

# **Applications are being accepted for \$2.0 million in federal capital aid for public transportation in North Dakota**

Applications for public transportation (transit) federal capital 5339 aid grant program in North Dakota are currently being accepted by the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT).

Applications are being accepted for an estimated \$2.0 million in federal transit grants for Bus and Bus Facilities. The funds are provided by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and administered by the North Dakota Department of Transportation. Funds are available to agencies providing public transit service in North Dakota.

Estimated:        \$430,275 is available to fund urban transit providers - 5339 capital  
                         \$64,000 is available to fund rural transit providers - 5339 capital  
                         \$1,510,000 is available to fund statewide transit providers - 5339 capital

All public transit operators and providers are encouraged to apply. Individuals are not eligible for these funds. All new transit operators applying for funding should review the NDDOT Transit Grant Application Guidelines.

All applications for FTA funding will be administered through NDDOT's BlackCat Grants Software. To review the application guidelines and apply, please go to <http://www.dot.nd.gov/divisions/localgov/transit-operator-portal.htm>

For more information, contact Paul Benning at [pbenning@nd.gov](mailto:pbenning@nd.gov) or (701) 328-2217 or Becky Hanson at [bhanson@nd.gov](mailto:bhanson@nd.gov) (701) 328-2542.

North Dakota Department of Transportation  
Local Government Division  
608 East Boulevard Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0700

Applications from Urban Transit Providers need to coordinate their submittals through their representative Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). These applications are due to their MPOs by December 1, 2016.

Applications will be accepted from rural transit providers and MPOs until Friday, December 23, 2016.

The NDDOT will consider every request for reasonable accommodation to provide:

- accommodation for people with disabilities
- language interpretation for people with limited English proficiency (LEP)
- translations of written material necessary to access NDDOT programs and information

Appropriate provisions will be considered when the Department is notified at least 15 days prior to the date application is due.

To request accommodations, contact Paula Messmer, Civil Rights Division, NDDOT, at (701) 328-2978 or [civilrights@nd.gov](mailto:civilrights@nd.gov). TTY users may use Relay North Dakota at 711 or 1-800-366-6888. Additionally, the Request for Reasonable Accommodations form (SFN 60135) can be accessed at the following NDDOT website location: <http://www.dot.nd.gov/forms/sfn60135.pdf>.

## Program Background

Section 5339 – The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5339 (Bus & Bus Facilities Program) is a capital-only program and funds are limited to capital projects to replace, rehabilitate, and purchase buses and bus-related equipment, and to construct bus-related facilities.

NDDOT will use Section 5339 funds for vehicle purchases, bus related facility construction, including garages and transfer stations. Section 5339 funds can also be used for new technology, safety and security items for transit and vehicle rehabilitation. **The federal share of eligible project costs may not exceed 80% of the cost of the project.**

The entire Section 5339 – Bus and Bus Facilities Grants is further explained in FTA Circular 9300.1B, located on the FTA website at [https://www.transit.dot.gov/sites/fta.dot.gov/files/docs/Final\\_C\\_9300\\_1\\_Bpub.pdf](https://www.transit.dot.gov/sites/fta.dot.gov/files/docs/Final_C_9300_1_Bpub.pdf).

## Funding Strategies

NDDOT Transit Staff has determined these characteristics to be important when considering project proposals. Please keep these factors in mind when answering questions about your proposed project.

- **Preservation & Maintenance** – preserve and maintain prior investments in existing transportation facilities and equipment and services they provide.
  - **Safety** – ensure that equipment and vehicles operated in the delivery of transportation services has been adequately equipped and maintained to ensure safety to the transportation customer. Additionally, drivers, aides and dispatchers should receive and be made available to receive regularly scheduled safety training to ensure the safety of the traveling public.
  - **Sustainability** – ensure that public transportation services are financed in a manner that is sustainable reflecting short-term and long-range planning and budgeting. Additionally, public transit use contributes to the nation's goal of reducing the dependence on foreign oil.
  - **Mobility** – facilitate the movement of public transit customers through the efficient use of transportation facilities and vehicles. Mobility management strategies include: inventorying facilities and services, reduction of duplicative services, and education and awareness of available services and transportation connections.
  - **Environmental Quality** – through the implementation of public transit services, contribute to the overall improvement of the communities' environmental quality. Public transit usage reduces the number of private vehicles; thus reducing carbon emissions.
  - **Social & Cultural Vitality** – contribute to the social well-being of North Dakota communities through assisting with transportation mobility for all citizens, including: seniors, persons with disabilities, persons of low income, students and individuals who are transit dependent.
  - **Economic Vitality** – contribute to North Dakota communities' vitality by offering alternative transportation and improving the overall transportation infrastructure. Public transit services which benefit employees and shoppers, improve retail activity of the State's communities.
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## Section 5339 Project Details

The project details portion of this application will be broken into three sections – Vehicle Acquisition, Facility Rehabilitation and/or Construction and Miscellaneous Capital. You can apply for all three types of projects on this single application, but should prioritize your request in the provided section. Additional details about the project types can be found at the beginning of each section.

It is your responsibility to update your agencies organization and vehicle information in the BlackCat System. Incomplete or inaccurate information may result in your requested project not being funded.

**Transit Asset Management (TAM)** – All vehicles, equipment, or facilities funded with FTA funds **MUST** be monitored by the State TAM Plan or a TAM Plan approved by the NDDOT. Any awarded projects for \$5,000 or more must be entered into the TAM System to be tracked by the agency and the NDDOT.

## Liens on Vehicles

Please remember any vehicle, purchased with FTA funds through the NDDOT, will require you to place a lien on the vehicle listing North Dakota Department of Transportation as lien holder on the title. Once the vehicle has met its useful life the lien will be released and the title will be mailed to you.

## Facility Rehabilitation & Construction Project

A rehabilitation project should be considered repairs or upgrades to an existing or an addition to an existing facility. A construction project should be for construction or possibly the purchase of an existing facility for use in your transit program.

All information collected in the application is for project selection purposes. You may be required to interview and select a consultant to design and manage the facility project. In completing the environmental and planning stages of your project, there may be obstacles that prevent or delay the building of your facility. The purpose of these funds is to house vehicles funded by the FTA and/or vehicles used for public transportation or for transit facilities like transfer stations. Any other use of the facility must be requested in writing to NDDOT and granted prior to use in any other manner.

If you are selected for a facility project, you will need to work closely with NDDOT Transit Staff to ensure that all federal requirements are met on this project. You **must not** enter into a contract or agreement with any consultant or contractor in regard to this project without prior NDDOT Transit Staff written authorization. You may ask a contractor to supply you an estimate of costs associated with the project; however this in no way should be construed as an offer for that contractor to construct your project if selected. Please contact Becky Hanson 701-328-2542, Darcy Karel 701-328-2835, or Julie Small 701-328-2194, if you have any questions about this type of project.

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