



March 2, 2026

Subject: Railroad Multi-Modal Transportation Improvement Program

Mississippi Public Railroad Sponsor:

The application cycle for the Mississippi Department of Transportation's (MDOT) Multi-Modal Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) is open for FY2027.

The application and supporting document templates are available at https://mdot.ms.gov/portal/multi-modal_transportation_improvement. Railroad sponsors must submit an electronic copy of the application form and any supporting documents to the MDOT MTIP portal. Please refer to the *Multimodal Transportation Improvement Program Guidelines for Railroad Multimodal Grants* on the following pages for more details about the program and the eligibility requirements.

To complete the application submittal, click on the forms on the website and save a copy to your computer. Once the application and forms have been completed and saved, upload the application, forms, and supporting documents by selecting "Upload Files to MDOT" then Rails. Ensure all forms are completed and all supporting documents are ready before selecting "Submit Form."

In order to be considered for funding, an electronically submitted application package must be received in the Aeronautics and Rails Division, MDOT office no later than 4:00 PM on March 27, 2026.

Please call me at (601) 359-7850 if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Josh Stubbs, P.E.
Director of Aeronautics and Rails

Multimodal Transportation Improvement Program Guidelines for Railroad Multimodal Grants

The Multi-Modal Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) is administered by the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) for the improvement of airports, ports, railroads, and transit systems in the state.

Applicant Eligibility

To receive a Multimodal Grant, a railroad must be owned by a public entity.

Eligible Uses of Multimodal Grant Funds

For a railroad to receive a Multimodal Grant, the proposed use of such funds must be:

- (a) Directly related to capital improvements or the rebuilding or rehabilitation of the basic infrastructure and not for routine maintenance, administrative or operational expenses;
- (b) For a project or use directly related to the operation of the railroad in its modal role; and
- (c) For a purpose outside the normal operating budget of the railroad

Assuming that the proposed project meets the above requirements, some examples of eligible uses of Multimodal Grant funds are:

- (a) Local share required to match a federal grant;
- (b) Pre-construction studies, planning and design;
- (c) Acquisition of personal property;
- (d) Acquisition of real property;
- (e) Reclamation and related relocation costs;
- (f) Professional services; and
- (g) Construction

All contracts and purchases relating to the expenditure of Multimodal Funds must be made in accordance with state bid and procurement laws.

A railroad must pledge on its application to fund a minimum of 1% of the total cost of the project for which Multimodal Grant funds are to be used.

Ineligible Uses of Multimodal Grant Funds

Some examples of ineligible uses of Multimodal Grant funds are:

- (a) Routine maintenance equipment;
- (b) General business and marketing expenses; and
- (c) Railroad promotional information

Crosstie Replacement Project Eligibility

Projects that include replacing crossties will not be eligible for Railroad Multi-Modal funding unless they meet at least one of the following conditions:

- (a) Extenuating circumstances that are outside of the railroad's control have resulted in the need for substantial crosstie replacement. Applications under this condition are to be submitted to MDOT for review and will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Examples of such circumstances include, but are not limited to:
 - 1. An "act of god" such as flooding or other natural disaster
 - 2. A change in ownership of the rail line within the previous 5 years
 - 3. Access to a connecting railroad is jeopardized due to the condition of the crossties
- (b) There is a change in the class of track as a direct result of the crossties being replaced

Application Process

Eligible applicants shall electronically submit one (1) application package which must include the following:

- Electronic Application Form
- Project Justification
- Cost Estimate
- Supporting Documentation

The electronic application form and project justification and cost estimate templates can be found on the Multi-Modal Transportation Improvement Program page of the MDOT website. All forms must be filled out completely and saved before submitting. The application package will be submitted using the online application submittal on the MTIP webpage which will be active during the application period.

Applications must be signed by an authorized representative of the railroad (i.e. a city or county official or railroad director). **This does not include city or county engineers.** Applications with signatures from an unauthorized representative may be returned.

The Aeronautics and Rails Division (ARD) will review each application to determine whether the application is complete, whether the applicant is eligible, and whether the proposed use of the Multi-Modal Grant is an eligible use. Applications not meeting these criteria will be returned to the applicants with an explanation as to why the application was rejected.

In order to be considered for selection, one (1) application package must be RECEIVED by the ARD office by the deadline listed on the cover letter. Any applications received after that time will not be considered for funding and will be returned to the applicant.

Selection Process

Copies of all accepted applications will be sent by the ARD to each member of the Railroad Multi-Modal Committee (the “Committee”). Each member of the Committee will review each application and prepare an initial scoring of each application using the provided criteria and point system. Committee members do not score their own applications.

The Committee will then meet to discuss the accepted applications. The committee member whose project is being discussed will be absent from the room. There will be an opportunity for each member to revise their scores after the discussion of applications. Each member of the Committee will submit their final scores for each application to the ARD. Each member’s scores will be converted to rankings (i.e. if there are 10 applications, each member’s scores will be converted to rankings of 1 – 10).

A railroad whose application was not ranked sufficiently high to be awarded a Multimodal Grant may contact the ARD for additional information and explanation.

Applications not selected for a Multimodal Grant are not automatically considered for selection the following year. To be considered for a Multimodal Grant in the following or subsequent years, an application must be updated and resubmitted in its entirety. Any such application will be scored and ranked in the following and subsequent years as set out above as if it had not been filed, scored or ranked previously.

IMPORTANT: There will be no partially funded projects. Multimodal Grants will be awarded to fulfill the full estimate that is provided as a part of the application. Additionally, there will be no scope changes under any condition. The project must be completed as noted in the application. If the project exceeds the Multimodal Grant amount, any and all overages must be covered by the applicant.

Grant Agreements

After the Multimodal Grants have been awarded by the Mississippi Transportation Commission, the ARD will prepare and submit a Multimodal Railroad Grant Agreement (the “Grant Agreement”) to each recipient of a Multimodal Grant during that fiscal cycle.

Without limitation, the Grant Agreement will:

- (a) Confirm that Multimodal Grant funds will be disbursed only for eligible expenditures within the scope of the approved application, in accordance with the terms and conditions contained in the Grant Agreement, and only upon receipt of an Application for Payment of State Aid (Multimodal Projects) form provided by the ARD, accompanied by invoices supporting the claimed costs – in other words, Multimodal Grant funds will be disbursed on a reimbursement basis;
- (b) Confirm that project costs exceeding the amount of the Multimodal Grant are the responsibility of the Multimodal Grant recipient, and that the Multimodal Grant recipient is expected to provide or obtain additional funds sufficient to complete the project;
- (c) The Multimodal Grant will expire 2 years after execution; any remaining funds in the Multimodal Grant may be forfeited at that time and subject to being awarded to another applicant for another project; and
- (d) Require that Quarterly Reports be submitted over the timespan of the Multimodal Grant.

Reimbursement Process & Status Report

Multi-Modal Grant funds will be disbursed for incurred eligible project costs upon receipt of an Application for Reimbursement accompanied by invoices supporting the claimed costs. A Project Performance Report that provides current status information on the project must be submitted quarterly.

Audit

Multimodal Funds provided are subject to audit by the MDOT Audit Division.

Waiver

These Guidelines may be amended by MDOT at any time. MDOT, in its discretion, may temporarily waive any requirements of these Guidelines to the extent that the result of such waiver shall be to promote the public purpose of the Multimodal Transportation Improvement Program and is not prohibited by law.

Additional Information

Inquiries regarding any matter discussed in these Guidelines should be directed to:

Josh Stubbs, P.E.

Director, Aeronautics and Rails Division

Mississippi Department of Transportation

Telephone: (601) 359-7850

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