

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (NOFO)

FISCAL YEAR 2026 B&P TUNNEL REPLACEMENT PROGRAM: COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM

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Background Information

SUMMARY:

When the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) approved the Preferred Alternative for the B&P Replacement Program (Program) in 2017, it issued a Record of Decision (ROD) outlining forty-three (43) mitigation measures that must be implemented by Amtrak during the B&P Tunnel Replacement Program’s design and construction. Six of these ROD requirements required that Amtrak create a mechanism to fund certain types of community projects in areas that would be impacted by the Program. Amtrak created the Community Investment Program (CIP), to provide address these ROD requirements and obligations. The purpose of the CIP is for Amtrak to fund certain eligible organizations to perform specific types of projects in eligible areas of the community. The ROD provided

specific eligibility requirements that needed to be met in order to obtain funding. Amtrak has agreed to fund the CIP in the total amount of \$50 million.

Amtrak will award grants to qualified not-for-profit organizations or city/state government entities or directly invest in projects being performed by such entities. These grants and direct investments will support projects located within 1/4 mile of the Program alignment (or 1/2 mile for transportation projects), across six investment/project type categories:

- Community development
- Workforce development
- Parks and recreation facilities
- Open space
- Transportation
- Historic preservation (The ROD requires \$2.75 million be invested in historic preservation)

This Fiscal Year 2026 Notice of Funding Opportunity (Notice) details the application requirements and procedures to obtain financial funding for projects eligible under the CIP. This Notice solicits applications related to eligible projects for Amtrak to make strategic investments in the communities adjacent to the Program alignment during construction of the Program. Amtrak will award community grants to select projects based on merit and eligibility via a competitive process. Amtrak will review, assess, and evaluate applications to inform its funding decisions.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY TITLE:

Fiscal Year 2026 B&P Tunnel Replacement (Program) Community Investment Program – Community Grants.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION:

Fiscal Year 2026 B&P Tunnel Replacement (Program) Community Investment Program – Community Grants NOFO

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NUMBER:

BPTCIP-25-01

ISSUANCE DATE:

October 1, 2025

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

December 5, 2025

Applications for funding under this Notice are due no later than 5 p.m. ET, December 5, 2025. Applications that are incomplete or received after 5 p.m. ET, on December 5, 2025,

will not be considered for funding. See *Section IV* of this notice for additional information on the application process.

Applications must be submitted via <https://www.amtrak.com/grants>. Only applicants who comply with all submission requirements described in this Notice and submit applications through <https://www.amtrak.com/grants> will be eligible for financial assistance.

POINTS OF CONTACT:

For further information related to this Notice, please contact the Amtrak NOFO Support program staff via cip.bptunnel@amtrak.com.

For ongoing CIP updates, webinar notices, and FAQs, please visit the [CIP webpage](#) on the Program website.

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Amtrak is pleased to announce the availability of CIP community grant funds for projects in the following six (6) categories (collectively, the CIP Categories):

- (1) **community development** projects, including economic development projects;
- (2) **workforce development**;
- (3) maintenance and improvement to publicly owned **parks and recreation facilities**;
- (4) improvement or establishment of community gardens, vacant lot revitalization, or creation of public **open space**;
- (5) **transportation**, including streetscape improvements, pedestrian and bicycle access improvements; and
- (6) **historic preservation** projects¹.

Eligible organizations are invited to submit applications that support initiatives aligned with the requirements outlined in this Notice. Eligible organizations are welcome to submit more than one project for consideration under this Notice. If your organization is submitting more than one project proposal in response to this Notice, please ensure to rank your projects among your project submissions within your application.

Through a competitive process, Amtrak will provide community grant funding to eligible organizations, for eligible project capital and operating expenses, and projects located in eligible locations (see Section III for more information on eligibility criteria). It is Amtrak's

¹ The historic preservation grant fund, which designates \$2.75M for rehabilitation and restoration projects in the Midtown Edmondson and Edmondson Avenue Historic Districts, is outside the scope of this Notice and will be available under a separate notice.

objective to make investments that have a positive impact in the communities impacted by the Program.

II. Award Information

Maximum Award Per Project: \$1,000,000

Minimum Award Per Project: \$1,000

Award Sizes for Each Project:

- Small Grants (\$1,000- \$10,000)
- Medium Grants (\$10,001- \$100,000)
- Large Grants (\$100,001- \$1,000,000)

Frequency of Program: A notice of funding opportunity for the CIP is expected to be released annually, until the CIP budget is exhausted.

Award Type: Amtrak will make awards for projects selected under this Notice through funding agreements, and applicants selected for awards will be considered “awardees”. The funding provided under this Notice will be made available by Amtrak to selected awardees based on the schedule negotiated during the award period specified in the funding agreement². Prior to seeking reimbursement for project capital and operating expenses, awardees will be required to certify that their expenditures are allowable, allocable, reasonable, and necessary per [48 CFR Part 31 Subpart 31.2](#) to the approved project before seeking reimbursement from Amtrak. Please see Section VI for more information.

Timeframe for Expenditure of Funds: Awardees are expected to spend awarded funds within a 12-month period. No-Cost Extension (NCE) requests may be permitted upon the written request of the Awardee, at the sole discretion of Amtrak, and subject to applicable laws and requirements. No cost extensions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Community Grant or Direct Investment:

While community grants are the preferred method of disbursement for CIP funding, applicants may request to receive funding via an Amtrak direct investment, meaning that Amtrak can directly engage, procure, perform and/or pay for the approved project. Amtrak

² Although Amtrak prefers to distribute funds on a reimbursement basis, Amtrak understands that reimbursement of funds may not be a viable option for some eligible organizations so Amtrak requests that each selected organization propose its preference for receipt of funds (installments or reimbursement) during the grant agreement process. Amtrak retains the final decision whether or not to grant the request.

reserves the right to decide if an applicant, if selected for funding, will receive funds via a direct investment or a community grant.

III. Eligibility Information

To ensure compliance with eligibility criteria, each applicant must provide documentation demonstrating its status as an eligible organization currently active in and serving the communities within one-quarter (1/4) mile of the Program alignment (one-half (1/2) mile for transportation projects). This documentation includes the IRS Determination Letter and Form 990 Series Returns. Failure to provide adequate documentation may result in the disqualification of the application. Applicants that do not meet the requirements in this section will be ineligible for funding.

ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS:

Only eligible groups or organizations that are legally formed, not-for-profit, in good standing, have an established history of performing work related to its community grant request, and have good local, municipal, and/or state standing based on applicable municipal or state regulatory oversight, without financial accounting or reporting lapses recorded with regulators, and with no record of any civil or criminal actions or penalties (the organization and the members of its controlling board as individuals) will be eligible to receive a community grant.

Additionally, each eligible organization receiving a community grant for its project must not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, national origin, disability, or any other protected category under applicable federal and/or state law and will be required to attest to its non-discrimination prior to receiving a community grant.

The following types of organizations are eligible to apply for community grants:

- Non-Profit 501c (3) Community Development Organizations:
 - Local Development Organizations;
 - Local Community or Neighborhood Organizations; and
 - Mission-Specific Non-Profit Organizations.

- Other Not-for-profit organizations as defined by the IRS code 501(c), including but not limited to:
 - 501(c)(4) - Civic Leagues and Social Welfare Organizations;
 - 501(c)(5) - Labor, Agricultural, and Horticultural Organizations;
 - 501(c)(6) - Business Leagues;
 - 501(c)(7) - Social and Recreation Clubs;
 - 501(c)(13) - Cemetery Companies; and
 - 501(c)(19) - Veterans' Organizations.

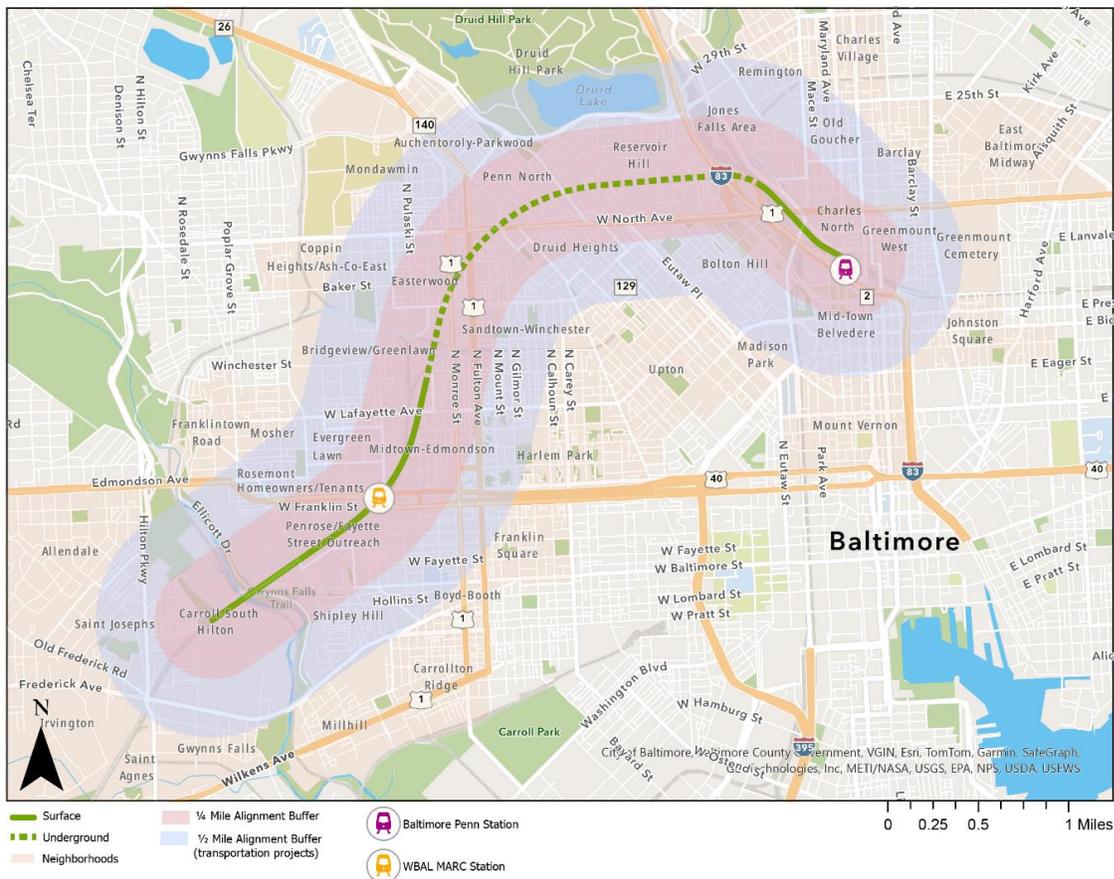
- City and State government agencies with projects directly related to the mission of the CIP (includes quasi-governmental agencies)

Please note that if your organization is not one of the above organization types, then your organization is not eligible to apply for a community grant.

ELIGIBLE LOCATIONS:

Projects eligible for community grant funding must serve the communities impacted by the Program and be located within one-quarter (1/4) mile of the Program alignment, except for transportation improvement projects which must be located within one-half (1/2) mile of Program alignment.

The following map shows the geographical requirements of CIP eligible projects:



Amtrak will use the following mapping tool to determine geographical eligibility: [\[Insert mapping tool link to assess eligibility\]](#). Amtrak encourages applicants to insert the address of its project or the impact area of the project to confirm geographical eligibility.

Projects that do not meet geographical requirements in this section will be ineligible for CIP funding.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES:

Each project addressed in an application must focus on at least one of the CIP Categories as described in Section I.

For additional information on examples of eligible projects, please reference the CIP Guide on the [CIP webpage](#) of the Program website.

IV. Application and Submission Information

APPLICATION PACKAGE:

Applicants must submit a complete application package on the [Amtrak Grants Portal](#), including all required forms and attachments, by the deadline specified in this Notice. Please note that applicants **must complete user registration** on the Amtrak Grants Portal in order to gain access to the applications. Please refer to the CIP Community Grants Application QuickStart Guide for instructions.

CONTENT AND FORM OF APPLICATION SUBMISSION

The complete application package consists of the documents listed below. The general application (Application Component Element A-General Application) should be inputted directly into the Amtrak Grants Portal system. Application Component Elements B-G should be uploaded as attachments in the attachment section within the General Application.

Table 1: Application Components

Application Component Element	Application Component Name/Description	Required for Submission	Form of Submission
A	General Application (form provided in https://www.amtrak.com/grants)	Yes	Inputted directly into https://www.amtrak.com/grants
CIP Community Grants Application Attachments			

B	Community Grants Application	Yes	Uploaded as an attachment to the General Application (template provided)
C	SF-424A (Non-Construction) or SF424C (Construction) Budget Forms	Yes	Uploaded as an attachment to General Application
D	Proof of Non-Profit Status: IRS Determination Letter, Form 990 Series Returns, Proof of Good Standing, and Statement of Financial Position	Yes	Uploaded as attachments to General Application
E	FRA F 30	Yes	Uploaded as an attachment to General Application
F	SF-424B (Non-Construction) OR SF-424D (Construction) Program Assurances	Yes	Uploaded as an attachment to General Application
G	Letter(s) of Support (if applicable) and/or documentation indicating community support	Yes	Uploaded as an attachment to General Application
H	SF-LLL (if applicable)	No	Uploaded as an attachment to General Application

Below are additional details regarding each of the application package components:

- A. General Application:** Please populate the General Application template located at <https://www.amtrak.com/grants> directly within the Portal, which will serve as the cover page of your total application package.
- B. CIP Community Grants Application Attachments:** At the bottom of the General Application, there will be a section for document uploads. The following files should be uploaded in the document uploads section:
- b. Community Grants Application (template provided)
 - c. SF-424A (Budget for Non-Construction Projects) or SF424C (Budget for Construction Projects)
 - d. Proof of Non-Profit Status: IRS Determination Letter, Form 990 Series Return, Proof of Good Standing, and Statement of Financial Position
 - e. FRA F 30
 - f. SF-424B (Non-Construction) OR SF-424D (Construction) Program Assurances
 - g. Letter(s) of Support (if applicable) and/or documentation indicating community support
 - h. SF-LLL (if applicable)

- i. Other supporting attachments (if applicable)

Please use generally accepted formats such as .pdf, .doc, .docx, .xls, .xlsx and .ppt, when uploading attachments. While applicants may embed picture files, such as .jpg, .gif, and .bmp in document files, applicants should not submit attachments in these formats. Additionally, the following formats will not be accepted: .com, .bat, .exe, .vbs, .cfg, .dat, .db, .dbf, .dll, .ini, .log, .ora, .sys, and .zip.

SPECIFIC APPLICATION DETAILS

- A. General Application:** This is a standard form required for use as a cover sheet for submission of all Amtrak financial assistance program applications, not just for the CIP. Required fields on the form are identified with an asterisk (*) and are also specified as "Required" in the General Application.
- B. Community Grant Application:** Each Applicant is required to fully complete the Community Grant Application. The Community Grant Application template contains the following sections:

Table 2: Community Grant Application Summary

Section	Purpose / Description
Eligibility Screening	Confirm that the applicant meets the basic criteria to be eligible to apply for a CIP community grant award.
Applicant Background	Provide basic information about the applicant.
Proposal - Project Description	Provide a detailed explanation of the project covered in the application.
Proposal – Budget & Timeline	Share how and when the community grant funds will be used.
Proposal – Outcomes	Detail project’s expected outcomes and measures of success.
Grant Administration Questionnaire	Explain the applicant’s history and experience with receiving federal grants.
Certifying Statements	Attest to answering application honestly.
Submission	Review before completion and learn next steps.

Once finalized, the applicant should upload their fully completed Community Grant Application into the Grants Portal as an attachment to the General Application.

- A. SF-424A or SF424C (Budget Justification):** SF-424A - Budget Information for Non-Construction (for an equipment procurement project or non-Construction project) **or** SF 424C - Budget Information for Construction

- B. Proof of Non-Profit Status:** The applicant must provide supporting documentation that proves that it is eligible for this funding opportunity. The documentation required includes an IRS Determination Letter and the organizations most recent IRS Form 990 and Statement of Financial Position (balance sheet).
- C. FRA F 30:** Certifications Regarding Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters, Drug-Free Workplace Requirements and Lobbying
- D. Assurances:** SF 424B— Assurances for Non-Construction (for an equipment procurement project or non-Construction project) **or** SF 424D—Assurances for Construction
- E. Letter(s) of Support and/or documentation showing community support:** Examples include copies of City-approved or neighborhood plans, letters of support from partnering or associated organizations as well as community organizations or other entities that may be useful for Amtrak to have when evaluating the need for and importance of the proposed project.
- F. SF-LLL, if applicable:** Populate only if reportable lobbying activities exist.

SAM.GOV:

All applicants must maintain current registrations in the Federal government's SAM database. An applicant must be registered in SAM in order to be able to apply for a community grant under this Notice. **It is critical for SAM registration to be submitted as soon as possible to ensure that your organization is registered prior to application submission.**

The SAM database is the repository for standard information about Federal financial assistance applicants. Organizations that have previously submitted applications for federal financial assistance may already be registered in SAM. Please note, however, that an applicant must update or renew its SAM registration at least once per year to maintain an active status. Therefore, it is critical to check registration status well in advance of the Notice deadline. If an applicant is selected for a CIP community grant award, the applicant must maintain an active SAM registration with current information throughout the period of the award, including information on the immediate and highest-level owner and subsidiaries, as well as on all predecessors that have been awarded a Federal contract or grant within the last three years, if applicable. Information about SAM registration procedures is available at www.sam.gov along with the CIP Community Grants Application QuickStart Guide.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

To support the submission of qualified applications, Amtrak will host a series of technical assistance application assistance workshops in October 2025 focused on application questions, requirements, and the submission process. Amtrak will **not** provide guidance on specific applications. Applicants can RSVP for a workshop [here](#).

Amtrak will make the workshop slide deck and all questions & answers, including FAQs, available on the [CIP webpage](#) for those who cannot make the in-person workshops. Organizations may also contact the Program team at cip.bptunnel@amtrak.com.

V. Evaluation Criteria

Once the Notice deadline has passed, Amtrak will first screen each submitted application for applicant and project eligibility (see Sections I & III) and completeness (application documentation and submission requirements as outlined in Section IV).

Once the first screening is completed, Amtrak will evaluate only those completed applications submitted using the following five (5) evaluation criteria (collectively, the Evaluation Criteria):

Evaluation Criteria 1: Applicant Background

Evaluation Criteria 2: Proposal-Project Description

Evaluation Criteria 3: Proposal-Project Budget & Timeline

Evaluation Criteria 4: Proposal-Deliverables & Outcomes

Evaluation Criteria 5: Grant Administration Questionnaire

For each of the Evaluation Criteria, Amtrak will evaluate each application's responsiveness, including an assessment of supporting justifications, and assign points to an application. If an application does not sufficiently address the Evaluation Criteria and receive a minimum of eighty percent (80%) of the available total points and points available in each category, it will not be considered for a community grant. The following are the five (5) scoring thresholds (Scoring Thresholds) to be used when evaluating an application to determine whether or not it has met the Evaluation Criteria:

- Standard Not Met (received a minimum of 20% of total points): Application provides minimal or no information necessary to assess the Evaluation Criteria
- Less than Adequate (received a minimum of 40% of total points): Application provides insufficient information to assess the Evaluation Criteria

- Adequate (received a minimum of 60% of total points): Application provides satisfactory information to assess the Evaluation Criteria
- Standard Met (received a minimum of 80% of total points): Application provides sufficient information to assess the Evaluation Criteria
- Standard Exceeded (received a minimum of 100% of total points): Application provides thorough and complete information to assess the Evaluation Criteria

In order for an application to be considered for a community grant award, the application must score a minimum of 80 total points and 80% of the available points within each individual Evaluation Criteria category.

Table 3: Evaluation Criteria Scoring

Scoring Criteria (Category)	Maximum Points Available	Minimum Points Required
Applicant Background	5	4
Proposal - Project Description	25	20
Proposal – Budget & Timeline	25	20
Proposal – Deliverables & Outcomes	35	28
Grant Administration Questionnaire	10	8
TOTAL POINTS	100 PTS	80 PTS

VI. Review and Selection Process

ELIGIBILITY REVIEW

In addition to the screening and evaluation referenced in Section V, Amtrak will also perform a risk assessment on each applicant to evaluate the potential legal and financial risks associated with an applicant receiving community grant funds from Amtrak. This risk assessment is necessary to determine the appropriate level of monitoring needed to ensure compliance with Amtrak’s federal funding requirements and ensure proper use of CIP funds. Depending on the results of the risk assessment, Amtrak may determine an applicant to be ineligible for a community grant award.

COMMUNITY GRANTS SELECTION COMMITTEE

An Amtrak Community Grants Selection Committee (Committee) will be responsible for reviewing all submitted applications that are determined to be eligible. The Committee will be composed of approximately 5-7 members. The Committee will consist of an

independent group of Amtrak employees who will review and score eligible applications using the Evaluation and Scoring Criteria described above. Amtrak's Conflict-of-interest and ethics policies will apply at all stages of the CIP, including the application review and award processes.

REVIEW AND SELECTION OF APPLICATIONS

Each Member of the Committee will follow the Evaluation Criteria and complete a standard scoring sheet for each application. The final score of each application will be determined by averaging the scores of all of the Committee members' scoring sheets for said application. Once the average scoring is completed for all applications, the CIP Administrator will rank applications from highest to lowest scores. Applications must score a minimum of 80% of both the total overall points available and in each individual category to be eligible for awards. Awards will then be decided based on available funds for the Notice and the total funding amounts requested in the top applications. In addition, Amtrak has committed to awarding 75% of total funds available each annual application cycle to eligible not-for-profit organizations.

Once the scoring and ranking is complete, the CIP Administrator will reconvene the Committee as necessary in order to create the list of Selection Recommendations. These will include a summary of the top scoring applications, any explanations of Committee scoring as required, and the basis for the Selection Recommendation. The CIP Administrator, with guidance from the Amtrak Legal and Finance teams, will finalize the list of applications that are approved for community grant funding (Selected Applications), and the Amtrak Finance team will authorize the issuance of the awards, subject to the negotiation and execution of the required funding agreement and related documents.

NOTIFICATION OF AWARDS

Amtrak will announce Selected Applications in a press release and on Amtrak's Program website within 120 days after the NOFO deadline passes. This announcement will be Amtrak's notification to both awardees as well as the applications that were not selected. Following this announcement, Amtrak will reach out to the point of contact listed in the Selected Application to initiate negotiation of a funding agreement. Amtrak requires satisfaction of applicable requirements by the applicant and a formal funding agreement signed by both the awardee and Amtrak, including an approved scope of work, schedule, and budget, before disbursing the award. **No work can be done on the project to be paid by the award until the above-referenced requirements are satisfied.**

Applicants that submitted applications that are not selected for this Notice are encouraged to re-apply for future CIP notices of funding opportunities. Upon request, Amtrak will provide debriefings to unsuccessful applicants regarding submitted applications.

The CIP Administrator will be responsible for facilitating the application review, evaluation, and selection processes, and providing a summary to Amtrak executive leadership upon request.

VI. Award Administration Information

AWARD NOTICE:

In order for Amtrak to be able to disburse funds to a selected applicant, the following items will be required to be completed prior to funding:

- A standard funding agreement, which may include any special provisions applicable to the Selected Application, including reporting and project management expectations; and
- A scope/statement of work, schedule, and budget (to be attached to the funding agreement).
-

Amtrak will use a standard funding agreement template for all awards, and expects all awardees to accept the standard funding agreement, with non to minimal revisions. The anticipated timeline to fund an award after an award announcement is made will vary from awardee to awardee and depend on how quickly the above requirements are completed. It is Amtrak's desire to fund the community grants as quickly as possible.

REPORTING:

Each awardee will be required to comply with all Amtrak standard reporting requirements, including monthly progress reports, quarterly financial reports, and final performance reports, as well as all applicable auditing, monitoring and close out requirements. Awardees must have the necessary processes and systems in place to comply with the reporting requirements.

These requirements that will help ensure that federal dollars are being expended in a judicious matter. Amtrak will administer the CIP in a manner that ensures: (1) funds are spent appropriately and in the spirit of a federal award; (2) that the risks of fraud, waste, abuse, and individual project mismanagement or failure is mitigated through appropriate oversight; (3) that awardees have reasonable access to Amtrak's technical expertise; and (4) that Amtrak's commitments in the ROD are fulfilled. Amtrak will apply oversight requirements, including monitoring and reporting, to all awards, and may consider applying more stringent requirements to higher dollar awards.

Awardees should also be able to participate in meetings (in-person, by telephone, video conferencing, and/or e-mail) as requested by Amtrak.

REPORTS

As will be required in the funding agreement, awardees will be required to submit the following materials and reports to Amtrak:

- A copy of each non-profit annual report submitted to the Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”), within thirty (30) days after submission to the IRS, if applicable;
- No later than the fifteenth (15th) day of each month, a Monthly Progress Report (“MPR”) for the prior calendar month, a form of which will be attached to the funding agreement;
- On or before the 30th day of the first month of each quarter and until the end of the Period of Performance, a Quarterly Federal Financial Report (SF-425) covering the previous quarter. The link to the SF-425 can be found here:
https://railroads.dot.gov/sites/fra.dot.gov/files/2023-07/SF425_3_0-V3.0-1.pdf.
- Within thirty (30) days following the completion of the project, a Final Close Out Report (“Final Report”), a form of which will be attached to the funding agreement;
- Other reports, as applicable and required by Amtrak.

AMTRAK OVERSIGHT:

Amtrak will provide any requested technical assistance and training to awardees. Amtrak will also conduct ongoing monitoring of awards throughout the lifecycle of the award and project. Monitoring activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Routinely gathering and reviewing progress reports;
- Continuous monitoring of the administrative and programmatic performance of the award;
- Routinely reviewing invoices and expenses relative to budget;
- Conducting periodic on-site/virtual visits, when necessary;
- Regular check-in calls/emails, at a cadence to be mutually agreed upon; and
- Conducting audits, when necessary.