

State Urban Mass Transit Operating Assistance Program

85.20

Statutory Reference: 85.20, Wis. Stats.

Administrative Code: TRANS 8

- State funded grant program.
- Eligible applicants are local public bodies in large or small urbanized areas (populations of 2,500 or more) appropriate for an urban mass transit system. A local public body may be a county, city, village, town, transit authority, or transportation commission. A transit system may provide service by bus, shared-ride taxi, rail, or another mode, and can be publicly or privately owned.
- Organized into four funding tiers: A1, A2, B, and C.
 - Tier A1: Milwaukee County Transit System.
 - Tier A2: Madison Metro.
 - Tier B: Serves an area with a population between 50,000 and 200,000. There were 20 tier B systems in 2008.
 - Tier C: Serves an area with a population between 2,500 and 50,000.

Each tier has a separate appropriation in the state budget.

- Funds are distributed so that combined federal Section 5307 and state 85.20 funds cover an equal share of operating costs for all transit systems within a tier. In 2007, the average federal and state share was 58%.
- Funds may be used for operating assistance only.
- Recent funding levels:
 - 2008: \$110 million
 - 2007: \$102 million
 - 2006: \$100 million
- Annual application cycle: Applications for operating assistance are due on October 15 if the applicant is also requesting Section 5311 funds, or November 15 if they are not. A 45-day extension is available to bus systems for the November 15 date only.
- Detailed application information and forms with which to apply are available at: <http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/localgov/transit/masstransit.htm>

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