

***CABARRUS / ROWAN URBAN AREA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING
ORGANIZATION***



**FY 2026-2027 Program of Projects
Rider Transit System**

How to Make Comments

The Cabarrus-Rowan Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is holding a public comment period on the Draft Program of Projects document from November 2nd to November 30th. Please submit any comments on the documents that you may have by Monday, November 30th to:

email: pconrad@rlcassoc.com

Mail: Attention: Phil Conrad
Program of Projects
Cabarrus-Rowan MPO
57 Union Street South
Concord, NC 28025

For additional information or further assistance, call Phil Conrad at (704) 791-0608 or visit the MPO's website at www.crmppo.org. Comments on the public participation process are also welcome.

Locations of Plan Materials:

The document is also available online at www.crmppo.org.

Copies of the Draft Program of Projects document are also available for public review during the review period at the following locations:

- Rider Transit Center

Background

The annual Program of Projects is a list of projects proposed to be funded in a given fiscal year from Federal Transit Formula Grants, any transit discretionary grants, any Federal Highway Funds flexed to FTA for transit improvements, and state formula grant programs. Such projects must also be identified in the MPO-approved Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program or the Unified Planning Work Program to be eligible for inclusion in the Program of Projects. The Program of Projects provides an additional opportunity for the public to learn about and comment on planned transit grants for the fiscal year.

The Program of Projects may be developed and approved by the designated recipient (the City of Concord - Rider Transit System) or the Metropolitan Planning Organization. The MPO is responsible for the MTIP and the UPWP, and therefore, Rider Transit has elected to use the MPO's public comment process for its program of projects. There are multiple recipients of Federal Transit grants operating in the MPO area (Salisbury Transit, Cabarrus County, and Rowan County). The MPO must follow the Public Participation Plan, which for the Program of Projects requires a 28-day public comment period.

FY 2026-2027 Program of Projects

The FY 2026-2027 Program of Projects includes anticipated FTA formula grants under the following programs: Section 5303 Metropolitan Planning, Section 5307 Urbanized Formula, Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities, and Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities.

The FY 2026-2027 Program of Projects also includes State Maintenance Assistance Program (SMAP) funds administered by NCDOT.

The Program of Projects also describes funds made available to subrecipients and grant details such as a description, federal funding amount, and matching funds amounts. The proposed program as identified in the Draft Program of Projects will be the final program unless amended.

The MPO will seek public input on the Program of Projects under the MPO Public Participation Program. This includes a 28-day public comment period and a public review to be held at the **January 23 TAC meeting**. The Transportation Advisory Committee will be the body to approve the document.

Recommended Action: MPO Approval at the **January 23 meeting.**

Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Grants – FY 2026-2027

TG-5103C Preventive Maintenance: Contracted Maintenance Capital Costs

The City of Concord will apply for Federal capital assistance for costs associated with using a third-party contractor to provide transit services. Rider Transit provides the vehicles, but the third-party contractor provides drivers and maintenance staff necessary to provide public transportation services in the City of Concord. Under FTA rules this is counted as preventive maintenance. Eligible expenses are eligible for up to 80% federal reimbursement. Eligible expenses are capped at no more than 40% of overall third-party contractor costs. The proposed grant amount falls under the 40% maximum threshold.

Total Costs:	Federal	Local	State
\$1,950,000	\$1,560,000	\$390,000	N/A

TG-5103A Routine Capital

The City of Concord will apply for Federal routine capital assistance to support the purchase of bus stop shelters, benches, shop equipment, spare parts, engines, farebox, service vehicles, etc.

Total Costs:	Federal	Local	State
\$625,000	\$500,000	\$125,000	N/A

TG-5103B Routine Capital – ADA Service

The City of Concord will apply for Federal operating assistance for Rider's ADA Paratransit Services. This includes fuel and operator salaries for this service.

Total Costs:	Federal	Local	State
\$700,000	\$560,000	\$140,000	N/A

TS-5116 Security Enhancements

The City of Concord will utilize at least 1% of 5307 program assistance to enhance security for the Rider Transit system.

Total Costs:	Federal	Local	State
\$100,000	\$100,000	N/A	N/A

TO-5138 Fixed Route Operating Expenses*

The City of Concord will apply for Federal operating assistance for Rider's fixed route services. The proposed project will serve the Concord Urbanized Area and will support public transportation services sponsored by the City of Concord through Rider Transit.

Total Costs:	Federal	Local	State
\$3,325,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$325,000

TA-5173**Replacement Vehicles**

The City of Concord may apply for Federal capital assistance to support the purchase of bus and paratransit vehicles to support increases in service using Section 5307 funds.

Total Costs:	Federal	Local	State
\$1,150,000	\$1,000,000	\$150,000	\$0

Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities – FY 2026-2027

The City of Concord will apply for Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities funding and consistent with the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan.

Section 5310 Operating (TA-5128B)

Request operating assistance for competitively selected projects to support transportation services to the elderly and disabled for employment, education, and medical trips.

Total Costs:	Federal:	Local:	State:
\$450,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	N/A

Section 5310 Program Administration (TA-5128C)

Request administrative support to administer the grants, compliance, and reporting program for the City of Concord. Up to 10% of available funds may be used for this purpose.

Total Costs:	Federal:	Local:	State:
\$50,000	\$50,000	N/A	N/A

Section 5310 Capital (TA-5128A)

Request capital assistance for competitively selected projects to support transportation services to the elderly and disabled for employment, education, and medical trips.

Total Costs:	Federal:	Local:	State:
\$625,000	\$500,000	\$125,000	N/A

Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facility Program – FY 2026-2027

Bus and Bus Facilities – Routine Capital (TA-5130A)

The City of Concord may apply for Federal capital assistance to support the purchase of routine capital - bus stop shelters, benches, shop equipment, spare parts, engines, farebox, vehicles, etc. using Section 5339 funds.

Total Costs:	Federal:	Local:	State:
\$500,000	\$400,000	\$100,000	N/A

Bus and Bus Facilities - Expansion Buses (TA-5130B)

The City of Concord may apply for Federal capital assistance to support the purchase of bus and paratransit vehicles to support increases in service using Section 5339 funds.

Total Costs:	Federal:	Local:	State: N/A
\$2,300,000	\$2,000,000	\$300,00	N/A

Section 5303 Planning Assistance – FY 2026-2027

Planning Assistance – 5303 (TP-5118)

The City of Concord may apply for Federal planning assistance to support transit planning by the Cabarrus-Rowan MPO.

Total Costs:	Federal:	Local:	State:
\$127,883	\$102,306	\$12,789	\$12,788

Specific projects to be considered in FY2026-2027:

- Cabarrus County Long Range Public Transit Master Plan revisioning (Connecting Cabarrus)
- ADA Transition Plan
- Rider Transit Bus Stop Amenity Program (ongoing)
- Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan
- Electronic fare collection system upgrade (continuation)
- Evaluation of microtransit opportunities
- Third-party development of the DBE plan and program goal
- Transportation project(s) to support older adults and people with disabilities (5310 dependent)
- Vehicle replacement: ADA Paratransit, revenue service/supervisor flex, and/or fixed route (dependent upon useful life end date)
- Paratransit scheduling software procurement