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# FY 2023 and 2024 State Transit Assistance Special Projects Program

January 11, 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.

**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.

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.

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 Annual Funding, FY24: \$175,000  
+ FY23 Unprogrammed Carryover: \$73,800
- **TOTAL Funding Available: \$248,800**
- **October 1, 2022, Competitive Application Summary:**
  - Number of eligible sponsor project applications: 1
  - Total FY24 funding request: \$150,000

*One application also received from an ineligible applicant.*
- **Low-No Bus Program grant project administration:**
  - Total FY23 funding request: \$60,000

# Competitive Application Received/Recommended

PROJECT NAME	SPONSOR	TOTAL PROJECT COST	REQUESTED AMOUNT (% of Total Project Cost)	RECOMMENDED AMOUNT (% of Total Project Cost)
Enhanced Transportation Access for Low-Income Region	Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority	\$494,650 (FY24)	\$150,000 (30.3%)	\$150,000 (30.3%)

## DART Project Executive Summary:

DART proposes to launch a new mobility on demand zone to provide point to point access within the 50314-zip code. The service, branded as DART On Demand, would utilize transit vehicles and DART operators to take area residents where they need to go, when they need to get there. Such a zone would provide more direct transit access for local residents, shorten travel times, and improve the ability to transfer to other DART services that connect throughout the region.



# Low-No Bus Program Grant Project Administration

PROJECT NAME	SPONSOR	TOTAL PROJECT COST	REQUESTED AMOUNT (% of Total Project Cost)	RECOMMENDED AMOUNT (% of Total Project Cost)
Low-No Bus Program grant project administration	Iowa DOT	\$300,000(FY23)	\$60,000 (20%)	\$60,000 (20%)



QUESTIONS?



**Kristin Haar**  
**Public Transit Director**  
[Kristin.Haar@iowadot.us](mailto:Kristin.Haar@iowadot.us)  
515.233.7875

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