Capital Investment Grant Program Overview

- **Discretionary & Competitive Federal Grant Program**
  - Roughly $2 billion appropriated each year
  - Funds light rail, heavy rail, commuter rail, streetcar, and bus rapid transit projects

- **MAP-21 outlines:**
  - Multi-year, multi-step process projects must follow to receive funds
  - Points during process when FTA must evaluate and rate projects
  - Evaluation criteria that must be used
  - 5 point scale from low to high for ratings
  - Annual Report to Congress that must include ratings for each project and the Administration’s funding recommendations
MAP-21 Eligible New Starts Projects

- Total project cost is greater than $250M and total New Starts funding sought equals or exceeds $75M
- New fixed guideway system (light rail, commuter rail etc.)
- Extension to existing system
- Fixed guideway BRT system
MAP-21 Eligible Small Starts Projects

- Total project cost is less than $250 million and total Small Starts funding sought is less than $75 million
- New fixed guideway systems (light rail, commuter rail etc.)
- Extension to existing system
- Fixed guideway BRT system
- Corridor-based BRT system
MAP-21 defines Bus Rapid Transit in two categories:

**CORRIDOR-BASED**
- Separated right-of-way not required for entirety of corridor
- Makes a substantial investment in a specific corridor
- Defined stations
- Traffic signal priority for buses
- Short headway times
- Bidirectional services for a substantial part of weekdays & weekend days

**FIXED GUIDEWAY**
- Majority of project operates in a separated right-of-way dedicated for public transportation use
- Makes a substantial investment in a single route within a defined corridor
- Defined stations
- Traffic signal priority for buses
- Short headway times
- Bidirectional services for a substantial part of weekdays & weekend days
New Starts Process

- **Project Development**
  - Complete environmental review process including developing and reviewing alternatives, selecting locally preferred alternative (LPA), and adopting it into the fiscally constrained long range transportation plan

- **Engineering**
  - Gain commitments of all non-New Starts funding
  - Complete sufficient engineering and design

- **Full Funding Grant Agreement**
  - Construction

Small Starts Process

- **Project Development**
  - Complete environmental review process including developing and reviewing alternatives, selecting locally preferred alternative (LPA), and adopting it into fiscally constrained long range transportation plan
  - Gain commitments of all non-Small Starts funding
  - Complete sufficient engineering and design

- **Expedited Grant Agreement**
  - Construction

**Legend**
- = FTA approval
- = FTA evaluation, rating, and approval
MAP-21 Core Capacity Eligibility

• Substantial corridor-based investment in existing fixed guideway system

• Project must:
  – Be located in a corridor that is at or over capacity or will be in five years
  – Increase capacity by 10%
  – “not include project elements designed to maintain a state of good repair”
MAP-21 Core Capacity Process

- Complete environmental review process including developing and reviewing alternatives, selecting locally preferred alternative (LPA), and adopting it into the fiscally constrained long range transportation plan

- Gain commitments of all non-5309 funding
- Complete sufficient engineering and design

Legend

= FTA approval

= FTA evaluation, rating, and approval
## MAP-21 Evaluation and Rating Criteria

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<th>Core Capacity</th>
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Funding Recommendations

• FTA’s decision to recommend a project for funding in the President’s Budget is driven by a number of factors, including:
  – the “readiness” of the project for capital funding
  – the project’s overall rating
  – geographic equity
  – the amount of available funds versus the number and size of the projects in the pipeline
Receipt of Construction Funding

- To receive a construction grant agreement a project must:
  - Complete the Planning, Project Development, and Environmental Review Processes
  - Meet Project Readiness Requirements (technical capacity, firm and final cost estimate, all funding committed)
  - Receive a “Medium” or higher overall rating
  - Meet all other Federal Requirements