

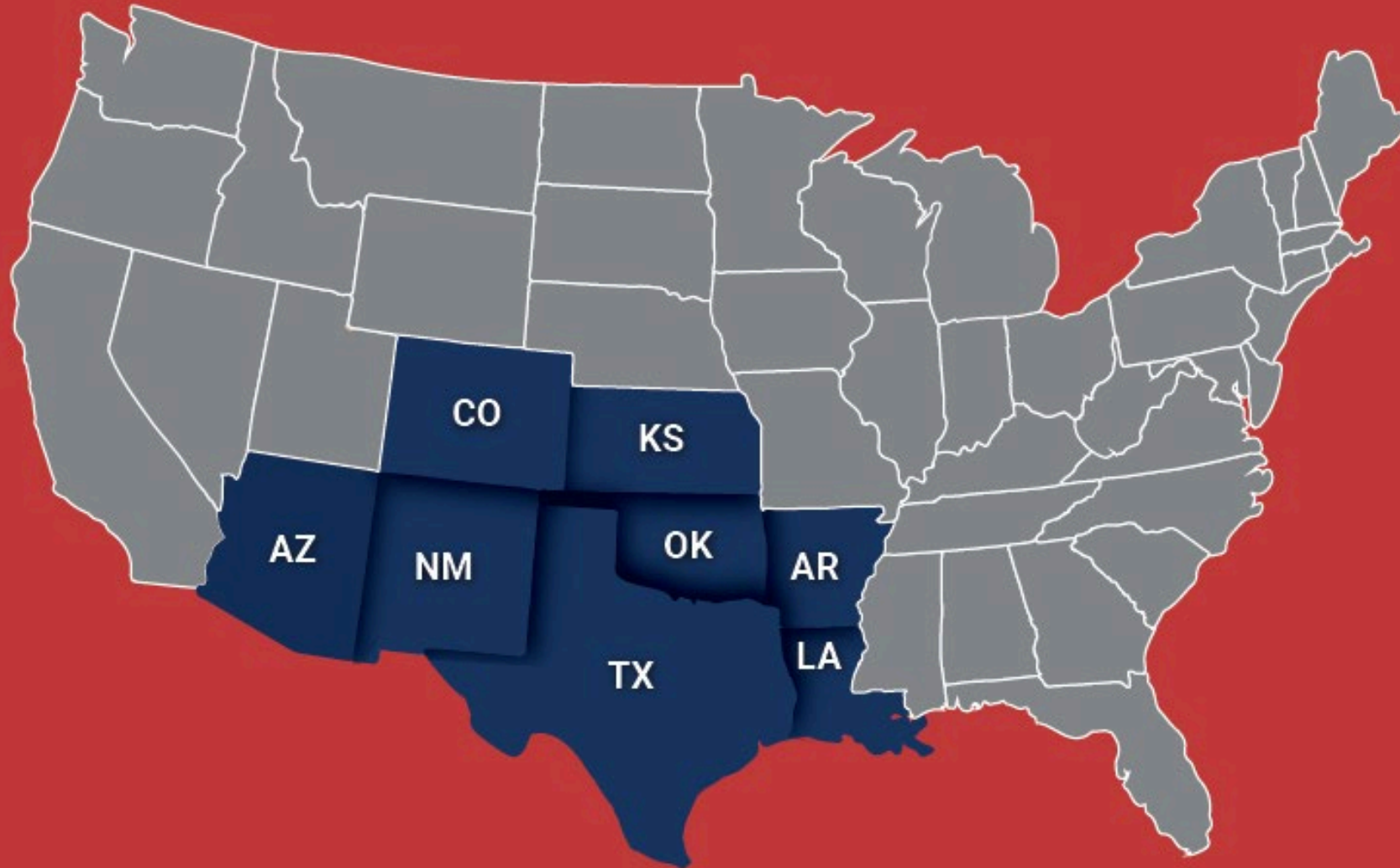


Federal Update – Arkansas Transit Association

Rich Sampson
Executive Director
South West Transit
Association


October 2, 2024

THE SWTA NATION



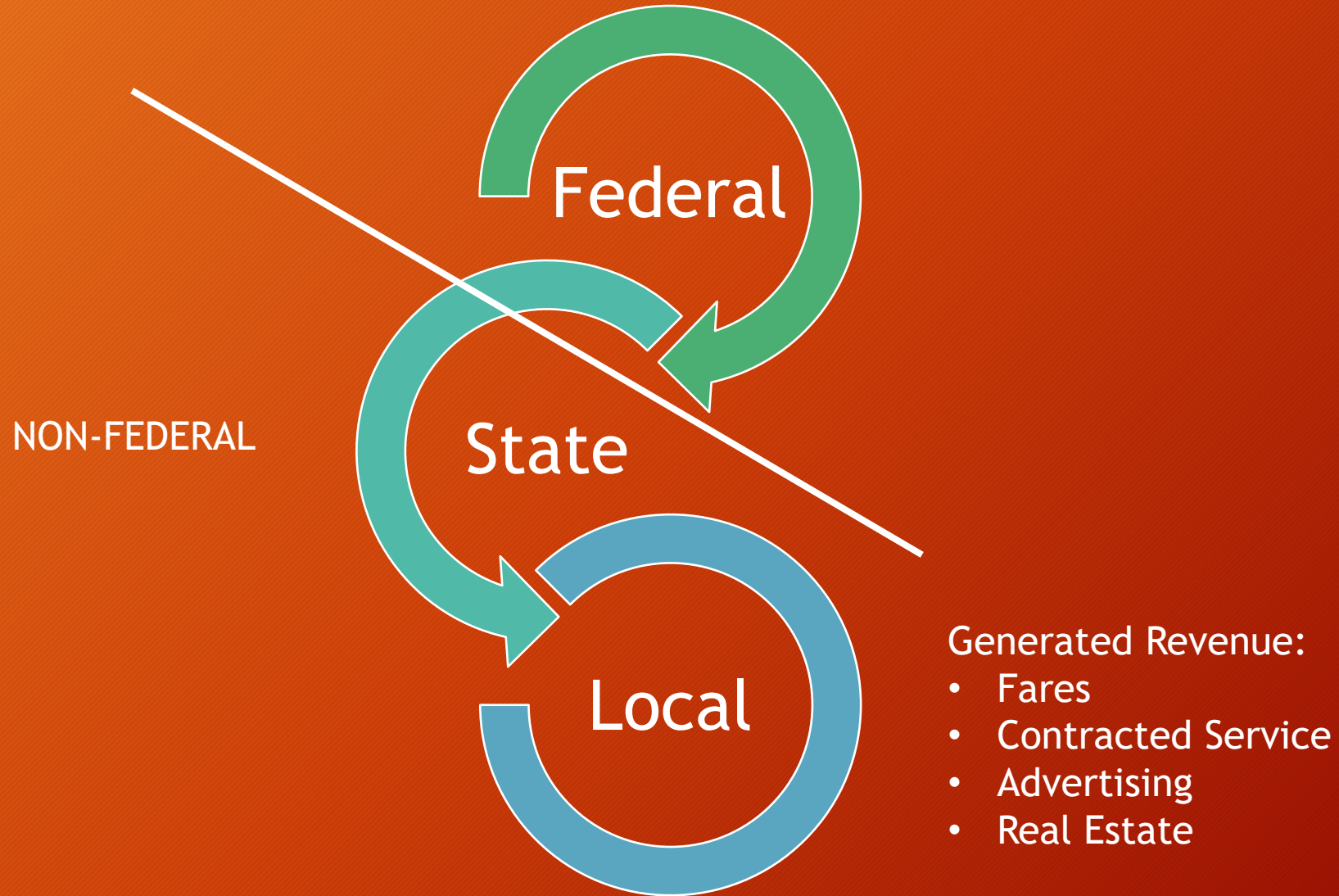
**Join As Members
Today!**

- **Transit Agencies
in the 8-State
Region**
- **Professional
Members:
Agencies Outside
the Region**
- **Business Members**



SOME POLICY IDEAS: A REFRESHER

Who provides funding? A Partnership



THE 3 A'S OF FEDERAL FUNDING PROGRAMS

AUTHORIZATION



The level at which Congress sets a specific program is expected to receive over a given period - often multiple years

Example:

The FAST Act
IIJA/BIL

APPROPRIATION



Congressional approval of a previously-authorized funding level for a given fiscal year, often as part of the federal budget effort

Example:

T-HUD Appropriations

APPORTIONMENT

Appropriated funding distributed to specific recipients through formula programs by the federal agency charged with administering that program

Example:

FTA Section 5311(c)(1)(b)
Tribal Transit
Apportionment Tables

Federal authorization timeline



*BIL/IIJA Expires September 30, 2026

**COVID
Relief Acts**

USES OF FUNDING

COMBINED AGENCY BUDGET

PEOPLE



Operations

- Labor/Staff
- Fuel
- Maintenance
- Administration
- Technology

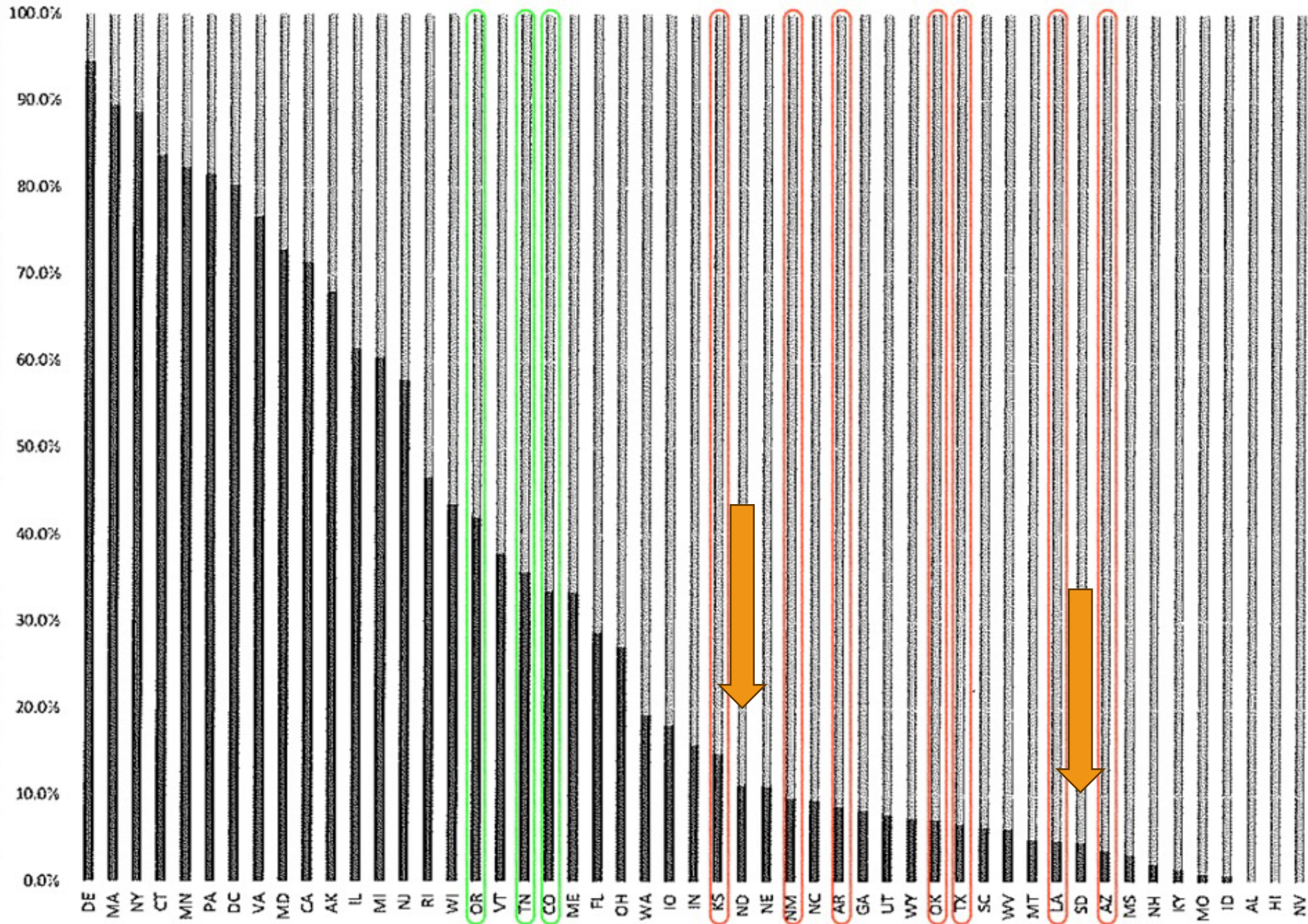
THINGS



Capital

- Vehicles
- Facilities
- Equipment
- Technology
- Infrastructure

Remember this for later...



Percent of transit investment from state funding programs

Source: AASHTO

SWTA initiative to
raise state funding
2024 & 2025

The logo features the words "JOIN US" in a bold, white, sans-serif font, centered within a red, trapezoidal banner. The banner has a jagged, torn-edge effect. Behind the banner are several overlapping, angular shapes in blue, yellow, and black. Small red triangles are scattered around the banner, suggesting motion or impact.

JOIN US

In 2024

FTA Introduced New Priorities

Standardized vehicle procurements and progress payments were prioritized in FY24 by FTA. FTA estimates that two-thirds of all FY24 grants included one (or both) of these priorities.

Learning Curve

CTAA has requested FTA provide examples of winning grants' deployment of these two priorities so future proposers as part of technical assistance for FY25 NOFA.

Significant Oversubscription

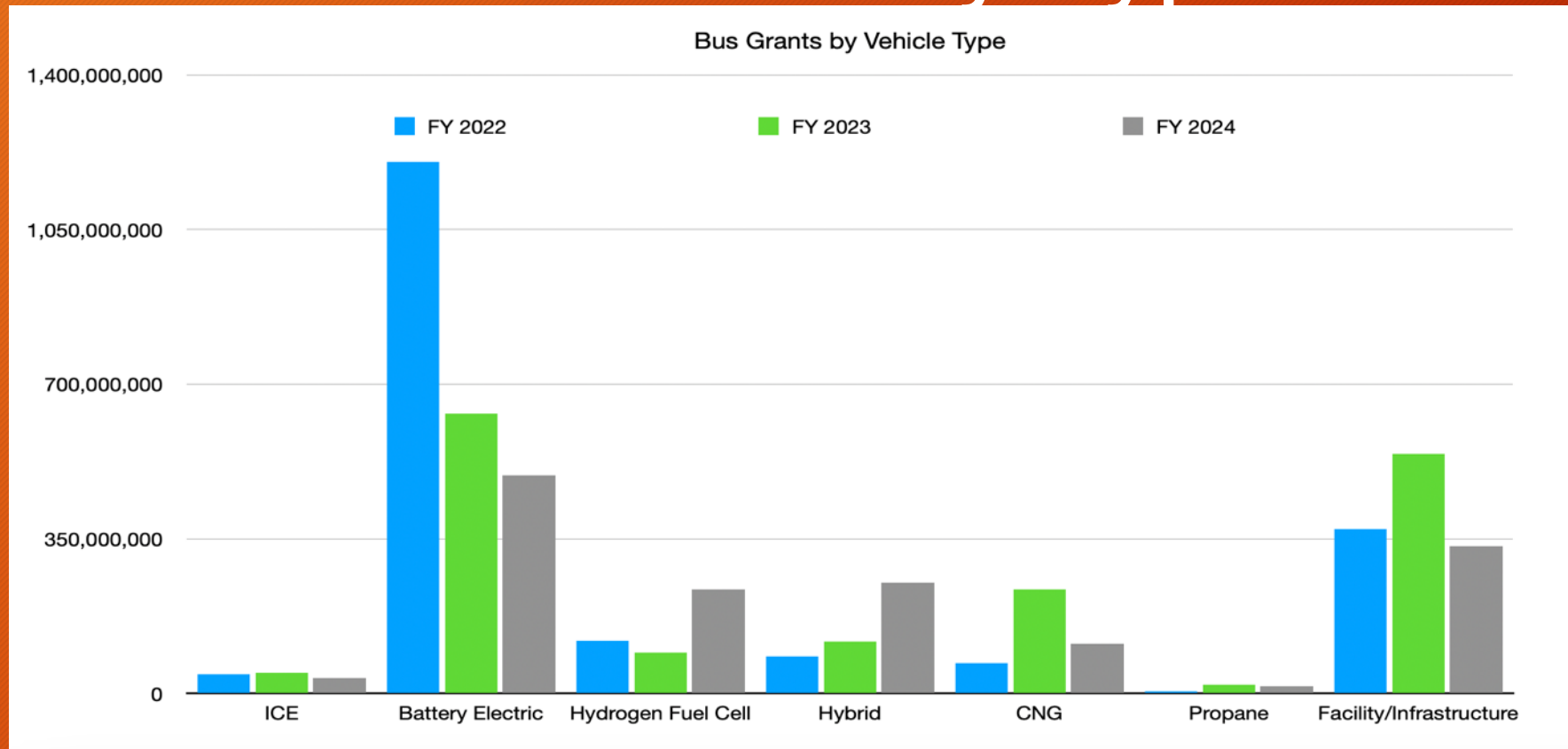
FTA reports they received more than \$9b in requests in FY24.



Bus Grants by Type

	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
ICE	43,900,00	46,100,000	35,200,000
Battery Electric	1,203,600,000	633,500,000	493,900,000
Hydrogen Fuel Cell	120,100,000	92,100,000	235,500,000
Hybrid	83,700,000	117,400,000	250,300,00
CNG	68,790,000	236,200,000	112,100,000
Propane	4,980,000	19,800,000	17,100,000
Facility/Infrastructure	372,500,000	543,200,000	333,900,000

Bus Grants by Type



Takeaways from the past three years of FTA Competitive Bus Grants



BEBs

BEB investment has reduced from \$1.2b to \$493.

Fuel Cell & Hybrids

Fastest growing aspects of the program.

Facilities

Every year, second biggest investment category.

Fleet Diversification

What was once a battery electric bus program is becoming a no-low fleet diversification program



Bus Grants by Recipient

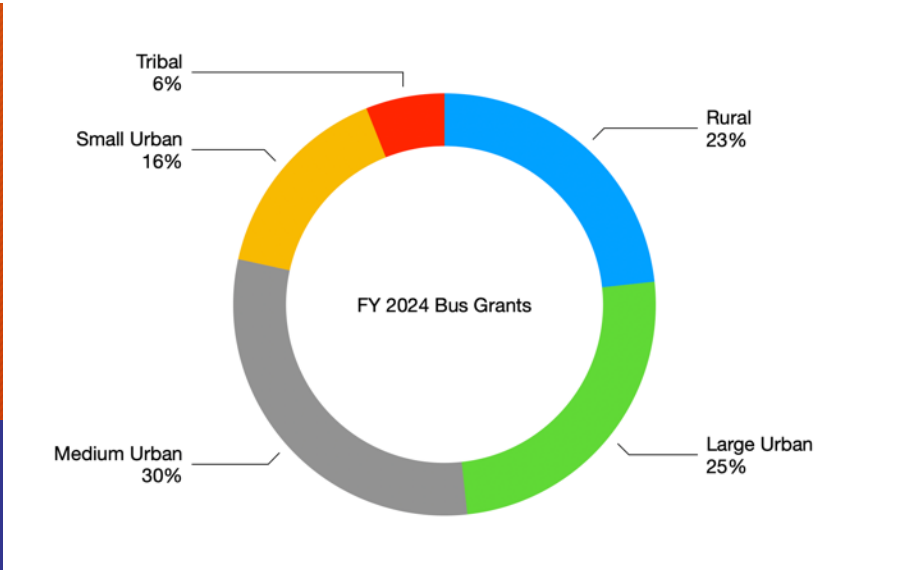
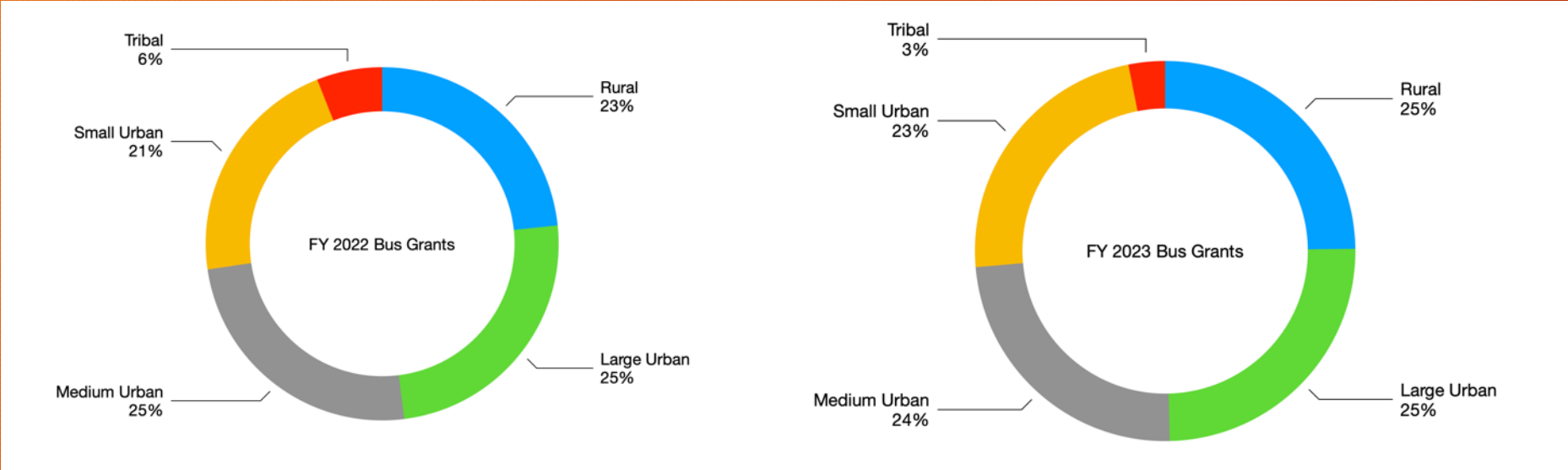
	22 Total Grants	23 Total Grants	24 Total Grants	3-Year Total
Rural	35	32	27	94
Large Urban	37	32	29	98
Medium Urban	37	31	35	103
Small Urban	32	30	18	80
Tribal	9	4	7	20

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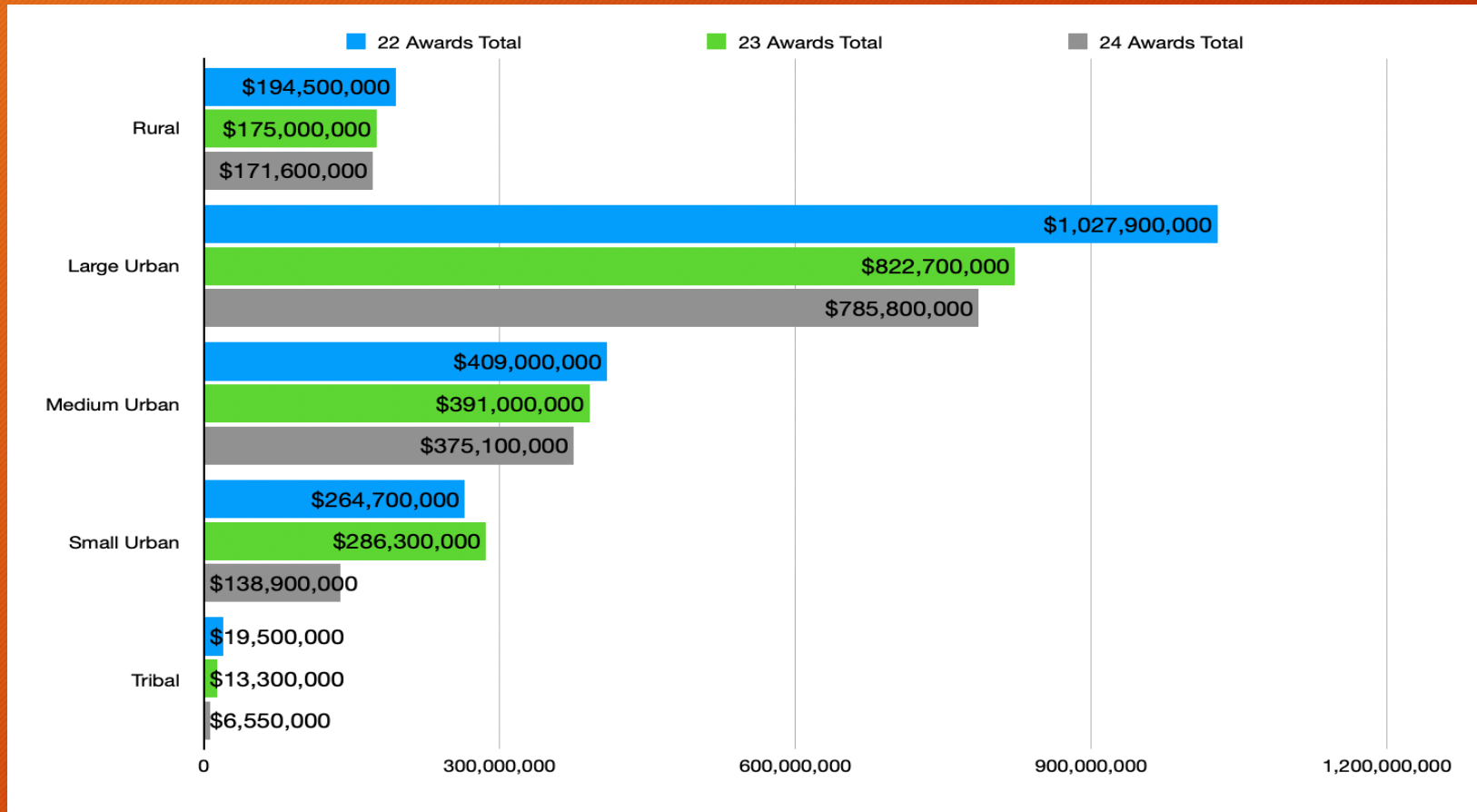


Bus Grants by Recipients

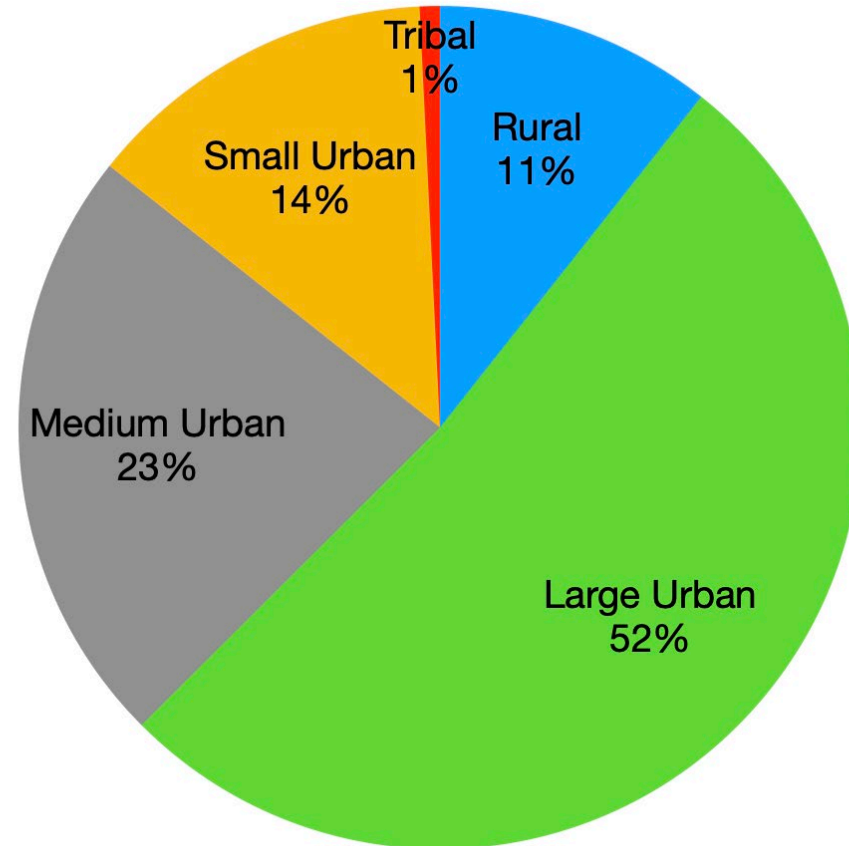
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Bus Grants by Recipient



3-Year Bus Grants by Recipient



03

Takeaways from the FY 2024 FTA Competitive Bus Grants

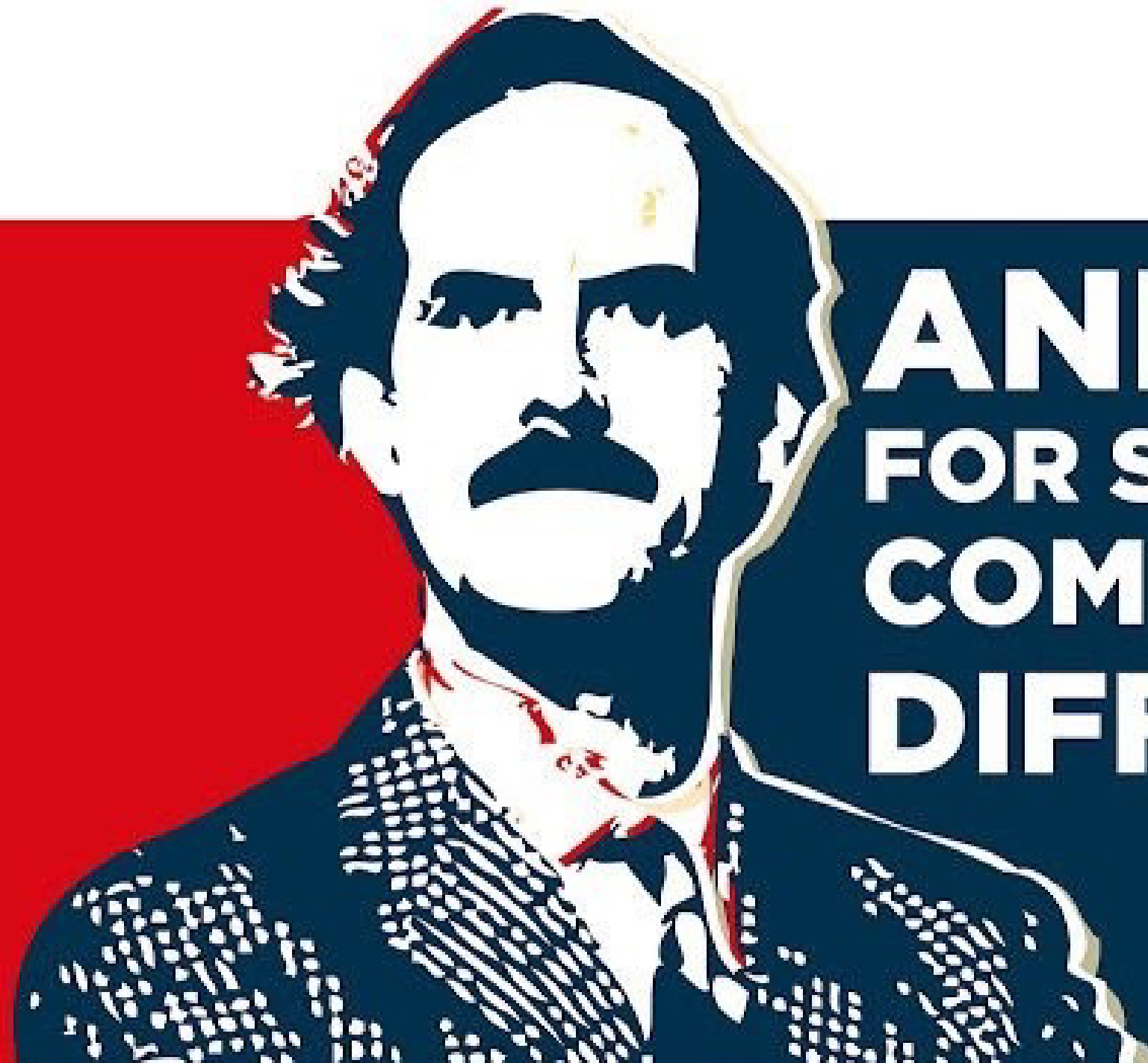


Medium-Urban
Received the highest
share in '24 at 30%

Large-Urban
Receive 25% of
grants and 52% of
funding.

Small-Urban
Concerning drop in
2024 funding. Effect
of the new priorities?






**AND NOW
FOR SOMETHING
COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT.**

More Money? Not The Problem

Match Flexibility: Boost federal share to at least 80% and allow both capital & operations at same level (Biden Admin wants 100%)



Vehicle Flexibility: less federal insistence on Buy America and 100% battery-electric



Drivers:

- CDL: exemption for Passenger Endorsement & better oversight of Training Provider Registry
- Drug Testing: saliva testing for marijuana + improve testing regime

Other Ideas for Reauthorization

STIC-style incentive program for rural systems

Retain all proceeds from vehicle sales

Tribal set-aside for Bus & Bus Facilities

Milage rate for volunteer drivers same as business rate

No additional data collection requirements unless others are removed

Allow real estate acquisition before environmental process

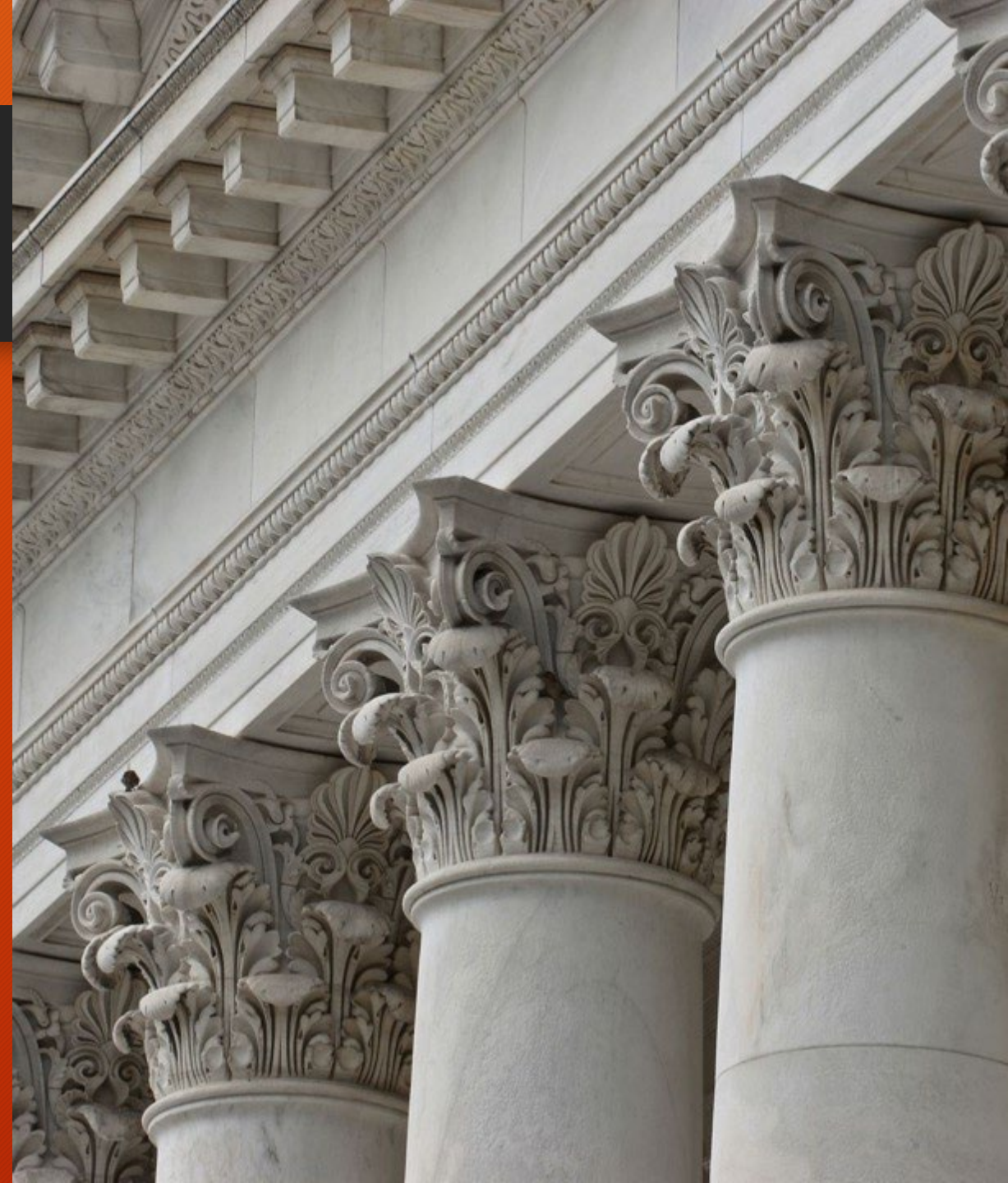
Technical assistance & incentives for charging infrastructure in small urban & rural communities

2025 T-HUD Appropriations update

- House bill (31-26 committee vote) cuts transit investment by \$1.3 billion (10% less than authorized in IIJA/BIL), mostly by 66% cut in Capital Investment Grants
- Senate bill (28-1 committee vote) increases funding by \$440 million & includes 100% federal share for 5310 & 5311 systems

Political forces in play

- Presidential Election
- Who Controls Congress and Which Committees?
- Don't Wait to See Who Wins: Contact Your House & Senate Offices Now!





Nominate
champions for
transit in your
community

- Contact me at rsampson@swta.org for submission link

Save
the
date

**2025 SWTA
ANNUAL
CONFERENCE &
TRANSIT EXPO**

February 18-21, 2025



A close-up photograph of a red pushpin stuck into a map. The map shows various colored lines and text, but it is out of focus. The pushpin is the central focus, with its sharp metal point and red plastic head clearly visible. The background is a soft, blurred mix of colors from the map.

WWW.SWTA.ORG

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