

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Section 5311(f) – Intercity Bus

The Commonwealth of Virginia was apportioned \$2,307,909 in Section 5311(f) American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. DRPT is soliciting applications from intercity bus providers meeting the eligibility criteria established by ARPA **and** FTA Circular 9040.1G. The amount of funding available for allocation will not exceed \$2,307,909.

This solicitation for applications is a one-time funding opportunity and should not be considered as a change in DRPT’s approach to intercity bus project funding, which is focused on advancing the Virginia Breeze system.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) 5311(f) Eligibility:

- Operating expenses are eligible beginning on or after January 20, 2020 and may include: Administrative expenses are 100% reimbursable – examples are administrative leave, bus driver salaries, supplies, PPE, fuel, preventative maintenance, including cleaning of vehicles and facilities, etc.
- Lost revenue is only allowed if it would have covered operating expenses. Example – If your operating expense is \$100,000 but revenue is only \$50,000 then you can only be reimbursed for \$50,000. Lost projected profit is NOT reimbursable.
- Only bus routes with bus stops in rural areas as defined in the FTA Circular 9040.1G - Formula Grants for Rural Areas are considered eligible for ARPA reimbursement.
- Applications must be received by **October 1, 2021**.

Additional Requirements from DRPT:

- DRPT requires monthly ridership and revenue reports by route for the period of time reimbursement is being sought. In addition, ridership and revenue reports must be submitted for the previous year’s period of time. For example, if you are seeking reimbursement for operating expenses incurred from April 2020 through November 2020, you will need to send ridership and revenue figures for that timeframe as well as for April 2019 through November 2019. **Only routes with rural bus stops are considered eligible for ARPA funds.**
- Provide a breakdown of frequency of routes with rural bus stops during the timeframe you are seeking reimbursement for operating expenses.
- DRPT will require documentation on what steps were taken to protect employees and passengers including social distancing in Virginia’s terminals and stations, including PPE’s distribution, and how they complied with CDC guidelines.

- DRPT will require documentation on what steps were followed to protect employees and passengers on-board buses and enroute, including on-board barriers ensuring 6 feet of interval between seated passengers, and PPE's such as hand sanitizers that complied with CDC guidelines during the period of time you are seeking reimbursement for operating expenses.
- If reimbursement is being sought for enhanced cleaning and sanitizing of buses, please provide documentation on what steps your organization followed at maintenance stations at each origin, end and intermediate maintenance stops.
- DRPT will require documentation that no employees were laid off, furloughed, or dismissed on or after March 27, 2020.
- **All eligibility determinations will be made by DRPT as the recipient of federal funding.**