

# Community Transportation Association of America



The Direction of Public Transportation Policy  
Missouri Public Transit Association  
Sept. 4, 2024

# What We'll Cover Today

## **THE DC Update**

What you should expect over the next year.

## **Vehicle Crisis Continues**

We're not where we were, but it's far from ideal.

## **Relevance = Transit's Goal**

What does relevance look like?

## **What CTAA is Doing**

What CTAA is up to.



# What's Happening in DC

## **BIL**

- Expires September 30, 2026
- No appetite for major change until reauth

## **Appropriations**

- FY '25 initial bills complete
- Expect CR and delays

## **Next Congress**

- Majority change(s)?
- New authorization/appropriations leadership



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**Nov. 5 Vote**

- Fleet electrification
- Regulatory reform
- Labor influence
- Project 2025

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**Fiscal Cliff**

- Largest UZAs
- Hundreds of millions of \$\$ operating deficits
- Most visible transit systems in US

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**Rural Progress**

- Senate bi-partisanship
- Soon
- More flexibility

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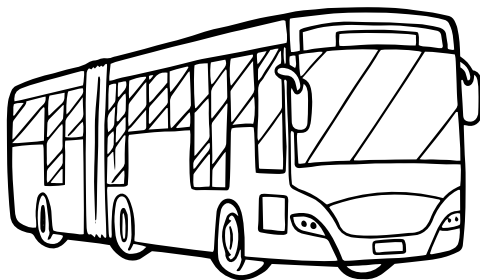
**Small Urban**

- Bus Purchasing Coop
- STIC changes
- Regulatory reform

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**Technical Corrections**

- NEPA
- Used Bus Sales
- Saliva testing
- Spare ratios



# Discussion Drivers

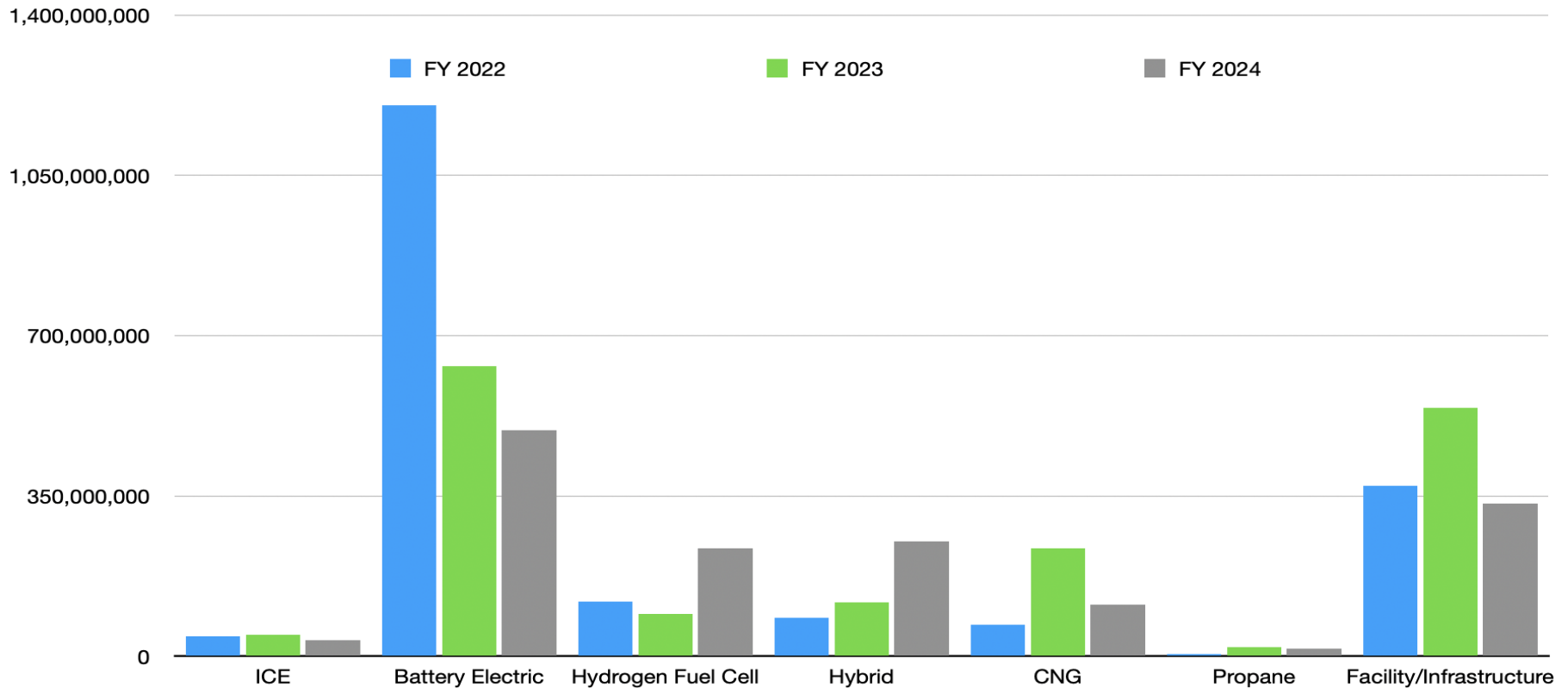
# Rural Transit Bill

<b>Local Match</b>	80/20 for operating
	80/20 for capital
<b>Tribal</b>	5311 Tribal set aside change?
	5% of 5339/low-no
	Self-gov pilot for 5311?
<b>Driver Shortage</b>	Volunteer driver fix
	CDL requirement issues
<b>Regulatory Right-Sizing</b>	Joint state/DOT/rural operator process to recommend regulatory relief for 5311s
<b>Low-No</b>	Develop joint FTA/DOE/DoED program for rural zero-emission infrastructure
	Allow 5311 agencies to do cooperative low-no projects with munis for EV
	Rural set aside in 5339 to 15%
<b>Vehicle Shortage</b>	Joint procurement
	Production credit for meeting threshold to transit agencies
<b>Social Services</b>	Study on streamlining transit and social service programs
<b>RTIA</b>	Rural Transit Intensive Area

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# Bus Grants by Type

Bus Grants by Vehicle Type



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# 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.

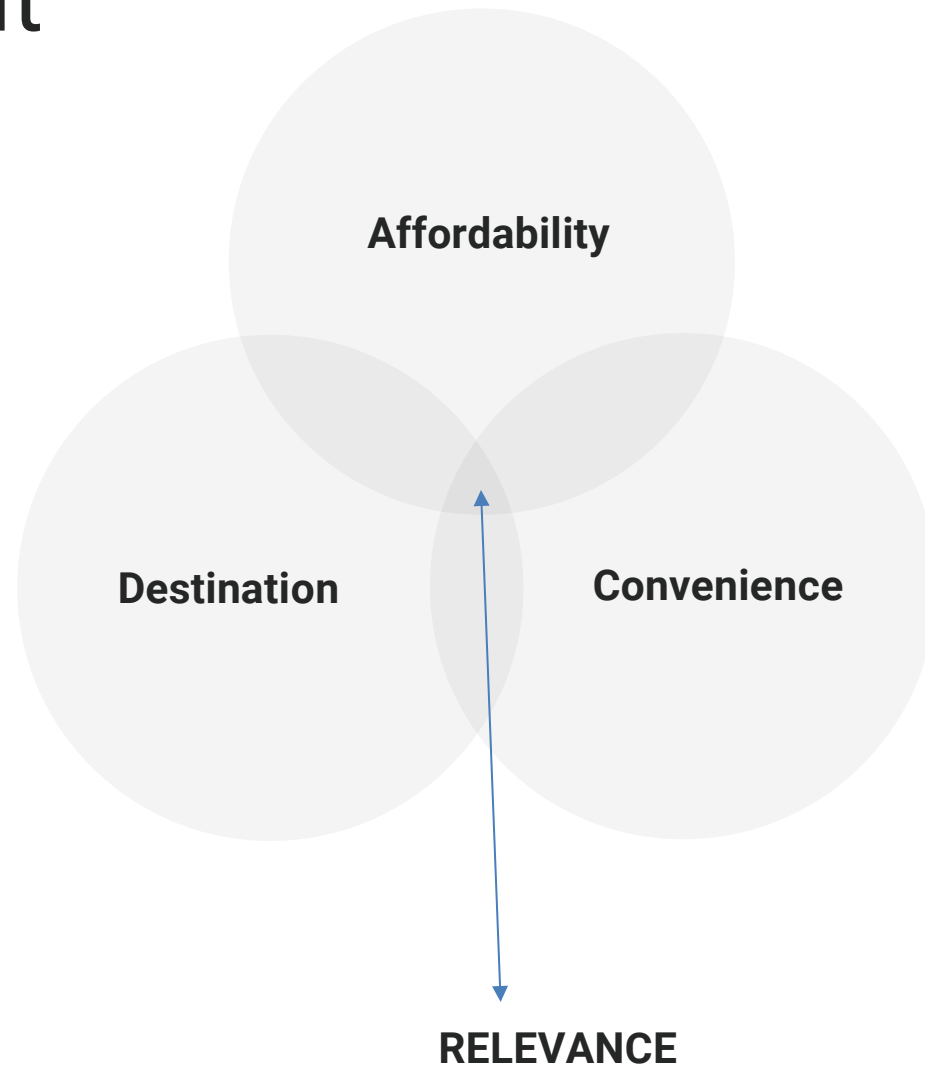
## **Facilities**

Every year, second biggest investment category.

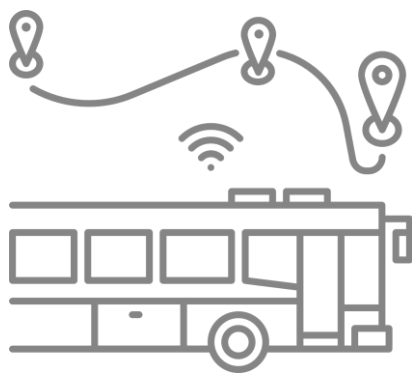
## **Fleet Diversification**

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

# The Transit Relevance Sweet Spot







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### Opportunistic

The initial funding that created the Rides to Wellness program arrived in the aftermath of the Flint water crisis

### Rides to Wellness

Same-day, door-through-door service provided largely in cars and minivans, using an app

### Hitting the Target

2016: 169 trips/month  
2024: 6,300 trips/month

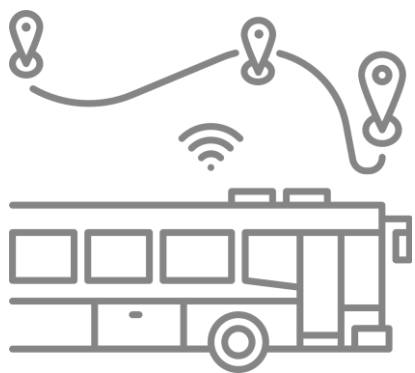
### New Partners

Flint MTA has 27 new partners in the Rides to Wellness program

### Just Ask

MTA interviewed riders, professionals, and stakeholders to understand the issues and design an innovative transportation solution





# CyRide



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## Unique Partnership

CyRide is a partnership between the City of Ames, Iowa State University and ISU students

## Students Vote for Transit

In 2021 ISU students vote to pay for fare free service

## Effectiveness

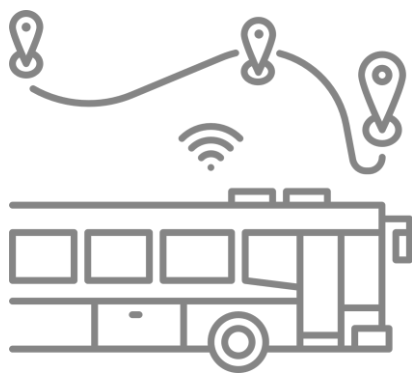
Ames is ranked third in the country is transit trips per capita at 68.47

## Post-COVID Ridership Boom

Oct. 2020:  
200,000 riders

Oct. 2023:  
600,000 riders





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### **Business Model Collapses**

EZRide's shuttle programs collapse with pandemic

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### **Identifying a Need**

Seniors, people with disabilities and other need access to health care

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### **New Partners**

EZ-Ride identifies Uber and Lyft as key operating partners

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### **Strong Response**

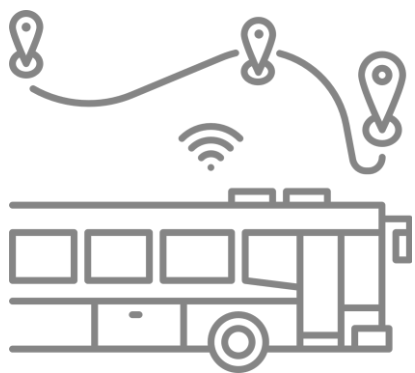
From 15,000 to more than 100,000 annual trips since 2019; 95% or trips subsidized

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### **Ease of Use**

Riders need to make one call to book rides





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# San Marcos, Texas

## Goal

In 2016, goal was established to seamlessly blend university and city transit ops

## Agreement

City serves as Designated Recipient and University agrees to be voluntary NTD reporter – STIC impact

## Ease of Use

Both systems are fare-free

## Ridership Increases

City ridership grows by more than 30%, university ridership by 8%

## Continual Improvement

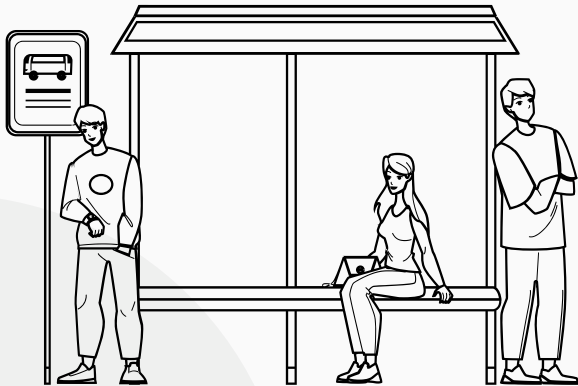
2024 Route study to improve coordination of services



# About CTAA

- ▶ Advocacy
- ▶ Member Services
- ▶ Training and Certification
  
- ▶ Technical Assistance and Grant Programs:
  - ▶ National Center for Mobility Management (NCMM)
  - ▶ National Center for Applied Transit Technology (N-CATT)
  - ▶ Administration on Community Living Accessible Transportation Resource Center (ATRC)

# Contact us



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