

## DRPT Agency Update – April 2024

### **DRPT Connecting Commuters Campaign**

DRPT is excited to announce the Connecting Commuters marketing campaign, set to kick off on March 18, 2024. Through mid-May, DRPT wants to encourage commuters throughout Virginia to explore public transit options and [earn rider rewards by downloading the ConnectingVA app](#).

Commuters in Virginia are set to experience a new level of convenience and efficiency with the ConnectingVA app and Virginia Trip Planner provided by the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT). These tools are designed to transform travel planning by offering comprehensive information and seamless journeys for car/vanpoolers, bicyclists, and public transit passengers.

### **DRPT Creating Connections: For the Long Haul**

The Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), is launching a marketing campaign, “Creating Connections: For the Long Haul”, aimed at showcasing the vital role of freight rail in Virginia’s transportation infrastructure. This campaign focuses on raising awareness about the efficiencies, sustainability, and economic advantages offered by freight rail transportation as well as the DRPT programs that support freight rail throughout the Commonwealth. For more information on “Creating Connections” and to stay updated on the latest resources and information, visit [connectingva.org](https://connectingva.org).

### **Federal Transit Administration announces two NOFOs**

FTA has announced the opportunity to apply for \$1,103,963,762 in competitive grants under the Low or No Emission Grant Program (Low-No Program) and \$390,045,823 under the Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program (Buses and Bus Facilities Program). Applications are due April 25, 2024. [View the NOFOs here](#).

The Low-No Program provides funding to state and local governmental authorities for the purchase or lease of zero-emission and low-emission transit buses, including acquisition, construction, and leasing of required supporting facilities.

The purpose of the Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program is to assist in the financing of buses and bus facilities capital projects, including replacing, rehabilitating, purchasing or leasing buses or related equipment, and rehabilitating, purchasing, constructing or leasing bus-related facilities.

Review [DRPT’s 2023 FTA discretionary grant writing workshop](#) on our YouTube page.

## **FY25 Section 5303 applications due May 1<sup>st</sup>**

FY25 5303 [applications are due in WebGrants](#) by May 1, 2024. Planning level estimates were sent out Friday, 3/22 with final allocations to be sent once the final federal appropriations have been released by FTA.

## **Clean Bus Planning Awards**

The \$5 million [Clean Bus Planning Awards \(CBPA\) program](#), managed by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and funded by the Joint Office, [launched last week](#). The CBPA program provides free technical assistance from NREL to create comprehensive and customized bus electrification plans for fleets across the United States. Both public transit agencies and school bus fleet operators are eligible to apply.