



FEMA

SRIA Fact Sheet

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION EMERGENCY RELIEF PROGRAM

On January 29, 2013, President Barack Obama signed into law the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act (SRIA) of 2013. In many ways, the passage of SRIA represents the most significant legislative change to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) substantive authorities since the enactment of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. The law authorizes several significant changes to the way FEMA may deliver federal disaster assistance to survivors.

After disasters strike, federal, state and local partners must be able to move quickly and make the necessary repairs to our nation's transit systems, roads, rails and bridges to ensure that the public has the reliable service they need, and so that agencies have better resources to plan for and mitigate the impact of such disasters in the future.

Pursuant to the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013 (P.L. 113-2), which contained SRIA, \$5,400,000,000 was made available to the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Public Transportation Emergency Relief Program for transit systems affected by Hurricane Sandy. In order to receive the full balance of the appropriation, FTA was required to execute a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with FEMA outlining the roles and responsibilities of both agencies in providing federal assistance to repair and restore public transportation systems in areas where the President has declared a major disaster or emergency. FTA also was required to publish interim regulations for the program. The MOA with FEMA was executed on March 4, 2013, and the interim regulation published on March 29, 2013.

FEMA maintains primary federal responsibility for emergency preparedness, response and recovery in major disasters and emergencies. However, the new Public Transportation Emergency Relief Program attaches to the FTA the primary responsibilities for reimbursing emergency response and recovery costs for public transportation systems that are affected by an emergency or major disaster and mitigating the impact of future disasters.

STATUS: The MOA was executed in March 2013; Interim regulation was published March 29, 2013; coordination between FEMA/FTA continues. MOA is available at http://www.fta.dot.gov/documents/FTA_FEMA_MOA.pdf.

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