



Transportation/Aviation Update
April 5, 2024

NEXT WEEK

The House and Senate return to legislative session next week. However, as of today, there are no transportation or aviation related events scheduled in either body.

THIS WEEK

Department of Transportation

FTA: Capital Investment Grant Guidance. On April 5, FTA published a Notice seeking comments on proposed revisions to the New Starts Guidance that was [published](#) in January 2023. Several changes are being proposed, including 1) updates the environmental benefits calculations to reflect changes since the factors were first established 10 years ago; 2) including additional equity considerations under several criteria; and 3) an increased emphasis on zoning and affordable housing plans and policies; Comments are due June 4. The Notice is [here](#)

FTA: FY 2024 Apportionment Tables. On April 4, FTA released the full-year FY 2024 funding [apportionment tables](#), Specifying funding to states, urbanized areas, and tribal governments based on statutory formulas and funding levels set by Congress. The tables allow transit providers to view the amounts for programs set by statutorily defined formulas to better plan and manage projects and address their repair backlogs. Earlier this year, FTA released \$9.9 billion in partial-year apportionments reflecting formula funding available for five months (October 1, 2023, to March 1, 2024) at FY 2023 levels while the federal government operated under a Continuing Resolution.

DOT: Reconnecting Communities. On April 4, DOT announced the award of a contract of up to \$27 million to [Cadmus Group, Inc.](#) to establish and administer the [Reconnecting Communities Institute](#) (RCI or Institute). The RCI will be DOT's center for learning on restoring and reconnecting communities that have been harmed, isolated, and cut off from opportunity by past transportation choices. The Institute is intended to assist communities in developing and delivering reconnection projects that better connect people to jobs, education, health care, and economic opportunities, particularly the [Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods \(RCN\) Program](#).

FAA: AIP Entitlement Deadline. On April 3, FAA announced that May 20 is the deadline for each airport sponsor to notify the FAA if it will use its FY 2024 entitlement funds for Airport Improvement Program (AIP) eligible projects. Each sponsor has previously identified to the FAA such projects through the Airports Capital Improvement Plan process. This Notice further announces May 20 as the deadline for an airport sponsor to submit a final grant application, based on bids, for grants that will be funded with FY 2024 entitlement funds only. The Federal Register Notice is [here](#).

FRA: Train Crew Size. On April 2, FRA issued a final rule establishing minimum safety requirements for the size of train crews. The new rule requires a second crewmember on all trains. The final rule is [here](#).

FTA: Transit Oriented Development Grant Awards. On April 2, FTA [announced](#) \$17.6 million would be awarded to 20 communities to support equitable transit-oriented development. These grants, funded by FTA's [Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development \(TOD\) Planning](#), support local strategies to increase transit access and encourage ridership through mixed-use and mixed-income development near public transportation projects.

FAA: Supplemental AIP Grant NOFO. On April 1, FAA released a Notice of Funding Opportunity for approximately \$269 million in FY 2023 Supplemental Discretionary Airport Improvement Grants. FAA seeks to fund projects that advance DOT priorities of safety, equity, climate and sustainability, and workforce development, job quality, and wealth creation. The FAA has said that it anticipates at least 50 awards to be made from this NOFO. Grants applications are due by May 2. The NOFO is [here](#).

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