



news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SORTA NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR TRANSIT
INFRASTRUCTURE FUND GRANTS**

*Portion of Issue 7 sales tax revenue to fund infrastructure projects
within Metro service area*

CINCINNATI – The [Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority](#) (SORTA)/Metro is now accepting applications for grants to be awarded through a new [Transit Infrastructure Fund](#).

Thanks to the passage of Issue 7 by Hamilton County voters last year, 25 percent of the 0.8 percent Hamilton County sales tax revenue SORTA now receives—projected to be approximately \$30 million annually—is allocated for infrastructure improvements within Metro’s service area. The [Transit Infrastructure Fund](#) program will help address the more than \$1 billion of structurally deficient roads and bridges that have been identified along the transit routes within Hamilton County and improve overall mobility for the Greater Cincinnati region.

The competitive grant program is part of the [Reinventing Metro](#) plan, which focuses on transportation improvements that will boost the region’s economic development and vibrancy through improved connections to jobs, increased bus service frequency, expanded service hours, new routes and enhanced customer amenities.

“We’re committed to delivering on our promise of creating an improved transit system that enhances our region’s economic vitality and connects more people to jobs, medical services and education,” said Darryl Haley, Metro CEO & General Manager. “The Transit Infrastructure Fund will benefit our entire region because better roads, sidewalks and bridges improve everyone’s commute and accessibility.”

ELIGIBILITY

Hamilton County and all municipalities and townships in Hamilton County may apply for grants. Infrastructure projects eligible for consideration must be within ¼ mile of a Metro fixed transit route—excluding stretches on limited access highways, classified as Class 1, such as I-275, I-75, I-74 and I-71. The projects could include repaving, road widening, bridges, or sidewalk or crosswalk improvements for Metro passengers walking to and from their bus stops.

TIMELINE & SELECTION

Applications for grants may be submitted now through **June 30, 2021, at 2 p.m.** The project applications will be scored by an evaluation committee designated by SORTA. Final approval of selected projects will be granted by the Ohio Public Works Commission District 2 Integrating Committee.

- Project Review and Scoring: June 30 – August 31, 2021
- SORTA board confirms evaluation committee’s recommendations: September 14, 2021

- Integrating Committee's final approval: October 2021
- SORTA enters into agreements with awardees: Quarter 4 2021
- Funds made available to awardees: Quarter 1 2022

To view [application guidelines](#) and download the [application form](#), visit go-metro.com. Questions may be directed to Metro's VP, Strategic Planning & Development Khaled Shammout at kshammout@go-metro.com or (513) 632-7671.

Metro is a non-profit, tax-funded public service of the [Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority](#), providing about 13.5 million rides per year. Learn more about Metro at www.go-metro.com.

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