



Biden-Harris Administration Announces Major Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Investments in Ferry Service

Thursday, November 30, 2023

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today announced grants totaling \$220.2 million from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to modernize the nation's ferry systems. The program focuses in part on expanding ferry service in rural communities, helping communities acquire modern ferry boats (including electric boats that reduce carbon pollution), and upgrading shore infrastructure to support high-quality, low-emission ferry service.

"For many communities around the U.S., ferries are an important way to access jobs, medical care, and vital goods and services—like in communities I visited this summer in Alaska, Wisconsin, and Washington state," said **U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg**. "With these grants, from President Biden's Investing in America agenda, we will be able to connect more people to the opportunities and resources they need to thrive even when their main route is a waterway rather than a road."

In total, FTA is awarding [13 grants in eight states](#) and the territory of American Samoa. Federal funding will support projects such as replacing old vessels, expanding fleets, and building new terminals and docks.

"Today's announcement represents our continued record support under the Biden-Harris Administration for passenger ferry service," said **FTA Administrator Nuria Fernandez**. "The grants help transit agencies make investments to increase reliability, improve connections to other modes of transportation, and bring older ferry systems into a state of good repair."

The funding, made available through two FTA competitive grant programs, will boost ferry service in rural areas, modernize urban ferry systems, and lower emissions by speeding the adoption of low- and zero-emission technology.

[FTA's Ferry Service for Rural Communities Program](#) provides competitive funding to states for ferry service in rural areas. Today, FTA is awarding approximately \$170 million to six projects in four states and the territory of American Samoa.

[FTA's Passenger Ferry Grant Program](#) supports capital projects to establish new ferry service and repair and modernize ferry vessels, terminals, and facilities in urban areas. Today, FTA is awarding \$50.1 million to seven projects in four states.

Today's investment is the second ferry grant package funded by President Biden's [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#), which has now invested more than \$604 million to expand and improve the nation's ferry service, as well as accelerate the transition to zero emission transportation technology. Over the next three years, record funding for American transit investment secured under President Biden's leadership will provide \$825 million more in funds for ferry service and infrastructure.

Selected fiscal year 2023 ferry projects include:

- The American Samoa Department of Public Works will receive \$21.2 million to acquire two low-emission vessels that will operate from Tutuila to the islands of Manu'a. This project will expand service, enhance reliability, and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- The San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Agency (WETA) will receive \$15.9 million to retrofit two of their existing ferry floats in the cities of Alameda and San Francisco by installing battery energy storage systems to improve reliability and air quality.
- The State of Alaska will receive nearly \$131.3 million to invest in the Alaska Marine Highway that serves remote locations throughout the state, including nearly \$92.8 million to the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to build a new ferry to replace a nearly 60-year-old vessel. The new ferry will feature a diesel-electric propulsion system and will serve rural southwest Alaska with more reliable service and fewer greenhouse gas emissions.
- The New York City Department of Transportation will receive nearly \$7.5 million to build shoreside terminal infrastructure to enable rapid charging for vessels serving Governors Island, which is only accessible by ferry service. The new charging system will reduce emissions, decrease maintenance costs, and improve reliability for riders.

Projects were selected for funding based on criteria in the [Notice of Funding of Opportunity](#). FTA received 28 eligible project proposals in 12 states and the territory of American Samoa, totaling nearly \$418 million in requests.

FTA Ferry Grant Program 2023 Selected Projects

Click on a header to sort by that column.				
State	Project Sponsor	FTA Ferry Program	Project Description	Amount
AK	Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF)	Rural Ferry	The Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities will receive funding to improve operations on the Alaska Marine Highway	\$38,511,041

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State	Project Sponsor	FTA Ferry Program	Project Description	Amount
			System, which runs 3,500 miles and serves more than 30 communities with limited transportation options and high costs. The funding will improve the condition and quality of passenger ferry service -- including vessels and workforce -- as well as add service to remote communities.	
AK	Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF)	Rural Ferry	The Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities will receive funding to build a new ferry to replace a nearly 60-year-old vessel. The new vessel, which will feature a diesel-electric propulsion system, will serve rural southwest Alaska, improving service, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and preserving a vital transit lifeline.	\$92,786,400
AS	American Samoa Government Department of Public Works	Rural Ferry	The American Samoa Department of Public Works will receive funding to build two new low-emission ferries that will operate from Tutuila to the islands of Manu'a. This project will expand service, enhance reliability and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions causing climate change.	\$21,250,000
CA	Golden Gate Bridge, Highway & Transportation District	Passenger Ferry	The Golden Gate Bridge, Highway & Transportation District will receive funding to replace the Sausalito Ferry Landing in Marin County, built to reduce traffic congestion	\$6,000,000

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			across the Golden Gate Bridge. The new landing will replace an aging float and improve safety and service.	
CA	San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Agency	Passenger Ferry	The San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Agency will receive funding to retrofit two ferry floats with battery energy storage systems. The upgrades will improve service, reduce emissions, improve air quality and reduce electrical demand in downtown San Francisco and two terminals in the City of Alameda (Seaplane Lagoon and Main Street).	\$15,900,000
ME	Maine Department of Transportation	Rural Ferry	The Maine Department of Transportation will receive funding to modernize two rural ferry terminals originally built in 1959. This project will provide the infrastructure needed to support the safe and efficient operation of a new hybrid electric vessel scheduled for delivery in 2027. The improvements will include expanded docking space for safe and efficient boarding and charging equipment.	\$7,100,000
MI	Michigan Department of Transportation	Rural Ferry	The Michigan Department of Transportation, on behalf of the Beaver Island Transportation Authority, will receive funding to build a passenger ferry and repair the Beaver Island dock. BITA, which provides ferry service and freight transportation between Charlevoix, Michigan	\$10,000,000

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			and Beaver Island 32 miles away, will analyze potential "green" propulsion systems to power the new vessel and evaluate the dock infrastructure to accommodate it.	
NJ	New Jersey Transit Corporation	Passenger Ferry	New Jersey Transit on behalf of New York Waterway, will receive funding to convert two vessels from diesel power to battery electric propulsion systems and buy charging equipment to support them. The project will improve service reliability, state of good repair and improve air quality in the community.	\$6,944,032
NJ	South Amboy, City of (Inc.)	Passenger Ferry	The city of South Amboy, N.J., will receive funding to build a new floating dock, critical infrastructure needed to complete a new passenger ferry facility designed to add regional service between Central New Jersey and Manhattan, NY.	\$6,018,000
NY	New York City Department of Transportation	Passenger Ferry	The New York City Department of Transportation will receive funding to rehabilitate a storage facility that supports the Staten Island Ferry. This project will improve reliability as well as resiliency, helping ensure continued operations during weather events or other service disruptions.	\$3,000,000
NY	New York City Department of Transportation	Passenger Ferry	The New York City Department of Transportation, on behalf of the Trust for Governors Island, will receive funding to build	\$7,480,000

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			charging equipment to support future rapid charging for vessels serving Governors Island, which is solely accessible by ferry. A battery energy storage system will stabilize the demand on the island's power grid and support rapid charging of vessels and allow them to operate in zero-emissions mode, significantly reducing emissions, decreasing maintenance costs, and improving reliability.	
NC	North Carolina Department of Transportation - Ferry Division	Rural Ferry	The North Carolina Department of Transportation Ferry Division will receive funding to conduct a study analyzing a new depot maintenance facility at its Cherry Branch Ferry Terminal. The facility would provide a larger, better equipped building and docking area to perform in-water maintenance and promote timely maintenance and continued rehabilitation of the fleet, boosting resiliency.	\$400,000
WA	Washington State Department of Transportation, Ferries Division	Passenger Ferry	The Washington State Department of Transportation, Ferries Division will receive funding to refurbish six ferry vessels built between 1979 and 1982. The project will extend the useful life of the vessels, maintaining the reliability and efficiency of WSF service as ridership	\$4,800,000

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			continues to rebound and grow into the future.	

Total:
\$220,189,473



Thursday, January 26, 2023

[FTA's Ferry Service for Rural Communities Program](#) provides competitive funding to states for ferry service in rural areas. FTA is awarding \$252.4 million to eight projects in four states.

State	Project Sponsor	FTA Ferry Program ▲	Project Description	Amount
NC	North Carolina Department of Transportation - Ferry Division	Rural Ferry	The North Carolina Department of Transportation Ferry Division will receive funding to modernize the NCDOT Manns Harbor Shipyard paint facility, increasing safety and bringing it up to a state of good repair. Modernization work at the shipyard, built in the 1960s, will include replacing interior lighting with LED, installing explosion-proof lighting and using fire-retardant paint to increase efficiency and provide a safe working environment.	\$1,345,241
MI	Michigan Department of Transportation	Rural Ferry	The Michigan Department of Transportation will receive funding to renovate docks and build a new ferry for the Charlevoix to Beaver Island route. Beaver Island is the largest island in Lake Michigan and the most remote inhabited island in the Great Lakes.	\$6,628,285
ME	Maine Department of Transportation	Rural Ferry	The Maine Department of Transportation will receive funding to maintain and operate the Maine State Ferry Service. The funding will support safe, reliable, and sustainable ferry service to six island communities in mid-coast and down east Maine, where rural residents rely on ferries for access to jobs, goods, healthcare and other services.	\$4,991,474
AK	Alaska Department of Transportation	Rural Ferry	The Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities will receive funding to upgrade the dock infrastructure in five	\$45,483,214

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	& Public Facilities (DOT&PF)		rural Alaskan communities. The upgrades will allow ferries to continue service to three small, disadvantaged, rural communities and two rural hub communities, including replacing 40-year-old infrastructure at the Auke Bay Ferry Terminal. The upgrades will also allow the facilities to accommodate additional ferries, allowing for expanded and uninterrupted service.	
AK	Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF)	Rural Ferry	The Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities will receive funding to modernize four Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) vessels, ensuring reliable service, improving state of good repair, and continuing quality transit services. AMHS provides year-round, scheduled ferry service throughout Southeast and Southwest Alaska, extending south to Prince Rupert, British Columbia and Bellingham, Washington.	\$72,065,545
AK	Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF)	Rural Ferry	The Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities will receive funding for the operation of the Alaska Marine Highway System, which runs 3,500 miles and serves 35 communities that face low transportation access and high transportation costs. The funding will strengthen the ferry system and help improve the quality and reliability of ferry service.	\$44,823,800
AK	Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF)	Rural Ferry	The Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities will receive funding to plan for the replacement of aging ferry vessels with diesel-electric hybrid vessels and develop the functional design of a new vessel. This planning grant will support the first steps in maintaining a continuity of services and providing a safer, more efficient, and environmentally friendly public transportation system for Southeast Alaska.	\$8,591,616

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AK	Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF)	Rural Ferry	The Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities will receive funding to build a new ferry to replace a nearly 60-year-old vessel. The new vessel, which will feature a diesel-electric propulsion system, will serve rural southwest Alaska, will improve service reliability, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase service, and ensure a vital transit lifeline is preserved.	