

# FMATS 2015 – 2018 Transportation Improvement Program Project Nomination Form

Project nominations are accepted from the public and are scored based on the adopted Project Scoring Criteria. These criteria assign weight based on the project's impact on the following:

1. Health and Quality of Life
2. Safety Improvements
3. Public Support
4. Project Cost/ Project Length (\$/miles)
5. Road Functional Class
6. Road Maintenance and Condition
7. Other Considerations (economic development, security, utility conflict resolution, etc.)

The score the project receives will be used to determine the project's eligibility for funding in the Transportation Improvement Program, or TIP. The TIP identifies, prioritizes and allocates anticipated funding for transportation improvements over a 4 year period.

NAME: Fairbanks North Star Borough
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**Name of Proposed Project:** Transit Bus Replacement

**Project Scope/ Description:** Purchase six transit buses to replace buses purchased in 2007 that will reach their useful life in 2017. These buses are 29 foot Gillig buses that have a useful life of 10 years.

**Is there a commitment from a public organization to maintain this project if built? If so please identify that organization below.**

Fairbanks North Star Borough Transportation Department

**Has an organization agreed to pay the non-federal funding match for this project? If so please identify the organization that has committed to pay the non-federal share.**

If funded, the match funds will be requested through the FNSB assembly.

**Does this project support all or some of the four goals of FMATS? The four goals are listed below please explain the relationship between these goals and this project.**

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1. Coordinate planning efforts to provide an integrated transportation and land use system that embodies smart growth principles and stimulates the economy to grow.
2. Provide a safe, efficient, secure, and interconnected multi-modal transportation system for all users.
3. Protect the environment, improve air quality, promote energy efficiency, and enhance regional quality of life.
4. Optimize the utility and lifespan of the existing transportation system.

1) The FNSB MACS fixed route system provides over half a million rides annually to those using the system for work, shopping, medical appointments, school and recreational purposes within the FMATS area.

2) The FNSB MACS system provides transportation to all major destinations within the FMATS area. The system is scheduled specifically to allow for connectivity between routes to provide service throughout the entire service area. The FNSB MACS system complies with all Federal Transit Administration guidelines regarding safety and security.

3) The MACS system is an integral component of both the air quality planning for the carbon monoxide maintenance plan and the PM2.5 attainment plan. Encouraging and providing public transportation reduces individual vehicles driven and therefore emitted emissions. Many residents rely on the public transportation system for a variety of living necessities.

4) Reducing vehicle miles driven through the use of public transportation will allow existing road infrastructure to last longer.

**1) Does this project improve community health and/or quality of life? For example: improve air and water quality, enhance intermodal connectedness, reduce congestion, etc.**

Providing a reliable and convenient public transportation system reduces the number of individual vehicles driven which reduces emissions. Additionally, reducing the number of individual vehicles reduces overall traffic congestion.

**2) Is safety a factor? For example, is there a history of accidents or safety complaints?**

Current bus fleet is aging reducing reliability and increasing maintenance costs. Buses that break down in severe cold weather which strand passengers alongside the roadway present a number of safety issues

**3) Would you describe the public support for this project as broad-based, localized, or limited? Please provide a justification for this level of public support.**

This project is included in the newly adopted Metropolitan Transportation Plan as a short-term priority. The FNSB MACS system has been operating since 1977 providing over 15 million rides

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during that time. Voters in the FNSB have approved the existence and operation of a public transportation system twice confirming the public support.

**4) Please provide a cost estimate for each phase of this project if available. For example: design, right-of-way, utilities, and construction**

The estimated cost per bus is \$450,000 for a total of \$2.7m to replace all six 29 foot buses. Normal delivery time is 2 years from the time a bus is ordered.

**5) If this is a road project please provide the functional classification of the road or roads. For example: *arterial, urban collector, or local road.***

N/A

**6) Will this project improve drainage, decrease operating cost, promote efficient system management or improve overall facility condition? *Please explain:***

Reduction of individual vehicles driven on the roads will reduce overall maintenance costs due to increased life of road surfaces.

**7) Are there other benefits of this project? *For example: national security, community development or otherwise economic benefits.***

Numerous studies conducted in various locations of the nation by the Transportation Cooperative Research Program concluded that for every dollar spent on public transportation, the community benefits three fold in economic benefits.

**8) Please address other issues that have not been addressed concerning this project. (*Attach additional pages and/or photos as necessary*)**

This project addresses the following performance measures: congestion mitigation, air quality and safety.

**For more information, please contact:**

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Please submit completed form and attachments to the MPO Coordinator via mail, fax or email.