

Bikes and Transit a Federal Perspective

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U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration

Overview

- FTA Program Overview
- Bicycle Eligibility
- Partnership for Sustainable Communities
- Policy Support
- Challenges
- Resources

Public Transportation

- Transportation by a conveyance that provides regular and continuing general or special transportation to the public, but does not include school bus, charter, sightseeing or intercity bus transportation or intercity passenger rail transportation provided by AMTRAK. The terms “transit,” “mass transportation,” and “public transportation” are used interchangeably in transit law.

FTA Grant Programs

Formula Programs

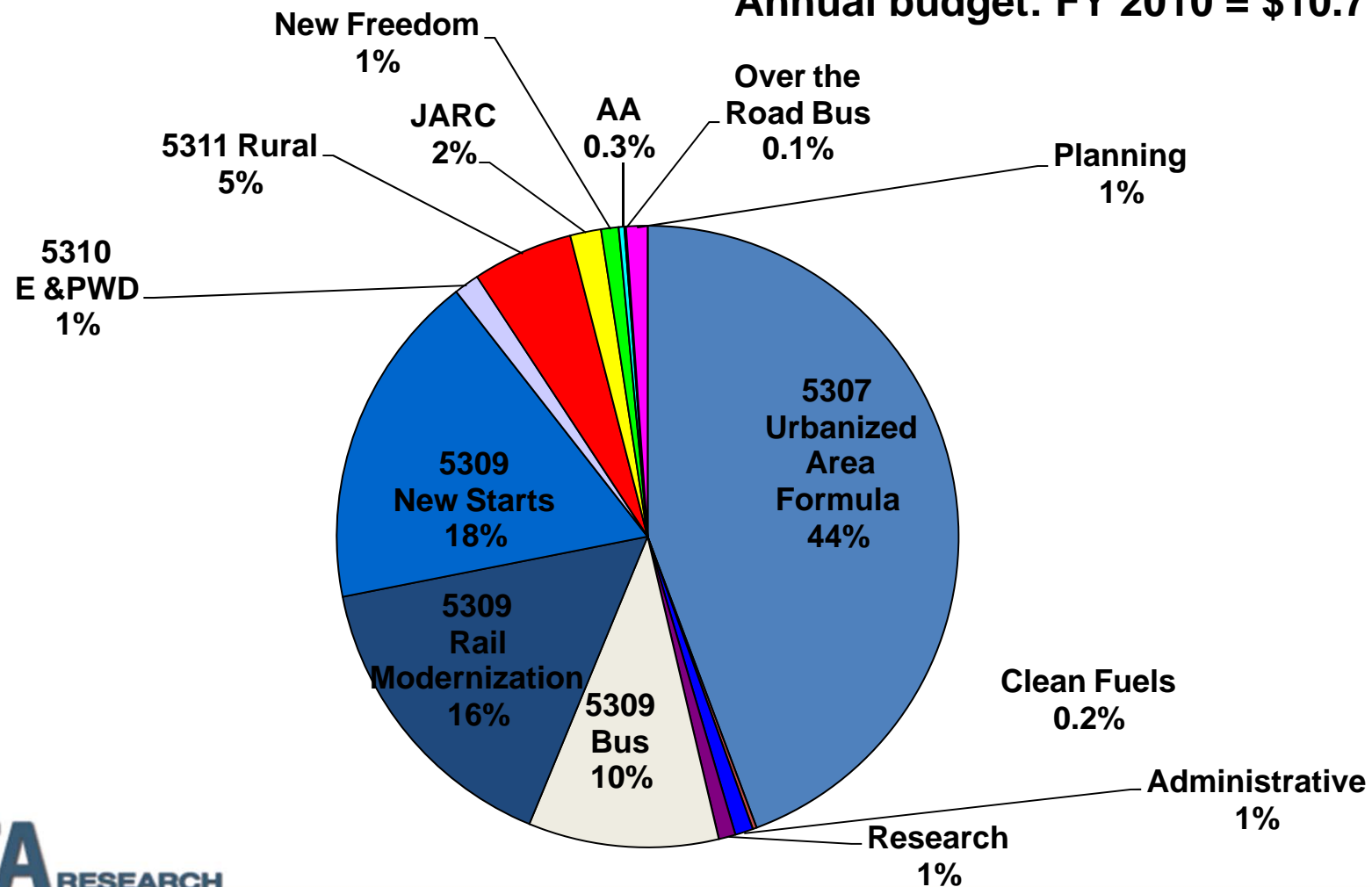
- Statewide & Metropolitan Planning
- Urbanized Area
- Elderly & Persons with Disabilities
- Non-Urbanized Area
- Rail Modernization
- Job Access & Reverse Commute
- New Freedom

Discretionary Programs

- Bus & Bus Facilities
- New Starts / Small Starts
- Research & Program Support
- Alternative Transportation in the Parks
- Alternatives Analysis
- Over the Road Bus

Size of FTA Grant Programs

Annual budget: FY 2010 = \$10.7 billion



Transit Enhancements

49 U.S.C. § 5302(a)(15)

- One percent of FTA Urbanized Area Formula Funds must be used for Transit Enhancements
- 95 percent federal matching share
- Projects that are designed to enhance public transportation service or use and that are physically or functionally related to transit facilities...
- **(F) bicycle access, including bicycle storage facilities and installing equipment for transporting bicycles on public transportation vehicles;**

Federal Transit Law

Key Bicycle Provisions - 49 U.S.C. § 5302

Capital Project Definition – “A public transportation improvement ...including...pedestrian and bicycle access to a public transportation facility”

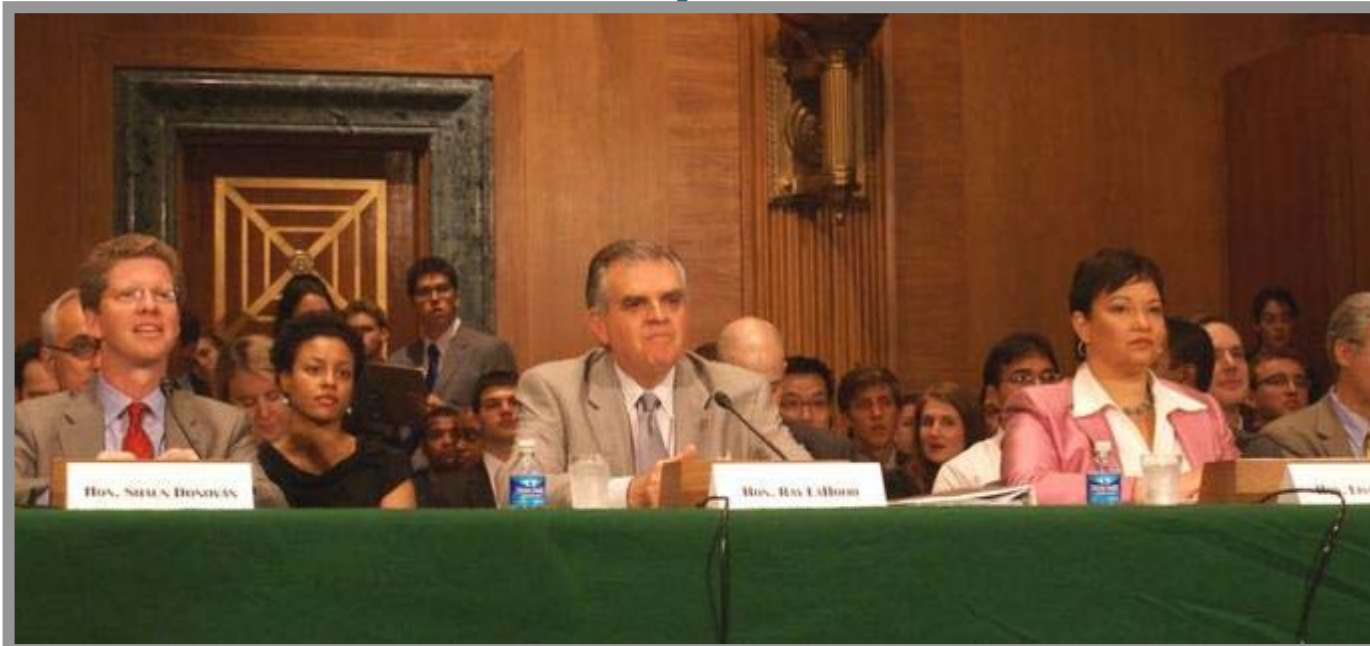
This means key FTA capital programs can fund...

- **Planning** for bicycle-transit integration
- **Access** to a public transportation station or stop
 - sidewalks, multi-use path, etc.
- **Parking** at a public transportation station or stop
 - bicycle storage facilities, etc.
- **Storage** on a transit vehicle
 - bike hooks on trains, bike racks on buses, etc.

Federal Matching Share

- 95 percent:
 - Bicycle Transit Enhancements
- 90 percent
 - Non-Bicycle Transit Enhancements
 - ADA-related capital expenses
 - Clean Air Act
- 80 percent – most other transit activities

Livability Initiative



“Livability means being able to take your kids to school, go to work, see a doctor, drop by the grocery or Post Office, go out to dinner and a movie, and play with your kids at the park – all without having to get in your car” - *Ray LaHood*

Six Partnership Principles



Transportation Choices



Housing Choices



Economic Competitiveness



Support Existing Communities



Align Federal Policies



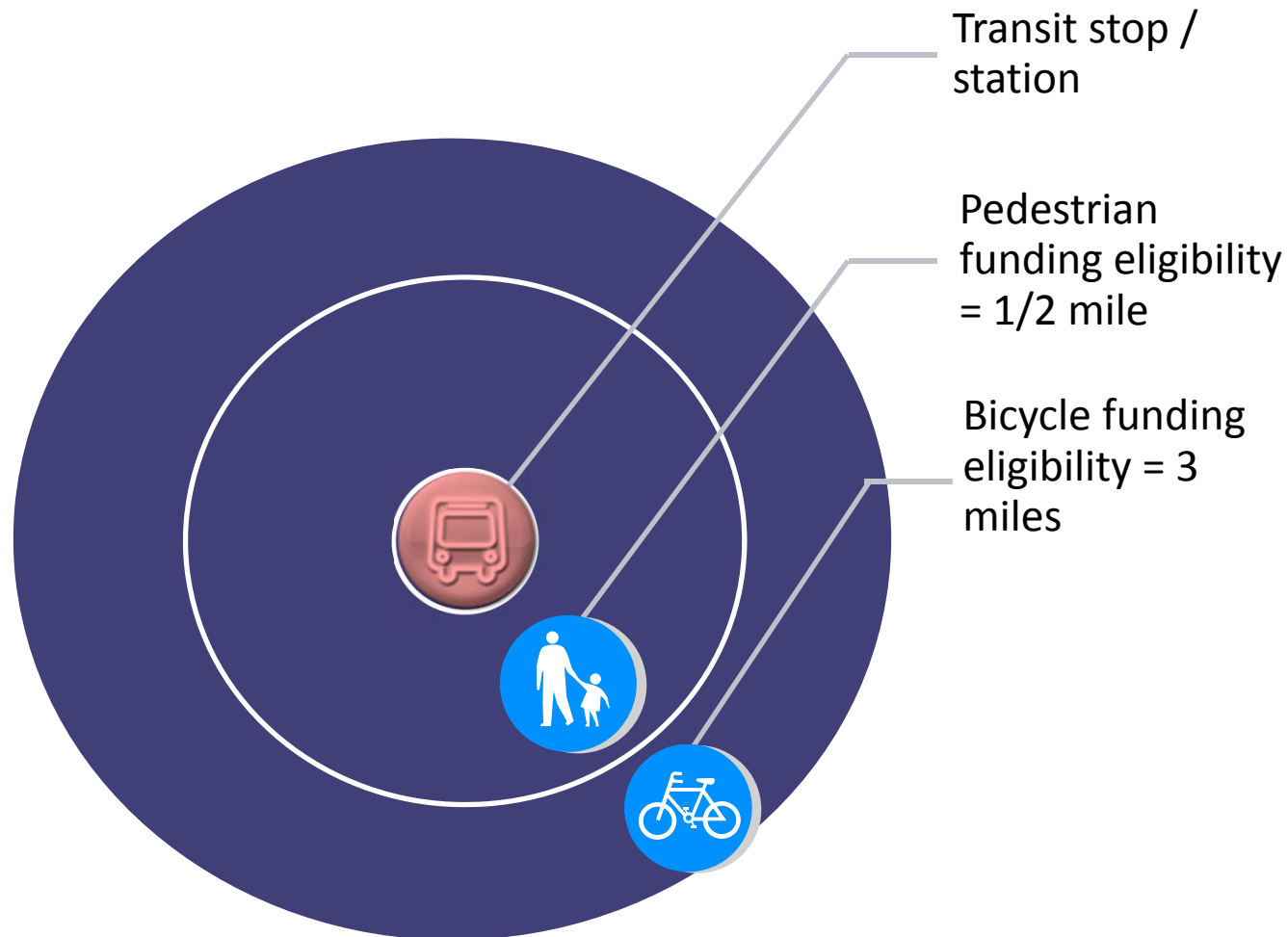
Value Communities

DOT Statement on Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodation

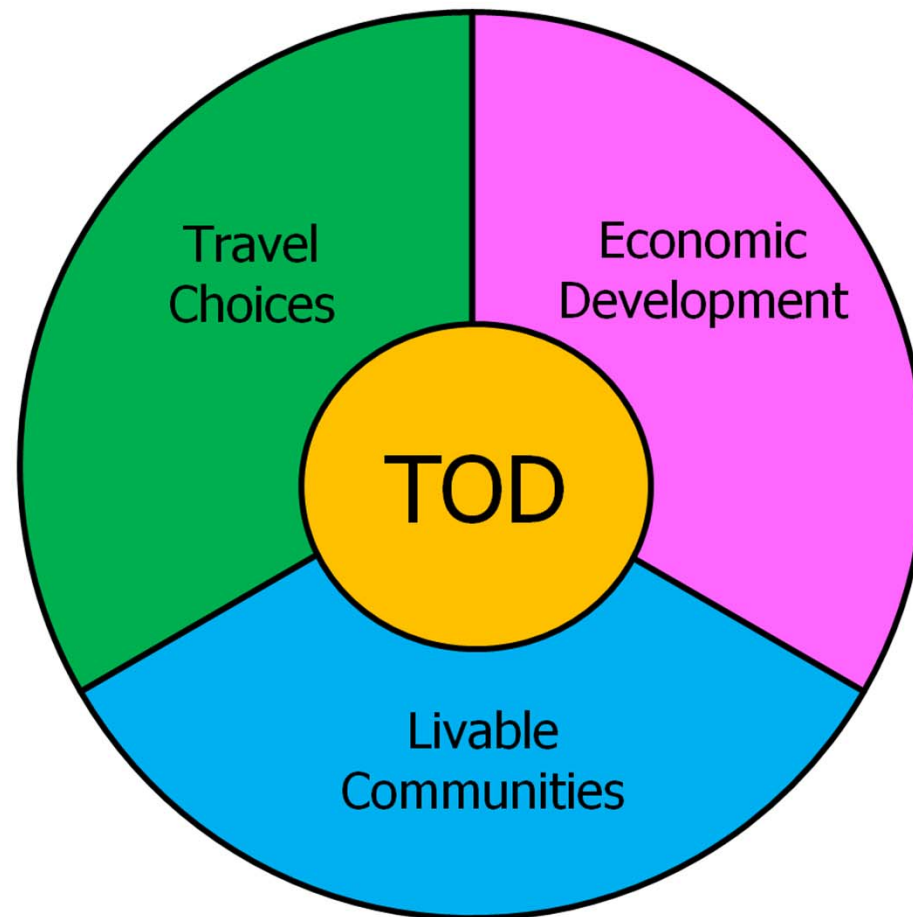
- “The DOT policy is to incorporate safe and convenient walking and bicycling facilities into transportation projects. Every transportation agency, including DOT, has the responsibility to improve conditions and opportunities for walking and bicycling and to integrate walking and bicycling into their transportation systems.”



Bicycle-Pedestrian Catchment Policy

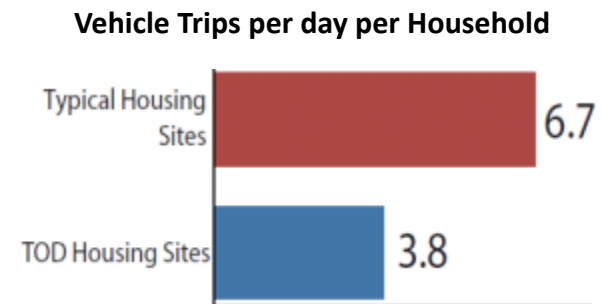


Potential Benefits of TOD



Optimizing Land Use

- Transit facilitates compact land use,
 - Reduces driving trip distances
 - Supports walking/biking
- Compact development reduces driving 20 – 40%.- *Growing Cooler*
- Combining transit and supportive land use policies offers synergies that increase each strategy's impact
- TCRP 128 “Effects of TOD on Housing, Parking, and Travel” found that 17 surveyed TOD-housing projects averaged 44% fewer vehicle trips than that estimated by ITE manual.



Source: TCRP 128

Challenges

- Buy America
- Definition of Public Transportation
- Information
- “A bicycle sharing system is not properly classified as an end product for purposes of applying FTA’s Buy America rules”

Dorval R. Carter, Jr.
Chief Counsel – FTA
April 8, 2011

www.fta.dot.gov/bikesandtransit



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Bicycles & Transit

Linking bicycles and transit together is a win-win proposition. Bicycle friendly transit vehicles and stations provide cyclists with expanded travel options, and expand transit ridership by helping people more easily access transit stations. For transit operators, encouraging bicycle travel to and from transit facilities can be much less expensive and require much less space than providing automobile parking.

Learn More

- [Examples of Integrating Bicycles With Transit](#)
- [Bike and Pedestrian Catchment Policy](#)
- [Bikesharing](#)

Funding

- [FTA Program & Bicycle Related Funding Opportunities](#)
- [Legal interpretation – Bikesharing subject to Buy America Act \(BAA\)](#)

Resources



FTA Bikes & Transit

Research

- Transit Access
- Bike Sharing
- Impediments
- Success Stories
- Best Practices



Planning for Livability

Joint FTA and FHWA Programs

Transportation Planning Capacity Building Program:

comprehensive training and assistance to support decision-makers, officials, and staff on:

- Land use
- Scenario planning
- Transit-oriented development
- Operations & management
- Analysis methods



www.planning.dot.gov

Center for TOD

- Provides best practices, research and tools to support market-based transit-oriented development.
- Partners with both the public and private sectors to strategize about ways to encourage the development of high-performing TOD projects around transit stations and to build transit systems that maximize the development potential.
- Funded by FTA
- www.reconnectingamerica.org/public/tod

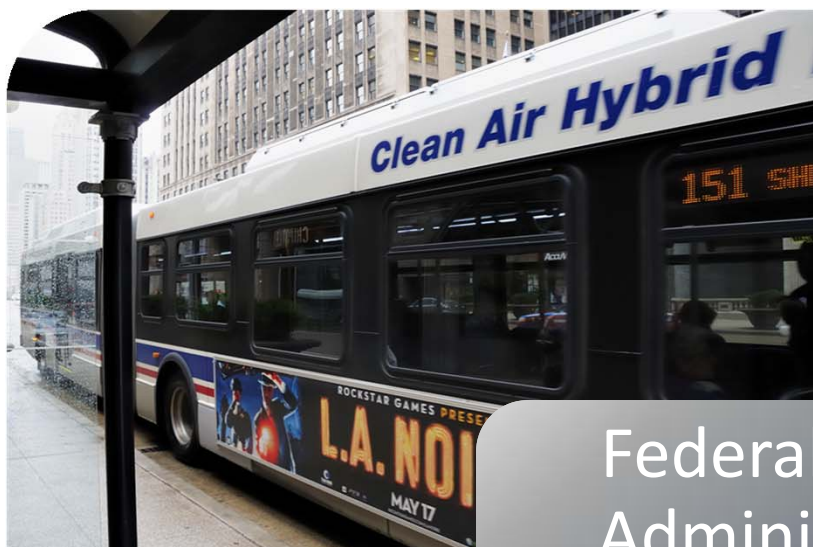


US DOT Information & Resources:

- **US DOT livability website:** <http://www.dot.gov/livability/>
- **FTA livability website:** <http://www.fta.dot.gov/livability>
- **FHWA livability website:** <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/livability/>

- **TOD and Joint Development Web Page:** <http://fta.dot.gov/tod>
TOD is a key element of sustainable communities. Most FTA funding programs can be used for projects that support TOD.

- **Center for Transit Oriented Development (CTOD) Resources and Reports:**
- **More CTOD and TOD Publications:**
http://fta.dot.gov/publications/about_FTA_11008.html
- **National Transit Institute (NTI) Courses:** www.ntionline.com
 - Transit Oriented Development
 - Transportation and Land Use
- **Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center (PBIC)** www.walkinginfo.org



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