Final Report 2021—FY 2019 Data

Survey of State Funding for Public Transportation

AASHTO

Characteristics of State Funding for Public Transportation

The following report provides a summary of state transit funding for the 50 states and the District of Columbia (DC). Information includes funding sources, amounts, programs, eligible uses and allocation, and per capita state transit funding. The report was prepared by David Spacek Consulting.

AASHTO would like to thank the state DOT officials who responded to the survey.

Front cover:

1) San Diego Metropolitan Transit System Zero Emission Bus Pilot Project, photo courtesy of Gordon Meyer, San Diego MTS Marketing Department.
2) CT*rail* Hartford Line train at Wallingford Station, Wallingford, CT, photo courtesy of James Stutz.
3) Former Maintence Mechanic, Provided by Missouri Public Transit Association.
4) Carbondale Park and Ride Spring, photo courtesy of Jennifer Balmes.
5) The Lift Paratransit Service, in Winter Park, CO, photo courtesy of a local Winter Park resident.
6) CT*rail* Hartford Line coach platforming in Wallingford, CT, photo courtesy of James Stutz.
7) Social distancing and mask wearing is mandatory on Vermont's buses. photo courtesy of Southeast Vermont Transit.

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April 2021

Dear Reader,

The AASHTO Council on Public Transportation is pleased to release the 39th compilation of the *Survey of State Funding for Public Transportation*. The survey results are based on Fiscal Year 2019 data from 50 state departments of transportation and the District of Columbia. This annual report provides a snapshot of state-by-state investments in public transportation and an understanding of how state departments of transportation utilize funding and tax mechanisms to support *all* transit operations and capital projects.

The *2021 Survey of State Funding for Public Transportation* reflects the leadership and commitment of state departments of transportation to the financing and administration of transit programs with Federal and state funding and demonstrates the close, valued partnership with the Federal Transit Administration. Here are some of the most interesting findings in this report:

- Compared to FY 2018 levels, 27 states and the District of Columbia, combined, increased their funding by slightly less than $1.8 billion for FY 2019.
- Two states accounted for more than 71 percent of the FY 2019 total increase. California increased funding by $886.9 million (a 33.7 percent increase) while New York's funding increased by $307.6 million (a 5.9 percent increase).
- Significant funding increases in FY 2019 state funding were experienced in Colorado (346 percent), Oregon (116 percent), (Montana (37.6 percent), and Virginia (30.2 percent).
- Maine's funding increased dramatically (by 908.2 percent), due to underreporting in previous years and inclusion of state ferry service and rideshare program funding for the first time. Utah's steep funding increase (>100 percent) for FY 2019 resulted from the inclusion of state funding provided to the Utah Transportation Authority for public transportation services.
- Ten states showed a decline in funding, while fourteen states showed no change in funding levels.

Through the Council on Public Transportation, and with its national partners, our state departments of transportation advance public transportation as a critical component of our nation's multimodal transportation systems. Public transportation is a vital public service in small urban and rural communities served by AASHTO members.

We recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a significant impact on public transportation—demand, funding, operations, and planning for the future. While the data in this report is 2019, we are working actively to understand and quantify those impacts, and expect future reports will incorporate that analysis.

The *Survey of State Funding for Public Transportation* is viewed by the public transportation industry, national associations, and Federal and state government agencies as one of the most comprehensive resources on state involvement in public transportation. On behalf of the Council on Public Transportation, we would like to thank the AASHTO member departments for completing the survey.

We hope you find this report a useful reference as you continue to support public transportation in your state.

Sincerely,

Roger Millar
Chair, AASHTO Council
on Public Transportation
Secretary, Washington State
Department of Transportation

Jim Tymon
Executive Director
AASHTO

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