



FY 2026 State Transit Assistance Special Project Applications

IOWA | DOT

Kristin Haar
Public Transit Director

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State Transit Assistance Special Project Program

- \$600,000 set aside from State Transit Assistance funds annually to fund training fellowships (\$175,000) and special projects (\$425,000).
 - After consulting with Iowa's public transit agencies in Spring 2024, the total amount of State Transit Assistance funds set aside annually for special projects and large urban training fellowships was increased from \$300,000 to \$600,000. This allows for more training opportunities for large urban transit systems, more flexibility to fund projects of statewide transit significance, and greater ability to fund pilot projects and studies.
- 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.

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.

Program Details (continued):

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

- Annual appropriation: \$425,000
- Underrun/withdrawals: \$106,622
- Funds available: \$531,622
- Total number of projects: 6
- Total project costs: \$1,263,757
- Total amount requested: \$654,616

FY 2026 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 (FY22 and FY23 Awards)	Iowa DOT	\$315,000	\$63,000 (20%)	\$63,000 (20%)
General Transit Feed Specification Contractor	Iowa DOT	\$77,500	\$77,500 (100%)	\$77,500 (100%)
lowarideshare.org Ridematching software	Iowa DOT	\$42,000	\$42,000 (100%)	\$42,000 (100%)

FY 2026 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 (Year 2)	Corridor Rides, Region 10	\$350,025	\$175,000 (49.9%)	\$175,000 (49.9%)
Quad Cities Municipal Transit Route Study	Davenport	\$250,000	\$185,000 (74%)	\$125,000 (50%)

FY 2026 Competitive Applications Projects Not Recommended For Award

Project Name	Sponsor	Total Project Cost	Requested Amount (% of Total Project Cost)	Recommended Amount (% of Total Project Cost)
Grimes Connect: Inclusive Paratransit & Door to Door service	Heart of Iowa Regional Transit Agency, Region 11	\$229,232	\$112,116 (48.9%)	\$0

Recommended Project Funding Summary

- Total number of projects: 6
- Total amount requested: \$654,616
- Funds available: \$531,622
- Projects recommended for funding: 5
- Recommended funding amount: \$482,500
- Remaining balance: \$49,122

Questions?

Kristin Haar

515-233-7875

Kristin.Haar@iowadot.gov

iowadot.gov

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