



Electric or Low Emitting Ferry Pilot Program



Application deadline: 05/11/2026



Available funding: \$98M

Electric or Low Emitting Ferry (ELEF) Pilot Program supports the purchase of electric or low-emitting ferries and the electrification of or other reduction of emissions from existing ferries



Goals and merit criteria:

The goal of the Low-No Ferry program is to provide funding for projects that support the purchase of electric or low-emitting ferries and the electrification of or other reduction of emissions from existing ferries.

An evaluation committee will rate applications based on how well they respond to the evaluation criteria below:

- Demonstration of need
- Demonstration of benefits
- Planning and local/regional prioritization
- Project implementation strategy
- Technical, legal, and financial capacity

Electric or Low Emitting Ferry Pilot Program Planning Details

Match funding
requirement: 20%¹

Direct Pay
applicability: Likely
yes

Description

Eligible ELEF projects are capital projects for the purchase of electric or low-emitting ferry vessels and related infrastructure in urbanized or rural areas.

Workforce development is not eligible.

Award figures

*Anticipated
number of awards* ~15

Award amounts No minimum or maximum. FY 2024 selected projects ranged from \$691,000 to \$20,000,000

Set-asides \$5 million is set aside specifically for low- or zero-emission ferries and related facilities/equipment

Ongoing & past funded projects

FY 2024:
Total awards: 6
Total funding: \$49M
Average funding: ~\$8.2M

1. The Federal share is 85 percent for vessels that are compliant with the Clean Air Act (CAA) or the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and 90 percent for equipment or components of facilities that are related to low- or zero- emission ferries or are to make the facility accessible to people with disabilities.

High level requirements to apply for an Electric or Low Emitting Ferry Pilot grant



Eligible Entities

- Providers of publicly owned public transportation service
- States and federally recognized Tribes that operate a public ferry system in an urbanized area
- The state or tribal territory should submit application on behalf of a local entity - and the local service provider should be the proponent of the project and included in the proposal development.



Key Application Components

A complete proposal submission consists of two forms and their supporting attachments:

- SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance
- Supplemental Form for the FY 2026 Ferry Programs
 - Applicants must attach the Supplemental Form and any supporting documents to the “Attachments” section of the SF-424
 - If applying for a zero-emission project, you must attach the Zero-Emission Fleet Transition Plan

Additional criteria FTA may consider

- Geographic diversity
- Variety in transit system size
- Propulsion type receiving funding
- Walk-on vs. vehicle boardings
- Whether applicant is urban, small urban, rural, or tribal
- Whether applicant has received other competitive Federal transit funds and the management of those funds
- Propulsion type during the vehicle procurement process to include prioritizing standard propulsion vehicles (diesel, gasoline, etc.)
- Prioritization of reducing vagrancy as detailed in Executive Order 14321

Examples of past winners (2024)

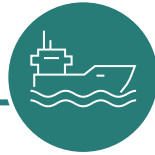


Rock Island County Metropolitan Mass Transit District (MetroLINK)

Location: Illinois

Funding: \$8M

Award description: The Rock Island County Metropolitan Mass Transit District (MetroLINK) will receive funding to buy a new a battery-electric ferry, charging equipment to support a zero- emission vessel along the Mississippi Riverfront, and to make land-side improvements. The project will improve service, reliability, and state of good repair and improve air quality for passengers taking the ferry across the Mississippi River between Illinois and Iowa's Quad Cities

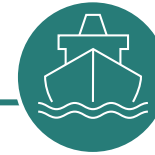


Maine Department of Transportation

Location: Maine

Funding: \$28M

Award description: The Maine Department of Transportation will receive funding to build a hybrid-electric vessel to replace a 35-year-old vessel that has exceeded its useful life



City of Annapolis

Location: Maryland

Funding: \$3M

Award description: The City of Annapolis will receive funding to initiate passenger ferry service between the city's downtown and Eastport by buying two battery electric vessels and charging equipment and making improvements to the two docks. The fixed-route service will accommodate workers, residents and visitors, support redevelopment of the City Dock area