

FY 17 Overview of Grant Programs Administered by DRPT

Grant funds administered by the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) generally provide support for capital, operating or planning expenses. Capital expenditures are long-term assets such as vehicles, transit facilities and infrastructure, machinery or heavy equipment. Operating expenditures are annual costs to support transit operations, maintenance, repairs and administrative costs. Planning expenditures are for studies of public transportation and/or Transportation Demand Management (TDM) improvements, such as service expansions or ridesharing programs.

DRPT administers eight State Aid Grant Programs and seven Federal Aid Grant Programs:

State Aid Grant Programs

- Operating Assistance
- Capital Assistance
- Demonstration Project Assistance
- Technical Assistance
- Public Transportation Intern Program
- TDM Operating Assistance
- Transportation Management Project Assistance
- Senior Transportation Program

Federal Aid Grant Programs

- FTA Section 5303 - Metropolitan Planning
- FTA Section 5304 - Statewide Planning
- FTA Section 5307 - Small Urban Areas Program
- FTA Section 5310 - Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities
- FTA Section 5311 - Rural Areas
- FTA Section 5316 - Jobs Access and Reverse Commute Program (JARC)(Rural Areas Only)
- FTA Section 5317 - New Freedom Program

Exhibits 1-1 and 1-2 summarize the state and federal programs administered by DRPT. Most programs target services provided by public organizations and local governments. However, some funds are available to support services provided by private non-profit organizations.

Federal and state aid programs often have an upper limit on the matching ratio, or amount of grant funding available as a percentage of the total project cost. These limits are a statutory limit on the maximum amount of available funding. For many programs, however, resource limitations force a matching ratio much lower than the statutory limit. For instance, DRPT's Operating Assistance program has a statutory limit of up to 95 percent of eligible expenses, but historically, the actual matching ratio has been much lower, averaging between 35 percent and

50 percent of eligible expenses. The recent history of matching ratios is described in each program's individual profile, which follows this section.

Note that programs are limited to reimbursement of eligible expenditures. Eligible state Operating Assistance program expenses, for example, only include the cost of administration, fuel, tires, and maintenance parts and supplies; the payroll costs of mechanics and drivers are not eligible for reimbursement. Eligible expenses for each program are specified in each program's individual profile.

Exhibit 1-1. DRPT Administered State Aid Grant Programs

State Aid Grant Program	Program Description	Eligible Recipients	Matching Ratios
Operating Assistance	Supports costs borne by eligible recipients for operating related public transportation expenses	Local and State Government Transportation District Commissions Public Service Corporations	Up to 95% of eligible expenses
Capital Assistance	Supports costs borne by eligible recipients for public transportation capital projects	Local and State Government Transportation District Commissions Public Service Corporations	Up to 95% of eligible expenses
Demonstration Project Assistance	Supports innovative investments in all functional areas of public transportation	Local and State Government Transportation District Commissions Public Service Corporations	Up to 95% of eligible expenses
Public Transportation Intern Program	Supports increased awareness of public transportation as a career choice	Local and State Government Transportation District Commissions Public Service Corporations Planning District Commissions Human Service Agencies Involved in Rural Public Transportation	Up to 95% of eligible expenses
Technical Assistance	Supports planning or technical assistance to help improve or initiate public transportation related services	Local and State Government Transportation District Commissions Public Service Corporations Planning District Commissions Human Service Agencies Involved in Rural Public Transportation	Up to 50% of eligible expenses Federal Funds may be provided to support 80% of project costs
TDM Operating Assistance	Supports administration of existing or new local and regional Transportation Demand Management/ Commuter Assistance programs	Local and State Government Transportation District Commissions Public Service Corporations Planning District Commissions Transportation Management Associations	Up to 80% of eligible expenses
Transportation Management Project Assistance	Supports Transportation Demand Management projects and programs that encourage the reduction of single	Local and State Government Transportation District Commissions Public Service Corporations Planning District Commissions	Up to 80% of eligible expenses

	occupant vehicle travel	Transportation Management Associations	
Senior Transportation Program	Supports projects and programs that improve mobility for senior citizens	Local and State Government Transportation District Commissions Public Service Corporations Private Non-Profit Organizations	Up to 80% of eligible expenses

Exhibit 1-2. DRPT Administered Federal Aid Grant Programs

Federal Aid Grant Program	Program Description	Eligible Recipients	Matching Ratios
FTA Section 5303 – Metropolitan Planning	Supports transit planning expenses	Metropolitan Planning Organizations	Up to 80% of eligible expenses
FTA Section 5304 – Statewide Planning	Supports local and statewide transit planning projects	Local and State Government Transportation District Commissions Public Service Corporations Planning District Commissions	Up to 80% of eligible expenses
FTA Section 5307 – Small Urban Areas Program	Supports operating and capital costs of transit operators in small urban areas	Local and State Government Transportation District Commissions Public Service Corporations Planning district commissions	Up to 50% of net operating expenses Up to 80% of eligible capital expenses
FTA Section 5310 – Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities	Supports the purchase of vehicles, equipment, and operating expenses (See MAP-21 Grant Program Consolidation Note below).	Private non-profit operators of transit services for seniors and persons with disabilities.	Up to 80% of eligible expenses
FTA Section 5311 – Rural Areas	Supports operating and capital costs of transit operators in non-urbanized areas	Local and State Government Transportation District Commissions Public Service Corporations Private Non-Profit Organizations	Up to 50% of net operating expenses Up to 80% of eligible capital expenses
FTA Section 5316 - Jobs Access and Reverse Commute Program	Supports the operating and capital costs of special programs designed to connect unemployed people to jobs (See MAP-21 Grant Program Consolidation Note below).	Recipients eligible for Section 5311: Local and State Government Transportation District Commissions Public Service Corporations Private Non-Profit Organizations	Up to 50% of eligible operating expenses Up to 80% of eligible capital expenditures

FTA Section 5317- New Freedom Program	Supports capital and operating costs of public transportation services and new public transportation alternatives beyond those required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. (See MAP-21 Grant Program Consolidation Note below).	Local and State Government Public Service Corporations Private non-profit organizations	Up to 50% of eligible operating expenses Up to 80% of eligible capital expenses

Note: Potential grant recipients are required to submit a separate application for each program they apply for using DRPT’s On-Line Grant Application (OLGA) system. OLGA is a web based system (<https://olga.drpt.virginia.gov>) that requires a user ID and password that must be obtained from DRPT. Applicants that do not have an existing account can set one up on-line by going to <https://olga.drpt.virginia.gov> and clicking on “new account”.

Note: MAP-21 Grant Program Consolidation

On July 6, 2012 President Obama signed into law a two-year transportation authorization, entitled Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21). MAP-21 changes include consolidation of several grant programs. For example, the New Freedom grant program (5317) was repealed and New Freedom projects become eligible under Section 5310, without a specific set aside funding level. Similarly, the Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) program (5316) is consolidated within Sections 5307 and 5311. In order to efficiently utilize any reverted and unallocated funds under these programs, and in order to maximize flexibility to utilize all available funds most efficiently, separate grant applications for each grant program will continue to be required.

Applicants are also required to submit performance data as part of the application process. Performance data is collected by DRPT for its monitoring, evaluation and reporting system. Performance data includes: organizational data, transit mode data and financial data.

1. Grant Program Calendar

The grant schedule common to most grant programs administered by DRPT is summarized in Exhibit 2-1. Note that deadlines referring to the first day of the month (e.g. December 1, February 1 and April 1) are to be interpreted as the **first business day of the month**.

Exhibit 3-1. Grant Program Calendar

Process	Schedule
Grantee Application Assistance	September through January
Grantee Outreach Workshops	Fall and Spring
Capital Budgeting Information Submitted by potential grantees	February
Grant Program Announcement	Late November
Grant Application Period for all grant programs except the FTA 5303 program (MPO Assistance)	December 1 through February 1 (FY17 deadline = 2/1/16)
Review, Analysis and Evaluation of Grant Applications	February through early March
Development of Draft Six Year Improvement Program	Late February through March
Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) Authorization to Release Draft Six Year Improvement Program to the Public for Review and Comment	April - May
Draft Six Year Improvement Program Public Hearings	April - May
Applications for FTA Section 5303 are due	May 1
CTB Approval of Final Six Year Improvement Program	June
Development and Execution of Grant Agreements	Beginning July 1 for state programs and October 1 for federal programs