



*William Cass, P.E.
Commissioner*

*THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION*



*David Rodrigue, P.E.
Assistant Commissioner
Andre Briere, Colonel, USAF (RET)
Deputy Commissioner*

PUBLIC NOTICE

February 16, 2023

FTA SECTION 5311 (RURAL) PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION PROJECT SOLICITATION

Application Deadline: March 21, 2023, 3:00 pm

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation, Bureau of Rail & Transit, announces the availability of applications for funding from the following Federal Transit Administration (FTA) program:

- FTA Section [5311](#) -- Formula Grants for Other than Urbanized (i.e., Rural) Areas
 - TWO YEARS (SFY 2024 – 2025: July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2025)

Program Purpose

The purpose of the FTA Section 5311 program is to support public transportation for people living in any area outside of an urbanized area ([UZA](#)) as designated by the Bureau of the Census. Public transportation means regular, continuing shared-ride surface transportation services that are open to the general public or open to a segment of the general public defined by age, disability, or low income. Public transportation may include fixed routes, deviated or flexible fixed routes, or demand response modes. See FTA Circular [9040.1G](#) for additional definitions and guidance.

All fixed route services shall include complementary paratransit services in accordance with [49 CFR 37.121](#).

Eligible Recipients

Local governmental authorities, nonprofit organizations, and operators of public transportation.

It is highly recommended that any agencies interested in applying to this grant solicitation but do not currently receive FTA funding for public transportation first reach out to their [regional planning commission](#) in order to 1) gauge the likelihood of an existing provider's ability to provide the desired service and 2) obtain details regarding the federal requirements related to public transportation. Any interested applicants can also reach out to NHDOT's Fred Butler directly for more information (see contact info below).

All applicants are required to demonstrate technical and financial capacity to meet the federal requirements, including, but not limited to, grant management, maintenance of assets, and financial management.

Eligible Projects (see FTA Circular [C 9040.1G](#) for guidance)

Eligible Projects are limited to costs associated with operating services, including Operating Expenses, Administration, Capital Preventive Maintenance, and Capital ADA expenses, all of which are generally delineated for grant purposes. Projects must be specifically for public transportation within rural areas, i.e., those that have populations less than 50,000. See FTA Circular [C9040.1G](#) pages III-11 to III-15 for project/activity descriptions. (Note: This 5311-grant application excludes capital and intercity projects).

Available Funding

	SFY 2024	SFY 2025	Total
Existing Services	\$5,200,000	\$5,200,000	\$10,400,000
New or Expanded Services	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$1,000,000
TOTAL	\$5,700,000	\$5,700,000	\$11,400,000

Note: Funding availability is approximate and is subject to change.

As indicated in the table above, \$5,200,000 will be reserved for existing services, which represents an approximate 12% increase in statewide funding availability as compared to the current (SFY23) contract period. Should requests for existing services exceed this allocated amount, NHDOT may, at its discretion, choose to use the new/expanded services allocation to fund the existing services, instead of new/expanded services, to ensure continuity of existing services. Conversely, should the amount allocated for existing services exceed requests for the same, NHDOT may, at its discretion, choose to fund worthy new/expanded projects with the excess existing services funding.

Project Evaluation

Each project in the application will be scored according to the criteria below. To the extent that funding permits, the Department will consider applications for existing, new, or expanded services. However, in accordance with the [State Management Plan](#), the Department will not reduce funding for existing services that meet the selection criteria to fund new or expanded projects.

Projects will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

		Weight
-	Confirmed that proposed service/projects is eligible for 5311 funding - cite Circular 9040.1G reference if new project.	Y/N
-	Seniors and persons with disabilities have full access to the applicant's services.	Y/N
1	The proposed service is a continuation of existing services. (15% will be granted) OR New/Expanded projects only: The proposed service enhances an existing service or addresses an NHDOT policy goal (per Statewide Strategic Transit Assessment (SSTA)).	15%
2	The applicant has the fiscal and technical capacity and adequate budget to operate its service and demonstrates successful experience in providing transportation services.	30%

3	The application demonstrates an effort to involve the private sector in the delivery of transportation services as well as involvement in and support for the project, financial and otherwise, on the part of citizens and local government. (Note: This includes providing evidence of public support for the project from municipal, regional, institutional and/or private sector partners and describing your efforts to leverage funds from these partners or other sources to support this project.)	20%
4	The applicant successfully demonstrates service efficiency and effectiveness, measured in ridership, service miles and hours, costs, and fare recovery as applicable. New applicants must demonstrate the ability to measure performance and achieve goals.	15%
5	The application shows coordination with other transportation providers in the service area: public, nonprofit, and for-profit	10%
6	The applicant complies with relevant Federal and state regulations and has a history of compliance with regulations and reporting requirements.	10%
		100%

Application Submission

Applications and details are available by contacting the NHDOT, Bureau of Rail & Transit at (603) 271-2468, on the web at www.nh.gov/dot/org/aerorailtransit/railandtransit, or by emailing Frederick.J.Butler@dot.nh.gov.

Format: Electronic via email is required.

Deadline: March 21, 2023, 3:00 pm

Submit to: Fred Butler, Public Transportation Administrator, at Frederick.J.Butler@dot.nh.gov

Additional Information

This project will be administered according to the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes to ensure nondiscrimination.

More information about the FTA Section 5311 grant, including related requirements, may be found at the following links:

- 5311 Grant Fact Sheet: [Formula Grants for Rural Areas Fact Sheet \(Section 5311\) | FTA \(dot.gov\)](#)
- FTA Contractors Manual 2023: <https://www.transit.dot.gov/regulations-and-programs/program-oversight/fy23-comprehensive-review-contractors-manual>
- Disclaimer. These resources are not an all-inclusive of all federal regulations and requirements.