

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 World Cup Public Transportation Funding FAQs

Purpose and Eligibility

PE1: What is the purpose of FTA's World Cup funding?

A: Congress made \$100,250,212 available for FTA to reimburse public transportation agencies for expenses they incur to support matches or other public events held in U.S. cities for the FIFA World Cup 2026.

PE2: What service is eligible for reimbursement with FTA World Cup funding?

A: Public transportation services are eligible for reimbursement. Public transportation is regularly scheduled, ongoing, shared-ride transportation that is open to the general public. Public transportation service does not include Amtrak, charter bus, or courtesy shuttles for patrons of specific establishments. In addition, services that have premium fares to or from World Cup events, require riders to be World Cup event ticket holders, or otherwise cater only to World Cup fans and are not open to the general public are not eligible. See the [FTA Major Event Playbook](#) and FTA's [Charter Bus webpage](#) for details on charter bus service. Rail services are not subject to the Charter Bus Service Regulation.

PE3: What expenses are eligible for reimbursement with FTA World Cup funding?

A: The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 makes public transportation planning, operating (including vehicle operators, mechanics, dispatchers, customer service and security personnel), and capital (including wayfinding improvements, security equipment, leasing vehicles) expenses eligible for all recipients, regardless of the population of the urbanized area served.

FTA will consider all planning and capital expenses normally eligible under the Section 5307 program incurred from July 1, 2025 to July 31, 2026 to be in support of the World Cup. Host cities are expected to experience an influx of visitors and unusual travel patterns across their communities before, during, and after the matches that will impact not just soccer fans, but also other community members going about their day.

FTA will consider all public transportation operating expenses incurred from **June 1, 2026 to July 31, 2026** to be in support of the World Cup. Recipients must subtract fare revenue received during the timeframe for which reimbursement is requested for operations. Operating expenses are those costs necessary to operate, maintain, and manage a public transportation system. Operating expenses usually include such costs as driver salaries, fuel, and items having a useful life of less than one year. Additional guidance for calculating operating expenses can be found in [FTA Circular 9050.1A](#).

Fixed route and demand response (including paratransit) are eligible.

Recipients may request reimbursement for expenses incurred before or after the dates above with justification that the associated activities support public transportation service for the World Cup.

PE4: My agency is borrowing vehicles to support increased service for the World Cup. Is the cost of transporting the vehicles from the donor agency, or operating and maintaining the loaned vehicles eligible for reimbursement with FTA World Cup funding?

A: It depends. If borrowed vehicles are put into service that meets the definition of public transportation, then FTA World Cup funding may be used for transporting, operating, and maintaining the vehicles. However, if the vehicles are not used in public transportation service, lending or borrowing vehicles is considered a type of incidental use rather than public transportation service and the transportation/hauling of loaner vehicles to and from the World Cup and operational and maintenance costs of those vehicles in incidental use are ineligible for reimbursement with FTA funding. FTA's Office of Chief Counsel must review any vehicle loan agreements between agencies to ensure federal interest and control is maintained.

PE5: May the designated recipient retain funds for general program administration?

A: No. FTA World Cup funding is subject to the requirements of the Urbanized Area Formula Grants program (UZA) (Section 5307). Under the UZA program, general administrative expenses that a designated recipient incurs to implement the *program*, in this case World Cup service, are ineligible as a direct cost. Project administration costs, directly attributable to the accomplishment or oversight of a *project*, are eligible.

Funding Allocation Information

FA1: How will World Cup funding be apportioned amongst the 11 host cities?

A: The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 directs funding to be apportioned using a combination of stadium capacity and number of matches each stadium will be hosting. Seventy (70) percent of the funding will be apportioned based on the FIFA estimated stadium capacity for each stadium, found at [FIFA's website](#). Estimated stadium capacity at the time the apportionment calculation takes place will be used. The remaining 30 percent of the funding will be apportioned based on the total number of World Cup matches each stadium is hosting.

FA2: Where/who will funding be apportioned to?

A: Funding will be apportioned to the urbanized area in which the host stadium is located and to the designated recipient for that UZA. The designated recipient is responsible for consulting and coordinating with all providers of public transportation in the UZA. See FR4 for information on split letters.

Funding Requirements

FR1: What is the federal share for FTA World Cup funding?

A: The Federal share for FTA World Cup funding is 100 percent. No local match is required, although a recipient may choose to include local match.

FR2: What requirements apply to FTA World Cup funding?

A: The requirements of [FTA's Award Management Requirements Circular \(Circular 5010.1F\)](#) apply. The requirements of the [Urbanized Area Formula Circular \(FTA Circular 9050.1A\)](#) also apply, with some exceptions:

1. Recipients in areas of 200,000 or more people **may** use World Cup funding for operating expenses.
2. Expenses reimbursed with World Cup funding are **not** required to be included in a transportation improvement program (TIP), long-range statewide transportation plan, a statewide transportation improvement program (STIP), or a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).
3. Recipients are **not** required to include World Cup expenses in a Program of Projects.

FR3: What deadlines apply for FTA World Cup funding?

A: FTA World Cup funding is available for obligation until 12:00AM EDT on July 20, 2027. This means that the FTA World Cup funding must be in an obligated grant in [FTA's Transit Award Management System \(TrAMS\)](#) no later than July 19, 2027. FTA recommends that draft grant applications for World Cup funding be submitted to FTA no later than January 31, 2027 in order to ensure enough time for application review and grant processing. To support timely obligation, FTA requests any split letters be submitted as quickly as possible to facilitate grant development and obligation. FTA recommends designated recipients provide split letters by June 1, 2026.

Funds must be drawn down from the grant no later than September 30, 2027. Recipients should note that grant modifications are not possible after July 19, 2027 and any remaining funds must be returned upon expiration of the period of performance and closeout of the grant.

FR4: Does a new split or suballocation letter need to be submitted by the designated recipients of FTA World Cup funding?

A: Yes, designated recipients of FTA World Cup funding must submit to FTA a split or suballocation letter that is completed cooperatively in adherence to Federal planning requirements. FTA requests split or suballocation letters be submitted to FTA no later than June 1, 2026.

FR5: Do FTA World Cup funding grants have to be sent to the Department of Labor for certification?

A: Yes, FTA World Cup grants receive certification consistent with current Section 5307 and 5311 procedures for urban and rural grants, respectively.

Grant Development

GD1: Can I combine World Cup funding in a grant with other types of FTA funding?

A: No. Grants for World Cup funding must be in a standalone grant for reporting purposes.

GD2: What supporting documentation does FTA need from operators to support an FTA World Cup funding reimbursement request?

A: FTA does not require recipients to submit additional documentation to obtain reimbursement under a grant with World Cup funding for activities taking place between the dates noted in PE3, apart from the documentation that is normally required for expenses under the [Urbanized Area Formula Grants](#) (49 U.S.C. § 5307) and [Formula Grants for Rural Areas](#) (49 U.S.C. § 5311) programs. Grant recipients who have not been eligible for operating assistance in the past are strongly encouraged to consult with their [FTA Regional Office](#) about required documentation and to refer to FTA Circular 9050.1A ([Urbanized Area Formula Program: Program Guidance and Application Instructions](#)) Appendix A (Operating Assistance) for information about calculating and documenting operating costs. Recipients can also review the FTA webinar "[Calculating, Documenting, and Charging Operating Expenses Webinar](#)".

Recipients are strongly advised to confirm eligibility of all costs before requesting reimbursement, including that costs were incurred within the period of performance of the grants, and to maintain all applicable supporting documentation for subsequent review.

For any expenses falling outside the dates noted in PE3, recipients must ensure that they are within the period of performance for the award and provide written justification that the expenses are in preparation for, or provision of, public transportation service for the World Cup.

GD3: Are there any special requirements for how I develop a grant in TrAMS for FTA World Cup funding?

A: Yes, certain types of activities must be specifically identified in the executive summary and in the budget. See FTA's World Cup Grantmaking Toolkit for details.

Additional Resources**AR1: Where can I find more information about World Cup service requirements?**

A: You can find more information in the [FTA Major Event Playbook](#). To contact FTA with World Cup related questions, email FTA_GlobalSports@dot.gov.