

How Public Transit funding is developed and distributed:

Federal Funding:

Rural - Each year the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) allocates a group of formula funds to States for rural areas. The State (as the direct recipient) is responsible for all transit in rural areas. The rural areas are no longer allowed to be direct recipients of FTA funding.

The following funds are the 2018 *formula* distribution for FTA rural funds (2019 has not yet been announced, VTrans uses previous federal years funding for current year spending):

FTA 49 U.S.C. 5304 Statewide planning - \$117,089

FTA 49 U.S.C. 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities - \$317,252

FTA 49 U.S.C. 5311 Formula Grants for Rural Areas - \$4,023,936

FTA 49 U.S.C. 5339(a) Grants for Bus and Bus Facilities Formula Program \$3,500,000

Total FTA Rural formula funds - \$7,958,277

Urban – Each year the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) allocates a group of *formula* funds to States for urban areas delineated by small (50,000 to 200,000) or large urban (above 200,000). The State, through the VTrans Secretary as the Governor’s designee (see Title 24 § 5094 Powers of the Secretary), has traditionally authorized Green Mountain Transit, Urban Division (formerly CCTA) as a direct recipient of the FTA.

The following funds are the FTA 2018 *formula* distribution for the Burlington area:

FTA 49 U.S.C. 5303 Metropolitan Transportation Planning - \$448,406 (while this funding comes directly to VTrans, VTrans consolidates its FTA and FHWA planning funding by flexing the FTA urban planning funds into the FHWA urban planning program and delivering it as one.

FTA 49 U.S.C. Urbanized Area Formula Grants - \$2,365,729, STIC - \$808,010

These funds also have supplementary categories (STIC small transit intensive cities) which allow greater funding if ridership and schedules meet certain criteria. In 2018, GMT met 4 out of 5 categories. In prior years, it met all 5 categories.

Urban funds distributed through VTrans – the following funds are awarded for use in urban areas but must be distributed to the urban area through VTrans:

FTA 49 U.S.C. 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities - \$169,226

FTA 49 U.S.C. 5339(a) Grants for Bus and Bus Facilities Formula Program - \$208,066

Total FTA Urban formula funds - \$3,999,437

Supplemental Funding from FHWA –

Certain funds are eligible to be flexed between FTA and FHWA. Current FTA urban planning funds are flexed to the FHWA MPO PL program (see above) and CMAQ and STP FHWA funds are flexed to the FTA for use in both urban and rural areas.

CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation Air Quality) States that have no nonattainment or maintenance areas still receive a minimum apportionment of CMAQ funding for either air quality projects or other elements of flexible spending. Funds may be used for any transit capital expenditures otherwise eligible for FTA funding as long as they have an air quality benefit.

Provides funding that may be used by states and localities for a wide range of projects to preserve and improve the conditions and performance of surface transportation, including highway, transit, intercity bus, bicycle and pedestrian projects

In 2019 \$19,698,161 of STP and CMAQ FHWA funds were budgeted to be flexed to the FTA for a combination of capital, maintenance, administration, and operating purposes (only CMAQ can be used for operating, usually limited to 3 years for new service). Of that amount, \$13,741,800, was used for statewide rural funding and \$4,689,820 was used for the Burlington urban area.

This brings the FTA urban formula and flexed funding to a total of \$8,689,257 and rural formula and flexed funding to a total of \$22,966,618.

Competitive Funding:

There are multiple FTA programs which are competitive in nature. Vermont is not eligible for all of the FTA programs due to size or nature of transit systems. VTrans has actively pursued competitive grants and has been successful in receiving them both to improve our capital program to keep our fleet and facilities updated and more innovative grants that improve the way we deliver a wide spectrum transit program.

FTA 49 U.S.C. 5310() Access and Mobility Partnership Grants, applied 2018 (awards not yet announced) for funds to research the use of transit in supporting those in recovery from opioid addiction. Previous award in 2016, \$170,000, for a Rides to Wellness project which is connecting medical facilities with those needing rides which are not currently being met with available service. The goal is to have the facilities begin to fund transportation through local public transit demand response to reduce the use of emergency rooms and ambulance trips and enhance the social determinants of health outcomes.

FTA 49 U.S.C. 5339(a) Competitive (also has a formula section, see above). Successful funding awarded in 2016, \$3,924,000 for new fixed route buses in Burlington; VTrans was also awarded in 2018 \$1,800,000 for new buses statewide and \$800,000 for new buses for service in the Stowe region (GMT). In 2019, VTrans was awarded \$2,080,000 for a Bradford bus garage (TVT).

FTA 49 U.S.C. 5339(a) Competitive Low or No emission \$480,000 in 2017 for the difference between the cost of new diesels and a battery electric vehicles for new full-sized fixed route buses in Burlington. Also in 2018 VTrans was awarded \$407,064 for the cost of two small buses for the Montpelier area (GMT).

FTA 49 U.S.C. 5312 Mobility on Demand (MOD) Sandbox program, in 2016 VTrans was awarded \$390,000 to develop a more extensive trip planner using gtfs which was successfully completed.

This is a sample of competitive grants awarded in recent years. There were multiple other competitive grants prior to 2016.

State Funds

- State funds are awarded each year in accordance with 24 VSA **§ 5091. Funding** authorizing the state to allow state funds to be used as match for federal funds. These funds are distributed based on a competitive state program application process. VTrans provides match to operations including administration and maintenance. VTrans also provides match for capital purchases based on funds available in the budget.