

Small Starts

FTA is budgeting \$100 million in the President's FY 2007 Budget for potential projects which may qualify under the Small Starts program, which is defined in SAFETEA-LU as transit capital investment projects with a total capital cost of less than \$250 million and a Section 5309 New Starts share of total costs of less than \$75 million. As noted previously, FTA is engaged in a statutorily-required rulemaking for the implementation of the Small Starts program, which will address the evaluation process and further definition of the Project Construction Grant Agreement mechanism which will be the funding instrument for such projects. Pending completion of the rulemaking progress, FTA is not recommending Small Starts funding for any specific project for FY 2007 at this time; however, FTA may recommend funding as part of the FY 2007 appropriations process for emerging transit capital investments which meet SAFETEA-LU's definition for Small Starts projects.