest in America's Workers with Strong Labor Provisions*

WASHINGTON – Today, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced 130 awards totaling nearly \$1.7 billion from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for transit projects in 46 states and territories. This funding invests in more than 1,700 American-built buses that will be manufactured with American parts and labor. Nearly half of these buses will be zero-emission models, bringing the total number of zero-emission transit buses funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law over two years to more than 1,800 – and more than doubling the number of zero-emission transit buses on America's roadways. Many of the grant recipients have pledged to buy standardized buses and vans and avoid customization, which will result in faster delivery and lower costs.

In addition to investing in the future of transit, the awards announced today also invest in America's workers. Twenty-two of the funded projects will operate with project labor agreements to ensure their efficient and timely completion, and 34 projects have committed to the gold standard model of registered apprenticeship, with supportive services such as childcare for employees. In addition, the zero-emission bus grants include millions of dollars in funding for workforce programs that will train today's internal combustion mechanics to become tomorrow's electric motor technicians and the projects will include millions of dollars in funding for workforce programs that help transition today's diesel mechanics to tomorrow's electric motor technicians. The awards announced today are part of President Biden's Investing in America agenda, which is rebuilding our nation's infrastructure and creating a manufacturing and innovation boom powered by good-paying jobs that grow the American economy from the bottom up and middle out.

"Every day, over 60,000 buses in communities of all sizes take millions of Americans to work, school, and everywhere else they need to go," said **U.S.**

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**Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg.** "Today's announcement means more clean buses, less pollution, more jobs in manufacturing and maintenance, and better commutes for families across the country."

Today's investment is the second bus grant package funded by President Biden's signature [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#), which has now invested more than \$3.3 billion in American transit buses and the infrastructure that supports them. Over the next three years, record funding for American transit investment secured under President Biden's leadership will provide almost \$5 billion more.

"Today, we are creating new opportunities to dramatically improve the lives of millions of Americans who ride on buses every day," said **FTA Administrator Nuria Fernandez**. "Thanks to the President's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, these grants will help deliver a cleaner and more modern mode of transportation, designed to reach everyone, and to work for everyone, particularly in places that haven't received enough resources in the past."

Federal support for bus projects over the last several years has been instrumental in moving people and helping communities advance toward their climate goals. For example, Sun Tran in Tucson added five electric buses in 2021 with help from an FTA bus grant. The agency now has 10 electric buses on the road and plans to transition to a fully zero-emission fleet by 2050. By replacing diesel buses, Sun Tran has decreased greenhouse gas emissions by nearly 230,000 pounds per year and reduced noise pollution.

Examples of projects selected to receive FY 2023 funding include:

- **The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)** will receive \$104 million to convert its Lorton, VA, bus garage to a fully electric facility, buy approximately 100 battery-electric buses, and develop a workforce training program for drivers, mechanics, and first responders to ensure safe and efficient operations of the fleet. This project will support WMATA's plans to accelerate its transition to a 100-percent zero-emission bus fleet and create good paying construction jobs, which will be supported through a project labor agreement and registered apprenticeships.
- **King County Metro Transit in Seattle, Washington** will receive \$33.5 million to buy approximately 30 battery-electric buses and charging equipment and train workers to maintain the electric fleet. The project will convert 27 bus routes that serve low-income areas and expand Metro's apprenticeship program, including promoting transit careers for residents in underserved communities.
- **The Ohio Department of Transportation** will receive \$29.3 million to help 10 transit agencies serving both rural and urban communities buy dozens of low- or no-emission buses that will replace older vehicles. The agencies will expand their fleets to support essential services, train workers in good-quality careers, and begin the decarbonization transition for several of Ohio's major transit systems. The new battery electric, CNG, and propane powered buses supported by this grant will provide better reliability, improve air quality, and lower maintenance costs across the state.

- **Iowa City, Iowa** will receive nearly \$23.3 million to buy four electric buses to replace older diesel vehicles that have exceeded their useful life and to replace its operations and maintenance facility, originally constructed in the 1980s. The project will improve transit system conditions, create more reliable and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- **The Seneca Nation of Indians in Western New York** will receive nearly \$6 million to replace an outdated maintenance facility with a new building that will serve as an operations hub for the Seneca Nation Department of Transportation, including the Seneca Transit System (STS). The building, which will allow STS to store and maintain transit buses, will serve as the jumping-off point for services in five New York counties.

See all Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 projects [here](#), and learn more in our [data visualization tool](#) .

The projects announced today are supported by FTA's [Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities](#) and [Low- and No-Emission \(Low-No\) Vehicle](#) programs. The Buses and Bus Facilities program provides federal funding for transit agencies to buy and rehabilitate buses and vans and build and modernize bus facilities. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides nearly \$2 billion through FY 2026 for the program. For FY 2023, approximately \$473 million for grants was available under this program.

FTA's Low-No program makes funding available to help transit agencies buy or lease American-built low- or zero-emission vehicles, including buses and vans; make facility and station upgrades to accommodate low- or zero-emission vehicles; and purchase supporting equipment like chargers for battery electric vehicles. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides \$5.5 billion through FY 2026 for the Low-No Program – more than six times greater than the previous five years of funding combined. For FY 2023, approximately \$1.22 billion was available for grants under this program.

For recipients of funding for zero-emission projects, free technical assistance by the Joint Office of Energy and Transportation is available to support transit agencies' shift to low- or zero-emission transit vehicles. For more information, visit [RideElectric.gov](#).

In response to the [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#), FTA received 475 eligible project proposals totaling approximately \$8.7 billion in requests.

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