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FY 2024 and 2025 State Transit Assistance Special Projects Program

December 12, 2023



State Transit Assistance Special Projects Program

\$300,000 set aside from State Transit Assistance funds annually to fund training fellowships (\$125,000) and special projects (\$175,000).

All 35 designated Iowa public transit systems are eligible to apply. Iowa Public Transit Association also may apply for projects benefiting all public transit agencies.

Special Projects are extraordinary, emergency, or innovative in nature and may include but are not limited to:

1. Expanding the scope of planning, managerial, or technical expertise.
2. Increasing the public's awareness and understanding of transit.
3. Enhancing the capacity for administration consolidation and service coordination.
4. Reducing impediments to intramodal or intermodal transfers.
5. Increasing the cooperation and coordination between private and public sectors.
6. Developing, demonstrating, or refining a technical, procedural, or mechanical innovation that may be utilized by other public transit systems in Iowa.
7. Responding to an emergency situation that places an extraordinary and unforeseen strain on the resources of a public transit system.

Program details:

Grants can include projects which support transit services developed in conjunction with human service agencies or local community partners or statewide projects to improve public transit in Iowa.

Projects are intended to assist with start-up of new services that have been identified as needs by health, employment or human service agencies or other community partners.

Statewide projects may be used on transit marketing and projects exploring new transit technologies.

Program details:

Operating and small capital projects are eligible for funding up to a maximum of 50% state participation for two years. Vehicles and facilities are not eligible under this program.

One project per transit system at a time is allowed.

Priority is given to projects which include a financial contribution from human service agencies or community partners.

Applications due October 1. Projects begin July 1 of the following fiscal year. Up to two years of funding may be requested.

Special Project application evaluation criteria:

- Financial contribution from human service agency(ies) or community partners.
- Demonstration of Need.
- Demonstration of Benefits.
- Demonstration of Coordinated Transportation.
- Addressing Long Range Public Transit Needs.

Available Funding and Application Summary

- **Available Funding:**
 - Annual allocation: \$175,000
 - Unprogrammed Carryover: \$357,956
 - Total Funding Available: \$532,966
- **Application Summary:**
 - Total number of applications: 8
 - Funding requested: \$550,250
 - Total number of projects recommended: 7
 - Total funding recommended: \$519,250

FY24 Iowa DOT-sponsored Projects

PROJECT NAME	SPONSOR	TOTAL PROJECT COST	REQUESTED AMOUNT (% of Total Project Cost)	RECOMMENDED AMOUNT (% of Total Project Cost)
Discretionary Bus Program grant project administration	Iowa DOT	\$450,000 (FY24)	\$90,000 (20%)	\$90,000 (20%)
General Transit Feed Specification Contractor	Iowa DOT	\$82,250 (FY24)	\$82,250 (100%)	\$82,250 (100%)
lowarideshare.org Ridematching Software	Iowa DOT	\$40,000 (FY24)	\$40,000 (100%)	\$40,000 (100%)

FY25 Iowa DOT-sponsored Projects

PROJECT NAME	SPONSOR	TOTAL PROJECT COST	REQUESTED AMOUNT (% of Total Project Cost)	RECOMMENDED AMOUNT (% of Total Project Cost)
General Transit Feed Specification Contractor	Iowa DOT	\$77,500 (FY25)	\$77,500 (100%)	\$77,500 (100%)
lowarideshare.org Ridematching Software	Iowa DOT	\$42,000 (FY25)	\$42,000 (100%)	\$42,000 (100%)

FY25 Competitive Applications Recommended

PROJECT NAME	SPONSOR	TOTAL PROJECT COST	REQUESTED AMOUNT (% of Total Project Cost)	RECOMMENDED AMOUNT (% of Total Project Cost)
Trip Connect – North Johnson County	CorridorRides, Region 10	\$350,025 (FY25)	\$175,000 (49.9%)	\$175,000 (49.9%)
Transit Economic Impact Study	Iowa Public Transit Association (IPTA)	\$25,000 (FY25)	\$23,000 (92.0%)	\$12,500 (50.0%)



QUESTIONS?



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For more information on Iowa's public transit and intercity bus programs, visit
www.iowadot.gov/transit

CorridorRides Project Executive Summary:

A new transportation focused service in the fast growing northern portion of Johnson County. Trip Connect is a pilot service that will be overseen by CorridorRides, and managed by Johnson County via a contractor to provide transportation to large employers and Kirkwood Community College for those without access to transportation. The service will operate in areas and times not currently served by public transportation over a two-year period, and is the result of a coalition of human service agencies, employers, and transportation providers under direction of the Johnson County Mobility coordinator that have studied the need for this type of service over the past two years.

IPTA Project Executive Summary:

It has been over 15 years since an impact study has been done to identify the economic impact of public transit has on the State of Iowa. Since that time state funding has remained level or decreased for various funding sources. Iowa Public Transit Association in coordination with a researcher would like to create a statewide economic impact study that public transit provides to lowans. The purpose of this study is to share key finding with legislators, funders, county and city officials on the importance of funding public transit in Iowa.

FY 25 Competitive Application Not Recommended

PROJECT NAME	SPONSOR	TOTAL PROJECT COST	REQUESTED AMOUNT (% of Total Project Cost)	RECOMMENDED AMOUNT (% of Total Project Cost)
Transit Week “Iowa’s Public Transit Gets You There” Campaign	Iowa Public Transit Association (IPTA)	\$22,500 (FY25)	\$20,500 (91.1%)	\$0 (0.0%)

- Only one project per sponsor at a time is allowed under this program
- This project scored the lowest of the three by the evaluators

IPTA Project Executive Summary:

Iowa Public Transit Association’s “Iowa’s Public Transit Gets You There” Transit Week campaign is a messaging platform developed to communicate the safety, cleanliness, and community partnerships within public transportation in Iowa. The weeklong campaign shows audiences the benefits of public transportation. A portion of our week is to highlight our operators, community partners, riders and drivers.