AASHTO

Final Report 2023—FY 2021 Data

Survey of State Funding for Public Transportation

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 photos:

1) Drivers Donna T., Larry T., Nicole E., and Ken K. Photo courtesy of Mallory Box, Missouri Public Transit Association (MPTA).

2) TriMet's MAX Light Rail service to City Center crossing Tilikum Crossing Bridge. Photo provided courtesy of Richard Price, Former AASHTO Transit Program Manager.

3) Riders Departing The Lift on their way to catch the Amtrak Zephyr back to Denver—Fraser, Colorado. Photo provided courtesy of Studio Six, Krzyszt of Walder.

4) Bus on mountain road. Photo courtesy of Jennifer Balmes, Roaring Fork Transportation Authority, Carobondale, Colorado.

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May 2023

Dear Reader,

The AASHTO Council on Public Transportation is pleased to release the 41st compilation of the *Survey of State Funding for Public Transportation*. The survey results are based on Fiscal Year 2021 data from the 50 state departments of transportation (DOTs) and the District of Columbia (DC) Department of Transportation. This annual report provides a snapshot of state-by-state investments in public transportation, including DC, and an understanding of how departments of transportation utilize funding and revenue mechanisms to support all transit operations and capital projects.

The 2023 *Survey of State Funding for Public Transportation* reflects the dedication of these 51 DOTs to the financing and administration of transit programs with Federal and state funding. In this year's report, we continue to assess the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on state transit programs. Building on the critical funding provided to public transit agencies through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, in FY 2021 two additional relief packages were passed by Congress: the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRS) Act and the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act. These Acts provided for the quick dispersal of Federal funding and were critical to help public transit systems mitigate the ongoing impacts of the pandemic. Here are some pandemic- and funding-related highlights from this year's report:

- Total state funding increased by 12.64 percent ($2.64 billion).
- Total Federal coronavirus funding increased by 63.14 percent ($15.63 billion).
- Total Federal public transit funding increased by 37.69 percent ($18.34 billion).
- DOTs continued to work with transit agencies to maintain service in the midst of pandemic disruptions by creative and innovative means, such as expanding coordination with community-based health centers, implementing contactless fare technologies, and transporting goods and services directly to those in need.
- For FY 2021, DOTs collectively provided $10.0 billion more in state funding for public transit than Federal formula funds.

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 the involvement of these 51 DOTs 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,

Nicole Majeski

Chair, AASHTO Council
on Public Transportation

Secretary, Delaware
Department of Transportation

Jim Tymon
Executive Director
AASHTO

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The City of Statesboro, in partnership with Georgia DOT and Coastal Regional Commission, operates Statesboro Area Transit's rural public transportation system in the Georgia town. Photo courtesy of Action Signs.

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PART 1

Introduction

This report, the 41st compilation of information on state funding for public transportation, was prepared under the auspices of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). This report is based on survey responses received from 51 departments of transportation (DOTs), including the District of Columbia. No data was included from any United States territories.

Due to the unusual and continuing widespread impact of the pandemic in FY 2021 on public transit nationwide, AASHTO is providing a snapshot of the impact on transit systems from a national perspective, as well as the continued challenges and impacts faced by state administrators and operators of public transit, and select innovative services implemented to meet these challenges and impacts (Parts 2 and 3).

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