



MEMORANDUM

To: Transit Operators

From: Stephen A. Hughes

Date: October 9, 2026

Re: Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for FTA Funding in the 2028-2032 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Lake, Porter, and La Porte Counties

Where to find applications

Applications for Capital Items, Expansion, and Operating Assistance / Preventative Maintenance can be found on NIRPC's website at <https://www.in.gov/nirpc/transportation/fy-2028-2032-notice-of-funding-availability-nofa/>

When applications will be accepted

Applications will be accepted from October 9, 2026 through November 5, 2026.

Application assistance

NIRPC staff will meet with every transit operator (sub-recipient) to discuss the NOFA requirements and potential project applications and to ensure that applications and projects correspond to one another.

Project selection process

NIRPC will generate estimates of annual available funding based on projections of available funding for the annual apportionment, unobligated funds, already programmed projects, and any unprogrammed funds. Together with the transit operator, NIRPC will review available funds and needs of each operator.

Operating Assistance (OA)

NIRPC will award funding for all OA first, based on prior years as well as FTA Table 3A which establishes the maximum 5307 that can be used by an operator for OA. OA is eligible for a 50% federal share with 50% local match. A simple application must be submitted. Self-scoring is not required. OA requests should describe the service, funding category, and amount in uninflated current dollars. Separate descriptions will be needed for each funding category (5307/5310, etc.) or mode (fixed route/demand response/enhanced mobility of seniors and disabled people, etc.) requested.

Preventative Maintenance (PM)

NIRPC will award funding for all PM requests after OA needs have been met. Significant increases over prior years must be explained (e.g. prior year was decreased because of carryover, vehicles are aging and require more maintenance, PM was a new line item for the operator, and we have a better estimate now, etc.). PM projects can be funded at 80% federal share with 20% local match. A simple application must be submitted. Self-scoring is not required. Operators requesting PM must list the requested amount in uninflated current dollars.

Capital / Transit Asset Management (TAM)

Capital projects will be awarded according to the appropriate Transit Asset Management Plan after OA and PM have been awarded and will be funded at 80% federal share with 20% local match.

A full application will be required for capital items. Capital items include vehicles, radios and equipment, tablets, computers, furniture, service equipment (tools, lifts), facility upgrades (paving, fencing), security upgrades (cameras), etc.

Separate applications are required for different categories of capital item requested (furniture, cutaway bus, motorbus, computers, etc.) and for any of the same type of item requested using different funding sources (5307, 5339, 5310).

Transit Expansion

Transit expansion projects will be awarded after OA, PM, and Capital projects to ensure that expansion projects do not diminish the ability of an operator to maintain their current service and state of good repair. A full application is required for transit expansion requests. Transit expansion requests include capital items directly needed for the expansion, such as vehicles, radios, and tablets as well as the operating expenses associated with the proposed expansion.

All applications

All applications should provide the total cost of the project with the federal and local share clearly indicated.

All applications should use uninflated 2026 dollars.

If a project is already in the TIP, please include the TPIN for that project. Projects already in the TIP can be moved, have years added to the project, or have the funding amounts adjusted through the NOFA.

Additional programming rules are listed in the NOFA application workbook.