



# Rural Transportation Assistance Program

## 2022 Limited Notice of Funding Opportunity – General Transit Feed Specification

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### Purpose

The Rural Transportation Assistance Program (RTAP) provides funding from the Federal Transit Administration 5311(b)(3) program to assist with design and implementation of training and technical assistance projects and other support services for transportation operators in non-urbanized areas. Rural public transportation operators receive training and technical assistance through the program.

WSDOT is the direct recipient of Washington's annual allocation of 5311(b)(3) funds and has the authority to contract with subrecipients to deliver some or all the state RTAP activities each biennium.

### Available funding

WSDOT has up to \$90,000 available to fund projects that provide statewide data standards work, including General Transit Feed Specifications (GTFS) and GTFS Flex data development and maintenance for transit operators in Washington state.

WSDOT will notify applicants of awards Oct. 27, 2022. WSDOT may scale awards depending on need and availability of funds.

### Eligible applicants

Any private or public entity with the experience and capacity to meet the eligible project requirements.

Vendors debarred or suspended from the federal [System of Award Management](#) are not eligible to apply.

### Eligible projects

Proposed statewide data standards projects must meet the following requirements:

- **Data set development** – Grantees will develop and publish all data sets in accordance with [GTFS best practices](#). Grantees will publish data sets that include demand-responsive features in accordance with the current version of the [GTFS Flex data extension](#).
- **Data set maintenance** – Grantees will maintain data sets based on the most current GTFS specification and will update data sets as needed with changes to the specification and best practices. WSDOT may request data sets based on other extensions to GTFS identified during the project.
- **Partnership with WSDOT** – Grantees will partner with WSDOT to determine the operators for which grantees maintain data. WSDOT anticipates that grantees will maintain data for approximately 34 fixed-route operators providing service for 127 routes. Grantees may need to develop data for fewer than eight of these agencies. Depending on funds available, WSDOT and grantees may also identify GTFS Flex data sets for development and maintenance.
- **Project scope and cost** – Grantees must align the proposed scope and hourly rate of staff required to complete the project with grant funding available.

## Ineligible projects

Projects that are outside the scope of the funding opportunity or do not meet the eligible project requirements.

## Application deadline

3 p.m. PDT, Sept. 22, 2022

## Award period

Oct. 15, 2022-Oct. 31, 2023

## Application materials

The application for 2022 RTAP-funded GTFS projects is available now. Applicants must submit applications by 3 p.m. PDT, Sept. 22, 2022 to WSDOT Public Transportation Division community liaison [Marianna Hanefeld](#).

## Important dates

- **Sept. 8, 2022** – WSDOT posts notice of funding opportunity and PDF application.
- **3 p.m. PDT, Sept. 22, 2022** – Applications due to [Marianna Hanefeld](#).
- **Sept. 23-30, 2022** – Evaluation panel reviews and scores applications.
- **Oct. 4, 2022** – WSDOT sends grant award letters to grantees. WSDOT begins issuing contracts.

## Evaluation process

WSDOT uses a competitive process for awards from the RTAP grant program. Designated members of the Public Transportation Division will review applications and identify projects based on the following criteria:

- Project team experience
- Proposed team and project management plan
- Cost-effectiveness of proposed plan

## Scoring criteria

The maximum score on an application is 30 points. Each criterion listed above under “evaluation process” can receive a maximum of 10 points. WSDOT may elect to award more than one of the top scoring applications.

## Fatal flaws

WSDOT follows a formal, fatal-flaw policy for its grant applications.

Fatal flaws for applications to the RTAP funding opportunity for GTFS project grants include:

- Application submitted after the deadline
- Applicant is debarred or suspended from the federal [System of Award Management](#)
- Project will not provide public benefit by Oct. 31, 2023

The evaluation panel will not score applications with fatal flaws.

## Technical questions

Email [Thomas Craig](#) or call 360-709-7976.

## Application questions

Email [Marianna Hanefeld](#) or call 425-777-0557.