



MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Planning Board
FROM: Mr. Charles Allen, Enhanced Mobility Grant Selection Committee Chair
Ms. Wendy Klancher, TPB Transportation Planner
SUBJECT: Funding Recommendations for the FTA Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program
DATE: January 11, 2018

This memorandum describes the funding recommendations from the TPB's selection committee for FTA's Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities program which met on December 19, 2017. The TPB will be asked on January 17, 2018 to approve these funding recommendations and amend the FY 2017-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include them.

The Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Enhanced Mobility program provides matching grants to non-profit and other agencies to improve transportation for people with disabilities and older adults. The TPB conducted a call for applications from August 14 to November 3, 2017 for the approximately \$6 million in federal funds available.

The selection committee met on December 19, 2017 and reviewed 19 applications requesting over \$13 million in federal Enhanced Mobility funds—over two times the amount available. The selection committee discussions resulted in a unanimous recommendation to fund 17 applications. The committee's recommendations were reviewed by the other two TPB Officers who had no further questions for the selection committee and concurred with the presentation for approval at the January 17, 2018 meeting.

FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

The selection committee was comprised of outside experts working in the fields of aging, disability, transit and human service transportation coordination and was Chaired by then TPB Vice Chairman Charles Allen. The selection committee recommends funding 17 of the 19 applications expending the approximately \$6 million in federal funding available. With the additional \$1.8 million in matching funds provided by the applicants, the 17 projects total approximately \$7.9 million. Due to the limited funding, nine of the 17 applications would be partially funded. The rationale for the nine applications recommended for partial funding include allowing the applicant to pilot the proposal on a smaller scale or to expend funding from previous grants.

The recommended projects fall under the two categories: vehicle acquisition and "all other" projects including mobility management and operating services. Nine of the 17 projects are for vehicle acquisition and the recommendations would fund 68 vehicles to provide service to eligible clients. Under the vehicle acquisition category, the recommendations prioritize vehicle acquisition with the limited funding available rather than providing operating assistance. The application from the Arc of Prince William/INSIGHT, Inc, was recommended for a scaled-up level of funding because of the high

score and strong demonstrated need.

Attachment A provides more details on the 17 projects being recommended for funding. Background information on the TPB's Enhanced Mobility program is provided in Attachment B.

NEXT STEPS

With the TPB approval, the TIP will be amended and TPB staff will develop the submittal materials for FTA approval. Upon FTA approval, staff will work with the applicants to administer the grants. The two applications not recommended for funding, as described on page 8 of Attachment A, will receive a letter with suggestions for improving their application for the next Enhanced Mobility grant solicitation which is scheduled for 2019. Applicants would also be offered a debriefing about their application with TPB staff.



ATTACHMENT A

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUNDING UNDER THE 2017 ENHANCED MOBILITY PROGRAM

1. **Capitol Hill Village:** Continue and expand an existing project to support a more robust volunteer driver program with door to door service for D.C. “Villages”, mobility counseling, travel training and the use of peer mentors (“Travel Buddies”), “Villages” provide support to older adults which allows them to stay in their homes as they age. The project also has an evaluation component to document the transportation needs of the older adults.

Geographic Focus: District of Columbia

Requested		Recommended	
Federal Funds	\$531,753	Federal Funds	\$531,753
Required Match	\$132,930	Required Match	\$132,930
Total Project	\$664,683	Total Project	\$664,683

2. **Jewish Council for the Aging – Network of Volunteer Drivers:** Increase the capacity and effectiveness through the continuation of the Volunteer Driver Resource Center (a current Enhanced Mobility grant) with expansion to include Northern Virginia and underserved parts of Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties. The network will provide support for program development, resources such as bulk background checks and shared ride scheduling software, training, and technical assistance.

Geographic Focus: Suburban Maryland and Northern Virginia

Requested		Recommended	
Federal Funds	\$515,540	Federal Funds	\$515,540
Required Match	\$128,887	Required Match	\$128,887
Total Project	\$644,427	Total Project	\$644,427

3. **Montgomery County Department of Transportation - Call and Ride Supplemental Assistance:** Funds would be used to subsidize the monthly co-pay participants pay for for Call-n-Ride, a taxi voucher program that provides rides to qualifying older adults and people with disabilities. Participants with the lowest- incomes would pay \$5.25 instead of \$10.50 for \$120 monthly subsidy on a swipe card which can be used with all five taxi providers in the County.

Geographic Focus: Montgomery County, Maryland

Requested		Recommended	
Federal Funds	\$554,430	Federal Funds	\$554,430
Required Match	\$554,430	Required Match	\$554,430
Total Project	\$1,108,860	Total Project	\$1,108,860

4. **The Arc of Northern Virginia – Train the Trainer:** Expand the reach of the currently funded “Train the Travel Trainer” program aimed at embedding travel training for individuals with intellectual disabilities in existing organizations. The training uses a specialized software program that provides step by step guide to support adults and students with intellectual disabilities to independently travel on bus or Metrorail.

Geographic Focus: Northern Virginia and Suburban Maryland

Requested		Recommended	
Federal Funds	\$470,719	Federal Funds	\$299,967
Required Match	\$111,679	Required Match	\$74,992
Total Project	\$588,398	Total Project	\$374,959

5. **Dulles Area Transportation Association (DATA) – Bilingual Training:** Recruit bilingual Spanish-speaking volunteers and drivers in partnership with existing transportation services (NV Rides, Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services, Loudoun Volunteer Caregivers). Project will provide travel training, information about mobility options and driver training in Spanish.

Geographic Focus: Fairfax and Loudoun County, Virginia

Requested		Recommended	
Federal Funds	\$150,330	Federal Funds	\$150,330
Required Match	\$37,582	Required Match	\$37,582
Total Project	\$187,912	Total Project	\$187,912

6. **Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services – Mobility Access Project (FXMAP):** Continuation and expansion of an existing grant to promote travel training in the community, provide more information about transportation options and improve the call center. Project will be coordinated with DATA and Boat People, SOS.

Geographic Focus: Fairfax County, Virginia

Requested		Recommended	
Federal Funds	\$408,919	Federal Funds	\$390,450
Required Match	\$116,081	Required Match	\$97,612
Total Project	\$525,000	Total Project	\$488,062

7. **City of Rockville – Bus Stop and Sidewalk Improvements:** Improve access to public transportation within the City of Rockville by constructing missing sidewalk segments on Potomac Valley Road and improving 78 Metro and Ride-On bus stops throughout Rockville. Improvements include replacing non-ADA compliant shelter benches, construction of ADA required landing pads, installing shelters, missing shelter benches, leaning rails and relocation of garbage cans and other equipment to clear pathways.

Geographic Focus: Rockville, Maryland

Requested		Recommended	
Federal Funds	\$396,000	Federal Funds	\$396,000
Required Match	\$99,000	Required Match	\$99,000
Total Project	\$495,000	Total Project	\$495,000

8. **Boat People SOS, Senior Transportation:** Provide group and one-on-one training sessions on fixed-route services and other transportation options, and develop a culturally and linguistically appropriate transportation guidebook for the Vietnamese-speaking population; in coordination with Fairfax County’s Mobility Access Project.

Geographic Focus: Northern Virginia

Requested		Recommended	
Federal Funds	\$104,960	Federal Funds	\$64,960
Required Match	\$56,240	Required Match	\$16,240
Total Project	\$161,200	Total Project	\$81,200

Vehicle Acquisition Funding Recommendations¹

9. **The Arc of Greater Prince William/INSIGHT, Inc:** Six replacement vehicles to be used to transport adults with disabilities from their employment, mobile work training and adult day program sites, medical appointments, and community integration activities.

Geographic Focus: Prince William County, Virginia

Requested		Recommended	
Federal Funds	\$218,892	Federal Funds	\$277,502
Required Match	\$54,723	Required Match	\$69,376
Total Project	\$273,615	Total Project	\$346,878

10. **Jewish Council for the Aging – Elderbus:** Two replacement 19-passenger vehicles for JCA’s Elderbus service which transports older adults and people with disabilities to adult day programming, shopping and activity and wellness programs at area senior centers.

Geographic Focus: Montgomery County, Maryland

Requested		Recommended	
Federal Funds	\$471,773	Federal Funds	\$165,619
Required Match	\$347,559	Required Match	\$41,405
Total Project	\$819,332	Total Project	\$207,024

¹ All vehicles are wheelchair-accessible and range from mini-vans to 19 passenger buses.

11. **Easter Seals – Adult Medical Day Transportation Services:** Four wheelchair accessible vehicles to transport clients (older adults and people with disabilities) to participate in Easter Seal’s programs.

Geographic Focus: Montgomery County, Maryland

Requested		Recommended	
Federal Funds	\$1,011,751	Federal Funds	\$220,000
Required Match	\$593,654	Required Match	\$55,000
Total Project	\$1,605,405	Total Project	\$275,000

12. **Community Support Services:** Nine wheelchair-accessible minivans to transport clients with severe intellectual and physical disabilities to day programs, therapeutic programs, community-based activities, and evening and weekend residential support activities.

Geographic Focus: Montgomery County, Maryland

Requested		Recommended	
Federal Funds	\$374,451	Federal Funds	\$296,330
Required Match	\$93,613	Required Match	\$74,082
Total Project	\$468,064	Total Project	\$370,412

13. **Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services – Human Services Transportation Bus Replacement:** Five 19-passenger buses to provide specialized transportation services for participants of human service agency programs, including travel to senior centers, adult day programs and health care centers.

Geographic Focus: Fairfax County, City of Fairfax, and City of Falls Church, Virginia

Requested		Recommended	
Federal Funds	\$250,000	Federal Funds	\$250,000
Required Match	\$62,500	Required Match	\$62,500
Total Project	\$312,500	Total Project	\$312,500

14. **Every Citizen Has Opportunities, Inc. (ECHO) -** Four vehicles (three 14-passenger buses and one 15-passenger bus) to provide clients with intellectual disabilities transportation to and from day program sites and community engagement activities.

Geographic Focus: Fairfax and Loudoun County, Virginia

Requested		Recommended	
Federal Funds	\$210,254	Federal Funds	\$210,254
Required Match	\$52,564	Required Match	\$52,564
Total Project	\$262,818	Total Project	\$262,818

15. **The Arc of Prince George's County:** Eleven wheelchair-accessible minivans for expansion of existing services. The vehicles will be used to take people with intellectual disabilities in group home settings on small-group outings.

Geographic Focus: Prince George's County, Maryland

Requested		Recommended	
Federal Funds	\$964,809	Federal Funds	\$316,400
Required Match	\$419,402	Required Match	\$78,000
Total Project	\$1,384,211	Total Project	\$394,400

16. **University of Maryland - College Park:** Replacement of five vehicles as part of the college's paratransit service which provides scheduled circulation service for students, employees and visitors with disabilities on the campus and to the College Park Metro station.

Geographic Focus: College Park, Maryland

Requested		Recommended	
Federal Funds	\$450,279	Federal Funds	\$175,759
Required Match	\$318,460	Required Match	\$43,940
Total Project	\$768,739	Total Project	\$219,699

17. **Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA):** 22 paratransit vehicles to replace a portion of the aging MetroAccess fleet used to provide the ADA-required paratransit service for people unable to use Metrorail and Metrobus.

Geographic Focus: Regional

Requested		Recommended	
Federal Funds	\$5,418,750	Federal Funds	\$1,262,250
Required Match	\$956,250	Required Match	\$222,750
Total Project	\$6,375,000	Total Project	\$1,485,000

APPLICATIONS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING

The following table shows the two applications not recommended for funding. The rationale for not funding these applications include:

- Applications were low-scoring;
- The results from previous COG/TPB grants have not yet been realized.

These applicants will receive a letter with recommendations for improving their application for the next Enhanced Mobility grant solicitation and will also be offered a debriefing about their application with TPB staff.

Four other applications were received but were not considered by the selection committee for funding due to issues with the availability of the organization's matching funds, or the geographic service area proposed is not eligible for the COG/TPB funding under FTA rules.

Applications Not Recommended for Funding			
Applicant	Geographic Focus	Proposed Project	Federal Funds Requested
Regency Taxi	Montgomery County, MD	12 wheelchair-accessible vehicles	\$375,000
WMATA	Regional	Train MetroAccess customers about alternatives to MetroAccess such as bus and rail, Abilities-Ride and TransportDC.	\$160,000



ATTACHMENT B

2017 ENHANCED MOBILITY PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Federal Transit Administration's (FTA's) Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities program (Section 5310) is for improving mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities by removing barriers to transportation service and expanding transportation mobility options. Approximately \$2.8 million a year is provided to the region under the "Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act.

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, (COG) as the administrative agent for the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB), is the designated recipient for this program for the Washington DC-VA-MD Urbanized Area (a map is available here: <https://goo.gl/kAypbr>). The TPB is tasked with the management of the program, including the approval of grant awards. The TPB solicits and selects grant applications for funding every other year. The applicants must match the federal funds: 20 percent for capital or mobility management projects and 50 percent for operating projects.

COORDINATED HUMAN SERVICE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The TPB approved the most recent Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan ("Coordinated Plan") on November 19, 2014. The Coordinated Plan guides the implementation of the Enhanced Mobility program and outlines unmet transportation needs of people with disabilities and older adults, and strategies for addressing those needs. The Coordinated Plan also includes twelve priority projects and the selection process for Enhanced Mobility grants, including the criteria found below. The Access for All Advisory Committee confirmed the twelve priority projects on May 11, 2017 for the 2017 solicitation. The [twelve priority projects](#), and the Coordinated Plan are available on the Enhanced Mobility website, at www.tpbcoordination.org. Applicants could submit proposals that did not address the priorities, however, proposals that did respond to the priorities received extra points when scored.

SELECTION PROCESS AND CRITERIA

The TPB is focused on ensuring that its Enhanced Mobility program funding supports a broad set of services that will have the greatest impact on improving the mobility of people with disabilities and older adults. The TPB's Coordinated Plan outlines selection criteria that places a strong emphasis on applicants who can effectively deliver the services and have the institutional capacity to manage and administer an FTA grant. There are numerous federal requirements under the Enhanced Mobility program. The selection criteria also emphasize an applicant's prior grant performance. The selection process is based on the TPB's success with selecting and administering over 70 Enhanced Mobility, Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC), and New Freedom grants between 2007 and 2016, totaling over \$40 million.

The six-selection criteria and maximum points are listed below.

Selection Criteria for Enhanced Mobility Funding

Criterion	Maximum Points
Coordination among agencies and organizations	25
Responsiveness to strategies in the Coordinated Plan Priority Projects (up to 12 points) Address strategies in the Coordination Plan (up to 8 points)	20
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

2017 SOLICITATION FOR ENHANCED MOBILITY PROJECTS

The third TPB solicitation for Enhanced Mobility grant applications was conducted from August 14 through November 3, 2017. More than 2,600 individuals received an email announcing the availability of grant funds. In addition, ads were placed in the August and September editions of the Senior Beacon, which is distributed to over 2,300 locations across the region. The grant opportunity was also promoted through *TPB News*, the Transportation Planning Board's weekly e-newsletter, and COG and TPB social media accounts.

TPB staff conducted six pre-application conferences for interested organizations on the application process, the federal requirements, and project eligibility. Conferences were held in Falls Church, Virginia on August 3, Silver Spring, Maryland on August 16, and at COG on August 8, 23, and 29, 2017. Over 40 different organizations and agencies attended.

SELECTION COMMITTEE

TPB member Charles Allen 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. Patrice Earnest, National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a)
2. Mr. Robert Fulk, Alexandria Department of Transportation Paratransit
3. Mr. Travis Johnston, Maryland Transit Administration (MTA)
4. Ms. Susie McFadden-Resper, D.C. Office of Disability Rights
5. Mr. Andrew Riddle, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)

After the solicitation period closed, TPB staff thoroughly reviewed all the applications received and when necessary, asked for clarifications or revised budgets from the applicants. TPB staff developed

summaries of the 19 applications and scored each application based on the selection criteria listed above.

Selection committee members reviewed the staff summaries and 19 applications, and then the committee collectively reviewed the materials, preliminary scores and funding recommendations with TPB staff at the December 19 meeting. After a thoughtful and deliberative process, the selection committee made a unanimous recommendation for funding 17 applications, described in Attachment A.

