

ASSEMBLY, No. 4934

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 5, 2022

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblyman WILLIAM F. MOEN, JR.

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Assemblyman BENJIE E. WIMBERLY

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Mobility and Transportation Innovation Program in DOT; appropriates \$20 million.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/8/2022)

1 AN ACT establishing the Mobility and Transportation Innovation
2 Program, supplementing Title 27 of the Revised Statutes, and
3 making an appropriation.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

7
8 1. As used in P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
9 Legislature as this bill):

10 “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Transportation.

11 “Department” means the Department of Transportation.

12 “Local government unit” means a county, municipality, or joint
13 meeting, including any commission, authority, board, agency, or
14 any other similar entity thereof.

15 “Program” means the Mobility and Transportation Innovation
16 Program established pursuant to section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.)
17 (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

18 “Public transportation project” means the same as that term is
19 defined in section 3 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-3).

20 “Transit agency” means any organization or entity, including for-
21 profit businesses, non-profit organizations and independent
22 authorities, that provides public transportation service.

23

24 2. a. There is established in the department the Mobility and
25 Transportation Innovation Program to award grants to local
26 government units and transit agencies to fund public transportation
27 projects that utilize innovative technologies and strategies to
28 enhance passenger mobility, increase access to public transportation
29 among disadvantaged communities, and reduce greenhouse gas
30 emissions.

31 b. A local government unit or transit agency may use a
32 program grant to support the provision of new transportation
33 services, the expansion of existing transportation services, or the
34 matching requirements for an otherwise eligible project that
35 receives federal funding. To qualify for a program grant, the
36 transportation project undertaken by the local government unit or
37 transit agency shall:

38 (1) enable low-income persons, including persons without
39 access to smartphone technology, to access any transportation
40 services made available through the project;

41 (2) include accessibility features to accommodate the mobility
42 needs of persons with disabilities;

43 (3) utilize innovative technologies or strategies that have
44 already demonstrated success in similar transportation projects; and

45 (4) meet any other eligibility criteria established by the
46 department.

47 c. Any local government unit or transit agency may submit an
48 application to the commissioner for a program grant, provided that

1 the application shall be submitted in a form and manner prescribed
2 by the commissioner. In addition to any other information that the
3 commissioner may deem appropriate, the application shall require
4 the applicant to submit information:

5 (1) describing the transportation project, including the total
6 anticipated costs of the project, all other sources of project funding,
7 and the requested grant amount; and

8 (2) demonstrating that the transportation project meets the
9 eligibility criteria for the program.

10 d. The commissioner shall approve applications for the
11 program on a competitive basis, subject to the availability of funds.
12 The commissioner may award grants to approved applicants in such
13 amounts as the commissioner deems appropriate.

14 e. Within one year of the effective date of P.L. ,
15 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), the
16 department shall submit a written report to the Governor and to
17 Legislature, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-
18 19.1), detailing the operations of the program. At a minimum, the
19 report shall describe each project for which a program grant was
20 awarded, specify the amount of each grant award, and assess the
21 performance of the program.

22
23 3. The commissioner shall adopt, pursuant to the
24 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
25 seq.), rules and regulations necessary to effectuate the provisions of
26 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

27
28 4. There is appropriated \$20 million from the General Fund to
29 the Department of Transportation to support the Mobility and
30 Transportation Innovation Program established pursuant to section
31 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this
32 bill).

33
34 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

35
36

37 STATEMENT

38
39 This bill establishes the Mobility and Transportation Innovation
40 Program in the Department of Transportation and appropriates \$20
41 million from the General Fund to support the program.

42 Specifically, the Mobility and Transportation Innovation
43 Program would provide grants to local government units and transit
44 agencies to fund public transportation projects that utilize
45 innovative technologies and strategies to enhance passenger
46 mobility, increase access to public transportation among
47 disadvantaged communities, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
48 Under the bill, program grants could be used to support the

1 provision of new transportation services, the expansion of existing
2 transportation services, or the matching requirements for an
3 otherwise eligible project that receives federal funding.

4 However, to qualify for a program grant, the transportation
5 project undertaken by the local government unit or transit agency
6 would be required to: (1) enable low-income persons, including
7 persons without access to smartphone technology, to access any
8 transportation services made available through the project; (2)
9 include accessibility features to accommodate the mobility needs of
10 persons with disabilities; (3) utilize innovative technologies or
11 strategies that have already demonstrated success in similar
12 transportation projects; and (4) meet any other eligibility criteria
13 established by the department.

14 Under the bill, local government units and transit agencies may
15 apply to the Commissioner of Transportation. At a minimum, the
16 application would be required to describe the transportation project,
17 including the total anticipated project costs, all other sources of
18 funding, and the requested grant amount, and demonstrate that the
19 project qualifies for the program. Thereafter, the commissioner
20 would award grants, on a competitive basis, in such amounts as the
21 commissioner deems appropriate.

22 The bill also requires the department to submit a written report
23 detailing the operations of the program within one year of the
24 enactment of this bill. At a minimum, the report would describe
25 each project for which a program grant was awarded, specify the
26 amount of each grant award, and assess the performance of the
27 program.