

## **Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Formula Grant Programs**

**Urbanized Area Formula Assistance Program (Section 5307).** Title 49 U.S.C. 5307 provides funding for capital assistance, planning, and operating assistance for public transportation in small urbanized areas with populations greater than 50,000, but less than 200,000. Section 5307 also provides funding for capital and planning assistance for public transportation in large urbanized areas with populations over 200,000. FTA makes these funds available to the designated recipient(s) in large urbanized areas for capital and planning assistance. Funds apportioned by FTA under the Urbanized Area Formula Program remain available to the recipient for four fiscal years--the year of the apportionment plus three additional years. Agencies submit grant applications to FTA for funds apportioned to their respective urbanized areas. Upon approval by FTA of the grant application and execution of the grant agreement, FTA obligates the funds to the grant applicant. After four years, funds apportioned but not obligated in grants by FTA will no longer be available for obligation to the urbanized area to which they were originally apportioned. These funds will be added to the amount available for reapportionment nationally in the next fiscal year.

**Designated Recipients: MPOs and Transit Agencies**

**Capital Investment Program (Section 5309).** The Section 5309 Capital Investment Program has three parts: **(1) fixed guideway modernization in areas with populations over 200,000 with fixed guideway segments at least seven years old; (2) construction and extension of new fixed guideway systems; and, (3) purchase of bus and bus related equipment and facilities in both urbanized and nonurbanized areas.** The Capital Investment Program is authorized under the provisions set forth in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), enacted on August 10, 2005, as codified at 49 U.S.C. 5309 ("Section 5309"). The Secretary may make grants to assist State and local governmental authorities in financing capital projects for bus and bus facilities, fixed guideway modernization, new fixed guideway systems, and development of corridors to support new fixed guideway systems.

**Designated Recipients: Large Urban MPOs and Transit Agencies**

**Non-urbanized Area Formula Program (Section 5311)** This FTA grant program provides funding for public transit in non-urbanized areas with a population less than 50,000 as designated by the Bureau of the Census. The goal of the Section 5311 program is to enhance the availability of public transit in rural areas. Personnel in the headquarters manage the Section 5311 program through policy and procedural guidance. There are personnel in eleven District offices that manage the Section 5311 program at the local level by providing planning and technical assistance to transportation planning agencies (TPA) and transit operators. Federal funding for rural transit remained fairly constant through 1991. SAFETEA-LU again greatly increased funding for rural transit, proportionally more than the increase for other FTA programs. SAFETEA-LU also supplemented Section 5311 funding for growing States under the Section 5340 formula. SAFETEA-LU also established a new Tribal Transit Program as a takedown from Section 5311, and linked funding for RTAP to Section 5311 funding levels.

**Designated Recipient: Caltrans, Division of Mass Transportation**