



MEMORANDUM

TO: TPB Technical Committee

FROM: Wendy Klancher, TPB Principal Transportation Planner
Lynn Winchell-Mendy, TPB Transportation Planner

SUBJECT: Status Report on the 2015 Solicitation for Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Grant Applications

DATE: January 8, 2016

This memorandum provides an overview of the 2015 solicitation for Enhanced Mobility grant applications which began on August 14 and ended on November 2, 2015. A Selection Committee met in December and after the TPB Officers concur with the funding recommendations, the TPB will be asked to approve the recommendations and amend the TIP with the projects, anticipated to occur at the January 20 TPB meeting.

BACKGROUND

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is the designated recipient for the Federal Transit Administration's Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities program for the Washington DC-VA-MD Urbanized Area. This program provides matching grants for transportation needs of transit-dependent populations beyond traditional public transportation services and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) complementary paratransit services. Approximately \$2.8 million was apportioned annually to the Washington DC-VA-MD Urbanized Area under MAP-21. The federal funds are required to be matched with other sources of funding provided by the grant recipients: 20 percent for capital projects and 50 percent for operating projects.

The TPB approved an update to its Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan ("Coordinated Plan") on November 19, 2014 which includes priority projects for the Enhanced Mobility funding, strategies to meet unmet transportation needs for people with disabilities and older adults, and selection criteria for the competitive selection of grant applications. The selection process reflected in the Coordinated Plan is based on the TPB's success with administering 66 JARC and New Freedom grants between 2007 and 2013, totaling over \$25 million.

2015 SOLICITATION FOR ENHANCED MOBILITY GRANT APPLICATIONS

The 2015 TPB solicitation for Enhanced Mobility grant applications was conducted from August 14 through November 2, 2015. Approximately \$5 million in FY2014 and FY2015 Enhanced Mobility funds were available for this solicitation. The following twelve priority projects for the solicitation were identified in the Coordinated Plan and confirmed by the Human Service Transportation Coordination Task Force. However, applicants could also submit proposals for projects that were not priorities, and the priority projects did not receive extra points during the selection process.

Priority Projects for the 2015 Solicitation

- Mobility Manager Positions at the Local Government Level
- Challenge Grant for Coordinated Planning Efforts
- Personal Mobility Counseling Services
- Travel Training
- Door-through-Door or Escorted Transportation Service
- Expanded and On-Going Sensitivity and Customer Service Training for Taxi, Bus & Paratransit Drivers
- Shuttle or Taxi Service to Bus Stops and Rail Stations
- Bus Stop and Sidewalk Improvements
- Deviated or Feeder Service for Targeted Area or Population Groups
- Pilot Programs that Expand the Use of Taxis for Medical Trips
- Volunteer Driver Programs
- Tailored Transportation Service for Clients of Human Service Agencies

More than 1,200 individuals received an email announcing the availability of grant funds. Applicants used an online application developed by TPB staff using a grant management online tool. Staff created a user's guide for the online application and also provided technical assistance throughout the solicitation process. TPB staff also provided assistance to applicants and answered inquiries regarding project eligibility, match requirements and budget development.

TPB staff conducted five pre-application conferences for interested organizations on the application process, the federal requirements and project eligibility. Conferences were held in Silver Spring, Maryland on September 8th, Falls Church, Virginia on September 22nd, and at COG on August 26th, October 8th and October 16th. Over 40 different organizations and agencies attended.

At the conclusion of the solicitation period, 24 applications were submitted with the federal funding request totaling \$13.9 million, more than two and half times the amount of funding available. A list of all of the applications received is provided at the end of this memorandum.

SELECTION COMMITTEE AND PROCESS

TPB member Patrick Wojahn chaired the Selection Committee, which was comprised of five people representing aging, disability, transit and human service transportation coordination. The Selection Committee members were:

1. Ms. Susie McFadden-Resper, D.C. Office of Disability Rights
2. Ms. Daria Cervantes, Arc of Montgomery County, MD
3. Ms. Spring Worth, D.C. Department of Transportation (DDOT)
4. Ms. Maria Gonzales Jackson, Grantmakers in Aging, National Organization
5. Mr. Tim Roseboom, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)

Each member reviewed the applications using the TPB-approved selection criteria (below) prior to the Selection Committee meeting on December 18, 2015. The committee had follow-up questions for some applicants, and made final funding recommendations after the responses were received. After a thoughtful and deliberative process, the Selection Committee recommended 21 applications for funding.

The TPB's Coordinated Plan includes the following six selection criteria on which funding

recommendations are based. The criterion reflect the Coordinated Plan’s call to increase human service coordination in the region, and specifically examine to what extent an applicant is coordinating with other organizations or jurisdictions. Another strong emphasis is placed on the institutional capacity of an applicant to manage and administer an FTA grant given the numerous federal requirements under the Enhanced Mobility program, as well as an applicant’s prior grant performance, including the rate of expending grant funds and meeting stated objectives.

Selection Criteria for Enhanced Mobility Funding

Criterion	Maximum Points
Responsiveness to strategies in the Coordinated Plan	20
Coordination among agencies and organizations	25
Institutional capacity to manage and administer an FTA grant	20
Project feasibility	15
Regional need and impact	10
Customer focus and input	10
Total	100

FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

The 21 grant recommendations for Enhanced Mobility funding are under review by the TPB officers who have been asked to concur with the recommendations for presentation to the TPB on January 20, 2016.

Applicants will be notified of the funding recommendations by January 15, 2016, after the TPB Officers concurrence and the mail-out item is released for the January 20 TPB meeting. Any applicant with a project that isn’t recommended for funding would receive a letter with the final decision and suggestions for strengthening the application for the next solicitation, and would be offered the opportunity to receive a debriefing.

NEXT STEPS

The TPB will be asked to approve the recommended grant awards on January 20, 2016. If approved, the approximately \$5 million in FY14 and FY15 Enhanced Mobility funds would be expended.

Under the new transportation law, “Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act’ (FAST),’ the Enhanced Mobility Program continues and the funding level is expected to be comparable to MAP-21 (approximately \$2.8 million annually). The TPB would conduct the next solicitation for grant applications between August and October 2016 with the FY16 appropriation for Enhanced Mobility funds under FAST.

Should you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Wendy Klancher at wklancher@mwkog.org or 202-962-3321

Enhanced Mobility Grant Applications from 2015 Solicitation

	Applicant	Project	Geographic Focus	Federal \$ Requested	Match	Total Project
1	Seabury Resources for Aging	ConnectorCard expansion; transportation subsidy program for use on taxis and services like Uber	District of Columbia	\$482,317	\$482,317	\$964,634
2	Capitol Hill Village	Volunteer driver program enhancement and increased awareness about transportation options	District of Columbia	\$403,729	\$100,932	\$504,661
3	Jewish Council for the Aging	Volunteer driver resource center	Suburban Maryland and Northern Virginia	\$639,578	\$159,894	\$799,472
4	Montgomery County Professional Drivers Union	Support for operating costs, training and marketing of new drivers co-op for wheelchair accessible taxis; companion to #17	Montgomery County, MD	\$159,790	\$124,960	\$284,750
5	Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind	Public transportation Orientation & Mobility (O&M) services and internship program	Located in Silver Spring, MD but serves the entire region	\$308,334	\$77,084	\$385,418
6	Lifestyles of Maryland Foundation, Inc.	Volunteer driver program start-up for medical trips from Charles, Calvert and St Mary's County to the Washington DC-VA-MD Urbanized Area	Southern Maryland	\$133,145	\$133,145	\$266,290
7	Sunrise of Maryland, Inc.	Accessibility improvements to adult day center building employing people with intellectual and physical disabilities	Lanham, MD	\$116,248	\$29,062	\$145,310
8	The Arc of Northern Virginia	Train the Travel Trainer for schools and human service agencies	Northern Virginia	\$334,782	\$83,696	\$418,478

2015 Enhanced Mobility Grant Applications, Continued

	Applicant	Project	Geographic Focus	Federal \$ Requested	Match	Total Project
9	Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission	Transportation voucher program on taxis for health-related trips	Prince William County, City of Manassas and Manassas Park, VA	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$250,000
10	Woodley House, Inc.	Two accessible minivans to support clients with disabilities who are homeless	District of Columbia	\$64,587	\$16,147	\$80,734
11	Yellow Transportation LLC	Seven wheelchair accessible taxis, one 15-passenger bus, and preventative maintenance	District of Columbia	\$328,800	\$82,200	\$411,000
12	Liberty Transportation Management Corporation	Fifteen wheelchair accessible taxis, preventive maintenance and operating support	District of Columbia	\$669,896	\$260,714	\$930,610
13	The Arc of Prince George's County	Four accessible minivans to support client transportation to community-based programs	Prince George's County, MD	\$122,133	\$30,534	\$152,667
14	Jewish Council for the Aging	Four 19-passenger buses and preventive maintenance for providing group trips to older adults	Primarily Montgomery County, MD with trips throughout the region	\$332,464	\$83,116	\$415,580
15	Community Support Services	12 minivans and preventive maintenance to provide client transportation and reduce reliance on MetroAccess	Montgomery County, City of Gaithersburg and City of Rockville, MD	\$362,728	\$90,682	\$453,410
16	University of Maryland College Park	Three 15-passenger buses and operating support for paratransit service on campus	University of Maryland, College Park campus	\$383,847	\$225,346	\$609,193
17	Regency Taxi	Fifty wheelchair accessible taxis to be operated by Drivers Co-op, companion to #4	Montgomery County, MD	\$1,484,788	\$371,197	\$1,855,985

2015 Enhanced Mobility Grant Applications, Continued

	Applicant	Project	Geographic Focus	Federal \$ Requested	Match	Total Project
18	The Arc of Greater Prince William/ INSIGHT, Inc.	Five 15-passenger buses for client transportation	Prince William County, City of Manassas, City of Manassas Park, and Fairfax County, VA	\$252,384	\$63,096	\$315,480
19	Fairfax County Neighborhood & Community Services	Five replacement vehicles for door-to-door human service transportation	Fairfax County, City of Fairfax and City of Falls Church, VA	\$239,374	\$59,843	\$299,217
20	Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)	Acquisition of 62 MetroAccess vehicles	Regional	\$3,952,500	\$697,500	\$4,650,000 (85/15 share)
21	Diamond Transportation Services	Acquisition of accessible vehicles and operating costs to support door-to-door transportation for individuals with disabilities going to employment sites	Northern Virginia, District of Columbia	\$567,298	\$397,803	\$965,101
22	Boat People, SOS	Travel training and navigation services for Vietnamese older adults	Northern Virginia	\$180,141	\$69,337	\$249,478
23	DC Office on Aging	Vehicles for Senior Connector services, pilot a Senior Shuttle and hire a D.C.-based Mobility Manager	District of Columbia	\$1,613,712	\$962,802	\$2,576,514
24	Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)	Survey of accessibility features of 19,000 bus stops to update regional database	Regional	\$684,000	\$171,000	\$855,000
	Total (in Millions)			\$13.9 M	\$4.9 M	\$18.8 M