

Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

A major way FTA helps communities support public transportation is by issuing grants to eligible recipients for planning, vehicle purchases, facility construction, operations, and other purposes. FTA administers this financial assistance according to authorization, [SAFETEA-LU](#), which was signed into law in August 2005.

Generally, FTA funds are available to designated recipients that must be public bodies (i.e. states, cities, towns, regional governments, transit authorities, etc.) with the legal authority to receive and dispense federal funds. The recipients of these grants are responsible for managing their projects in accordance with federal requirements. FTA conducts oversight reviews to ensure these requirements are met.

Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)

In Ohio, the ODOT Office of Transit administers the FTA programs for non-urbanized grantees. The ODOT, Office of Transit will also be administering the three FTA programs listed below for small-urbanized areas (as well as the non-urbanized areas). The competitive selection process is to be conducted by a Designated Recipient or any agency acting on behalf of a Designated Recipient in large urbanized areas (over 200,000 in population). The Newark urbanized area is less than 200,000 in population; therefore ODOT will be the designated recipient and entities from Licking County will apply to the ODOT for each of the funding opportunities. Applicants in each category will compete on a statewide basis with other similar sized areas.

- 1) **Elderly and Individuals with Disabilities**
(49 U.S.C. Section 5310)
- 2) **Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC)**
(49 U.S.C. Section 5316(g))
- 3) **New Freedom**
(49 U.S.C. Section 5317(f))

Elderly and Individuals with Disabilities

Name of Program: Specialized Transportation Program, as authorized by the Federal Transit Administration, 49 USC Section 5310.

Program Goal and Brief Description: The FTA provides Federal funds for the purchase of equipment to support transportation services for the elderly and individuals with disabilities where existing transportation is unavailable, inappropriate, or insufficient. The FTA provides 80% of the cost of capital items. Local funding must provide the remaining 20%, which may include transportation funding from other federal programs other than U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) programs, or from DOT's Federal Lands Highway Program. Projects must be competitively selected from locally developed coordinated public transit-human services transportation plans. ODOT writes the vehicle specifications and purchases them with costs reimbursed by FTA and the recipient.

Who Can Apply? Private nonprofit (501(c)(3)) corporations, public bodies identified by the state as lead agencies in a coordination project, or public bodies, which certify that no private nonprofit corporations exist within their jurisdiction for the provision of elderly and disabled transportation.

Program Requirements: Projects must be competitively selected from locally developed coordinated public transit-human services transportation plans. The competitive selection process is to be conducted by a Designated Recipient or any agency acting on behalf of a Designated Recipient in urbanized areas over 200,000 in population. ODOT is the Designated Recipient for urbanized areas under 200,000 in population and for non-urbanized areas. Selected projects must be programmed in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program and grantees must certify that they will comply with all FTA Civil Rights, environmental, reporting and other requirements.

Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC)

Name of Program: Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Job Access & Reverse Commute Program.

Program Goal and Brief Description: FTA's Job Access & Reverse Commute Program provides grants for competitively selected projects to improve access to transportation services to employment, job training and support activities for welfare recipients and eligible low-income individuals. The program requires coordination of federally assisted programs and services in order to make the most efficient use of available resources. Capital and operating projects are eligible. Federal funds can be used for up to 50% of the net project cost for operating projects. Capital projects are eligible to be reimbursed for 80% of the total project cost. The remaining funds must come from local sources or eligible non-US Department of Transportation sources funding.

Who Can Apply? State and local governments, non-profit organizations and local transportation providers through a designated recipient as defined in 49 USC Section 5316.

Program Requirements: Projects must be competitively selected from locally developed coordinated public transit-human services transportation plans. The competitive selection process is to be conducted by a Designated Recipient or any agency acting on behalf of a Designated Recipient in urbanized areas over 200,000 in population. ODOT is the Designated Recipient for urbanized areas under 200,000 in population and for non-urbanized areas. Selected projects must be programmed in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program and grantees must certify that they will comply with all FTA Civil Rights, environmental, reporting and other requirements.

New Freedom

Name of Program: New Freedom Program, as authorized by the Federal Transit Administration, 49 U.S.C. Section 5317

Program Goal: The New Freedom Program aims to provide additional tools to overcome existing barriers facing Americans with disabilities seeking integration into the work force and full participation in society.

Brief Program Description: The New Freedom Program is a new program authorized in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: a Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) to support **new** public transportation services and public transportation alternatives beyond those required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) that assist individuals with disabilities with transportation, including transportation to and from jobs and employment support services. New Freedom funds may be used to finance capital and operating expenses. The Federal share of eligible capital costs may not exceed 80% of the net capital costs of the project. The Federal share of the eligible operating costs may not exceed 50% of the net operating cost of the activity. All of the local share must be provided from sources other than Federal DOT funds.

Who Can Apply? State and local governments, non-profit organizations and local transportation providers through a designated recipient as defined in 49 USC Section 5317.

Program Requirements: Projects must be competitively selected from locally developed coordinated public transit-human services transportation plans. The competitive selection process is to be conducted by a Designated Recipient or any agency acting on behalf of a Designated Recipient in urbanized areas over 200,000 in population. ODOT is the Designated Recipient for urbanized areas under 200,000 population and non-urbanized areas. Selected projects must be programmed in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program and grantees must certify that they will comply with all FTA Civil Rights, environmental, reporting and other requirements.

For more details on the three programs visit FTA's or ODOT Office of Transit Web Sites at: <http://www.fta.dot.gov/> or <http://www.dot.state.oh.us/ptrans/>