

STRR Act Initial Analysis

Section 5307 (Urban formula program)

- Fixes the 100 bus language and its fixed-route bus only flexibility by adding general public demand response

Section 5309 (New Starts)

- Changes local share from 80 percent to 50 percent.

Section 5310

- Adds the following: BEST PRACTICES.—The Secretary shall collect from, review, and disseminate to public transit agencies innovative practices, program models, new service delivery options, findings from activities under subsection (h), and transit cooperative research program reports.

Section 5311

- Adds the following language to rural public transportation's non-federal share: may be provided in cash from non-Government sources other than revenues from providing public transportation services; may be provided from revenues from the sale of advertising and concessions.
- Adds to the eligibility of intercity bus in non-federal share the following language: including all operating and capital costs of such service whether or not offset by revenue from such service.

Section 5323 (General Provisions)

- Allows for the following: ACQUISITION OF BASE-MODEL BUSES.—A grant for the acquisition of a base-model bus for use in public transportation may be not more than 85 percent of the net project cost.
- Changes the domestic content of rolling stock (buses) to 60 percent in 2016 and 2017, 65 percent in 2018 and 2019, and 70 percent in 2020 and 2021.

Section 5329 (Safety)

- Adds to the proscribed contents of the National Public Transportation Safety Plan the following: best practices standards developed by the public transportation industry; and any minimum safety standards or performance criteria being implemented across the public transportation industry.

Section 5339 (Bus and Bus Facilities)

- First, STTR creates a new State Pool program within the 5339 program:

“(4) PILOT PROGRAM FOR COST-EFFECTIVE CAPITAL INVESTMENT.—(A) IN GENERAL.—For each of fiscal years 2016 through 2021, the Secretary shall carry out a pilot program under which an eligible designated recipient (as described in sub-section (c)(1)) in an urbanized area with population of not less than 200,000 and not more than 999,999 may elect to participate in a State pool in accordance with this paragraph.

(B) PURPOSE OF STATE POOLS.—The purpose of a State pool shall be to allow for transfers of formula grant funds made available under this subsection among the designated recipients participating in the State pool in a manner that supports the transit asset management plans of the designated recipients under section 5326.

(C) REQUESTS FOR PARTICIPATION.—A State, and designated recipients in the State described in subparagraph (A), may submit to the Secretary a request for participation in the program under procedures to be established by the Secretary. A designated recipient for a multistate area may participate in only 1 State pool.

(D) ALLOCATIONS TO PARTICIPATING STATES.—For each fiscal year, the Secretary shall allocate to each State participating in the program the total amount of funds that otherwise would be allocated to the urbanized areas of the designated recipients participating in the State’s pool for that fiscal year pursuant to the formula referred to in paragraph (1).

(E) ALLOCATIONS TO DESIGNATED RECIPIENTS IN STATE POOLS.—A State shall distribute the amount that is allocated to the State for a fiscal year under subparagraph (D) among the designated recipients participating in the State’s pool in a manner that supports the transit asset management plans of the recipients under section 5326.

(F) ALLOCATION PLANS.—A State participating in the program shall develop an allocation plan for the period of fiscal years 2016 through 2021 to ensure that a designated recipient participating in the State’s pool receives under the program an amount of funds that equals the amount of funds that would have otherwise been available to the designated recipient for that period pursuant to the formula referred to in paragraph (1).

(G) GRANTS.—The Secretary shall make grants under this subsection for a fiscal year to a designated recipient participating in a State pool following notification by the State of the allocation amount determined under subparagraph (E).

- Second, the STRRA creates a Competitive program within the Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities program:

COMPETITIVE GRANTS FOR BUS STATE OF GOOD REPAIR.—(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants under this subsection to eligible recipients described in subsection (b)(1) to assist in financing capital projects described in subsection (a).

GRANT CONSIDERATIONS.—In making grants under this subsection, the Secretary shall consider the age and condition of buses, bus fleets, related equipment, and bus-related facilities of an eligible recipient.

STATEWIDE APPLICATIONS.—A State may submit a statewide application on behalf of a public agency or private nonprofit organization engaged in public transportation in rural areas or other areas for which the State allocates funds. The submission of a statewide application shall not preclude the submission and consideration of any application under this subsection from other eligible recipients in an urbanized area in a State.

REQUIREMENTS FOR SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall—disclose all metrics and evaluation procedures to be used in considering grant applications under this subsection upon issuance of the notice of funding availability in the Federal Register; and publish a summary of final scores for selected projects, metrics, and other evaluations used in awarding grants under this subsection in the Federal Register.

AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Any amounts made available to carry out this subsection—shall remain available for 2 fiscal years after the fiscal year for which the amount is made available; and following the period of availability shall be made available to be apportioned under subsection (c) for the following fiscal year.

LIMITATION.—Of the amounts made available under this subsection, not more than 15 percent in fiscal year 2016 and not more than 5 percent in each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021 may be awarded to a single recipient.

GRANT FLEXIBILITY.—If the Secretary determines that there are not sufficient grant applications that meet the metrics described in paragraph (4)(A) to utilize the full amount of funds made available to carry out this subsection for a fiscal year, the Secretary may use the remainder of the funds for making apportionments under sections 5307 and 5311.

GENERALLY APPLICABLE PROVISIONS.—GRANT REQUIREMENTS.—A grant under this section shall be subject to the requirements of—(A) section 5307 for recipients of grants made in urbanized areas; and section 5311 for recipients of grants made in rural areas.

GOVERNMENT'S SHARE OF COSTS.—CAPITAL PROJECTS.—A grant for a capital project under this section shall be for 80 percent of the net capital costs of the project. A recipient of a grant under this section may provide additional local matching amounts. REMAINING COSTS.—The remainder of the net project cost shall be provided—(i) in cash from non-Government sources other than revenues from providing public transportation services; (ii) from revenues derived from the sale of advertising and concessions; (iii) from an undistributed cash surplus, a replacement or depreciation cash fund or reserve, or new capital; or (iv) from amounts received under a service agreement with a State or local social service agency or private social service organization.