



AMERICAN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION
FACT SHEET
PRESIDENT’S FY 2025 BUDGET REQUEST:
FEDERAL SHARE FOR UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES
May 29, 2024

On March 11, 2024, President Joseph Biden released his Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Budget Request, outlining his Administration’s priorities for the next year. When combined with the advance appropriations included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), the President requests **\$16.4 billion** for passenger and freight rail in FY 2025. In addition, the Budget includes a proposal to increase the allowable Federal share of a project that benefits underserved communities under the Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail, Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement (CRISI), and the Railroad Crossing Elimination grant programs.

APTA Recommendation

- **Urge Congress to adopt the President’s FY 2025 Budget Request proposal to increase the Federal share from 80 percent to 90 percent of a project that benefits underserved communities under the Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail, CRISI, and Railroad Crossing Elimination grant programs.**

On April 7, 2024, the APTA Legislative Steering Committee endorsed this provision, as outlined in President Biden’s FY 2025 Budget Request.

Summary

For Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail, CRISI, and Railroad Crossing Elimination grant programs, the Budget proposes a Federal share up to 90 percent for projects benefiting an underserved community. The current maximum Federal share of a project applying to the Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail, CRISI, and Railroad Crossing Elimination grant programs is 80 percent for each program.¹ The Secretary of Transportation would determine what qualifies as an “underserved community”.²

Background

The Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail program is intended to reduce the state-of-good-repair backlog, improve performance, or expand or establish new intercity passenger rail service. Eligible activities include capital projects to meet the program purpose, as well as planning, environmental studies, and final design of such projects. Eligible recipients

¹ See 49 U.S.C. §§ 24911(f)(2), 22907(h)(2), and 22909(g), respectively.

² Note that Presidential [Executive Order 13985, Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government](#), 86 Fed. Reg. 7009 (January 25, 2021), defines an underserved community as “populations sharing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, that have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life... .”



include: a State, a group of States, interstate compact, public agency or public chartered authority, political subdivision, Amtrak, federally recognized Indian Tribes, or a combination of such entities. The total Budget Request for the Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail grants for FY 2025 is \$7.3 billion.³

The CRISI program is intended to fund projects that improve the safety, efficiency, and/or reliability of intercity passenger and freight rail systems. Eligible recipients include: a State, a group of States, interstate compact, public agency or public chartered authority, political subdivision, Amtrak, Class II or III railroads and associations representing Class II or III railroads, rail carriers or equipment manufacturers partnered with a State entity, public agency, or local government, federally recognized Indian Tribes, the Transportation Research Board partnered with an entity with which it contracts in the development of rail-related research, university transportation centers engaged in rail-related research, and non-profit labor organizations representing employees or contractors. The total Budget Request for the CRISI program for FY 2025 is \$1.25 billion.⁴ Of the 70 projects that received grant funding for FY 2022, 30 projects received the current maximum Federal share of 80 percent.

The Railroad Crossing Elimination program was created under the IIJA and is intended to fund highway-rail or pathway-rail grade crossing improvement projects that focus on improving the safety and mobility of people and goods. Eligible recipients include: States, political subdivisions, federally recognized Indian Tribes, a unit of local government or a group of local governments, public port authorities, metropolitan planning organizations, or a combination of such entities.⁵ The total Budget Request for the Railroad Crossing Elimination program for FY 2025 is \$600 million.

³ The President requests \$100 million for FY 2025 in addition to the \$7.2 billion in IIJA advance appropriations. For more information, please view [APTA's Passenger Rail Funding Table](#).

⁴ The President requests \$250 million for FY 2025 in addition to the \$1 billion in IIJA advance appropriations.

⁵ 49 U.S.C. § 22909(c).