FTA

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration

REPORT SUMMARY

2012 Statistical Summaries FTA Grant Assistance Programs

Background

The mission of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is to improve public transportation for America's communities. FTA seeks to deliver products and services that are valued by its customers and to assist transit agencies in better meeting the needs of their customers. This comprehensive report presents detailed FY funding data for FTA's major financial aid programs. Use of these funds is identified by program, program element, urbanized area, and state.

Objectives

The 2012 Statistical Summaries provides information about FTA's major financial aid programs for Federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2012. The report covers the following programs: Urbanized Area Formula, Non-urbanized Area Formula, Rural Transit Assistance Program, Special Needs for Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities, Capital, Paul S. Sarbanes Transit in the Parks Program, Alternative Analysis, Interstate Substitution, Job Access and Reverse Commute, New Freedom, Over-the-Road Bus, Clean Fuels, Metropolitan Transportation Planning, Statewide Transportation Planning, Consolidated Planning Grants, Emergency Supplemental Funding, and State Infrastructure Banks. The data used in this report are compiled from the capital, operating, and planning assistance grants to transit authorities, states, planning agencies, and other units of local government and eligible recipients.

Findings and Conclusions

Funds obligated by the Federal Transit Administration to support transit continue to rise, and the transfer of certain Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds to FTA for use in transit projects has continued to play a key role in project funding.

Funds obligated to support transit continue to rise. For FY 2012, the last year of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), FTA's grant obligations totaled about $12.8 billion. About 84 percent was obligated under the two largest programs, the Capital Program (40%) and the Urbanized Area Formula Program (44%). Of the total $12.8 billion, capital expenses accounted for about 90 percent ($11.5 billion) of obligations.

In FY 2012, funds were obligated for the purchase of 8,499 motor vehicles (buses, vans, sedans, station wagons, ferry boats) and 1,945 rail cars, totaling approximately $1.4 billion and $1.0 billion, respectively.

The transfer of certain Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds to FTA for use in transit projects has continued to play a key role in project funding. The availability of these flexible funds began with the authorization of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) in FY 1992 and was continued with the passage of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). Transfers totaled about $2.4 billion in FY 2012.

Benefits

Obligations for FTA major financial programs are distributed among various population and programmatic categories and must be used for certain purposes to meet all legal and administrative requirements for program eligibility. The statistical summaries contained in this report promote accountability and foster transparency by providing accurate, user-friendly information on FTA programs.

Project Information

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This research project was developed by FTA Office of Program Management. For more information, contact Shapell Randolph, FTA Transportation Analyst, at (202) 366-1086 or Shapell.Randolph@dot.gov. All FTA research reports can be found at **www.fta.dot.gov/research**.