

ITEM 8 – Notice

May 19, 2021

Enhanced Mobility Solicitation

Background:

The Board will be provided an overview of the federal Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities grants solicitation process, beginning with pre-application conferences in June and a solicitation period from July 1 - September 1.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Planning Board
FROM: Lynn Winchell-Mendy, TPB Transportation Planner
Sergio Ritacco, TPB Transportation Planner
SUBJECT: Solicitation for Applications for Enhanced Mobility Grants
DATE: May 13, 2021

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memo is to announce and request assistance from the TPB in publicizing the solicitation for grant applications under the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program (referred to as “Enhanced Mobility”).

The Enhanced Mobility program aims to fill gaps in transportation for older adults and people with disabilities by providing matching grants for services and activities that go above and beyond traditional public transit and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) complementary paratransit service. Eligible projects include travel training, vehicle acquisition, and volunteer driver programs specifically serving people who have mobility impairments.

SUMMARY

On July 1, 2021, the TPB will begin soliciting applications for Enhanced Mobility grant funding with a deadline of September 1, 2021 at 3 PM. Five pre-application conferences are scheduled between June 3 and July 19, 2021 and, due to the ongoing uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, all pre-application conference will be held virtually (see the schedule on page 3). Eligible applicants include non-profit agencies, private providers, transit agencies, and local governments. Eligible projects must benefit populations in the Washington DC-VA-MD Urbanized Area, which is shown in Figure 1 (for interest in projects serving the Waldorf, MD or Frederick, MD Urbanized Areas, please contact staff who can forward you to the appropriate Maryland Transit Administration staff). You can help by distributing the attached flyer to potential applicants within your communities. The flyer includes information on eligibility, the competitive selection process, and the dates and locations of the mandatory pre-application conferences. Additional details can be found at mwkog.org/enhancedmobility.

BACKGROUND

COG, as administrative agent for the TPB, is the designated recipient for the Enhanced Mobility program for the Washington DC-VA-MD Urbanized Area. The program provides approximately \$6 million every two years in matching federal grants for non-profit organizations, local governments, transit agencies, and private for-profit providers through matching grant funds for capital and

operating expenses. The FTA grant funding is meant to incentivize coordination of services; the intent is for agencies to work together to provide specialized transportation to clients and to eliminate any duplication and to potentially save on costs. Federal and state regulatory barriers make coordination of actual services across state lines in a multi-state region difficult to achieve. However, the TPB has had success with funding grants that promote the coordination of services within a single jurisdiction or a single state.

The TPB has conducted four solicitations for Enhanced Mobility grants since 2017 and funded 71 projects totaling over \$25 million. Prior to the Enhanced Mobility program, the TPB facilitated seven solicitations for FTA's JARC and New Freedom programs, funding 59 projects totaling over \$22 million. A small handful of projects are still active and in the process of spending down.

The Coordinated Plan

The federally required Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan ("Coordinated Plan") guides the implementation of the Enhanced Mobility program and is updated every four years. The Coordinated Plan identifies the unmet transportation needs of people with disabilities and older adults, strategies and priority projects for addressing the unmet needs, and outlines the competitive selection process for grant funding. The TPB adopted the 2018 Update to the Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan for the National Capital Region, which was developed under the guidance of the Access for All Advisory Committee. Every two years the TPB issues a solicitation for Enhanced Mobility grant applications.

2021 ENHANCED MOBILITY GRANT SOLICITATION

The TPB will conduct a solicitation for grant applications from July 1 to September 1, 2021. Approximately \$6.3 million in federal funds is available for capital and operating grants that improve transportation for people with disabilities and older adults. Important elements include:

- Funds must be matched by the applicant by the of application:
 - 20% for capital or mobility management grants
 - 50% for operating grants.¹
- Projects must benefit populations within the Washington DC-VA-MD Urbanized Area as shown in Figure 1. For interest in projects serving the Waldorf, MD or Frederick, MD Urbanized Areas, please contact staff who can forward you to the appropriate Maryland Transit Administration staff.
- Grants are for two-years of funding and Federal rules require that at least 55% of the funds be spent on capital projects for non-profit agencies and qualifying local governments.

Competitive Selection Process and Priority Projects

The Coordinated Plan outlines the selection process for Enhanced Mobility grants. An independent selection committee, chaired by a TPB member, will be comprised of local and national experts in transit, human services, disabilities and aging who will review the applications and make recommendations for funding to the TPB. Selection Committee members evaluate applications on the selection criteria listed here and further described at mwcog.org/enhancedmobility:

- Coordination among agencies;
- Responsiveness to the TPB's Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan (Strategies and/or Priority Projects);
- Institutional capacity to manage and administer an FTA grant (includes past grant performance);

¹ FTA defines mobility management as short-range planning and management activities and grants for improving coordination among public transportation and other transportation service providers.

- Project feasibility;
- Regional need;
- Equity Emphasis Areas; and
- Customer focus.

The TPB’s Coordinated Plan identifies the following priority projects to make the best use of limited grant funding. Applications that respond to any of the priority projects will receive up to 12 points in the selection process scoring which is comprised of seven criteria that total to a maximum of 100 points. Applicants can still propose eligible projects other than the priority projects. For specific eligibility guidance, see the FTA circular 9070.1G² or contact TPB staff. More details on priority projects can be found here:

[mwcog.org/assets/1/6/Priority Projects from ADOPTED COORDINATED PLAN 12.19.18.pdf](http://mwcog.org/assets/1/6/Priority%20Projects%20from%20ADOPTED%20COORDINATED%20PLAN%2012.19.18.pdf).

Priority Projects

- Mobility Management
- Coordinated Planning Efforts
- Travel Training
- Door-through-Door or Escorted Transportation Service
- Increase Access to Transit Stations
- Increase Wheelchair-Accessible Options in Taxi and Ride-Hailing Services
- Volunteer Driver Programs
- Tailored Transportation Service for Clients of Human Service Agencies

Pre-Application Conferences

TPB staff will be holding five virtual pre-application conferences to provide potential applicants with information on eligible projects, the online application process, how to use the grant budget templates, the federal requirements, and the TPB’s selection process. Every applicant must register and attend a session; details are at mwcog.org/enhancedmobility.

Thursday, June 3, 2021
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Thursday, June 24, 2021
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Wednesday, June 16, 2021
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Monday, July 19, 2021
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Tuesday, June 22, 2021
12:00 PM to 2:00 PM

SOLICITATION OUTREACH AND ADVERTISING

Staff will announce this grant opportunity in several ways: today’s presentation to the TPB, the Access for All Advisory committee, email announcements, and other TPB communication channels including mentions in *TPB News*, social media posts, and limited media placement.

To ensure as many potential applications as possible are aware of this opportunity throughout the region, staff requests that TPB members also share the attached Solicitation-at-a-Glance flyer to promote in your communities.

² FTA Circular 9070.1G is at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2014/06/06/2014-13178/enhanced-mobility-of-seniors-and-individuals-with-disabilities-final-circular>

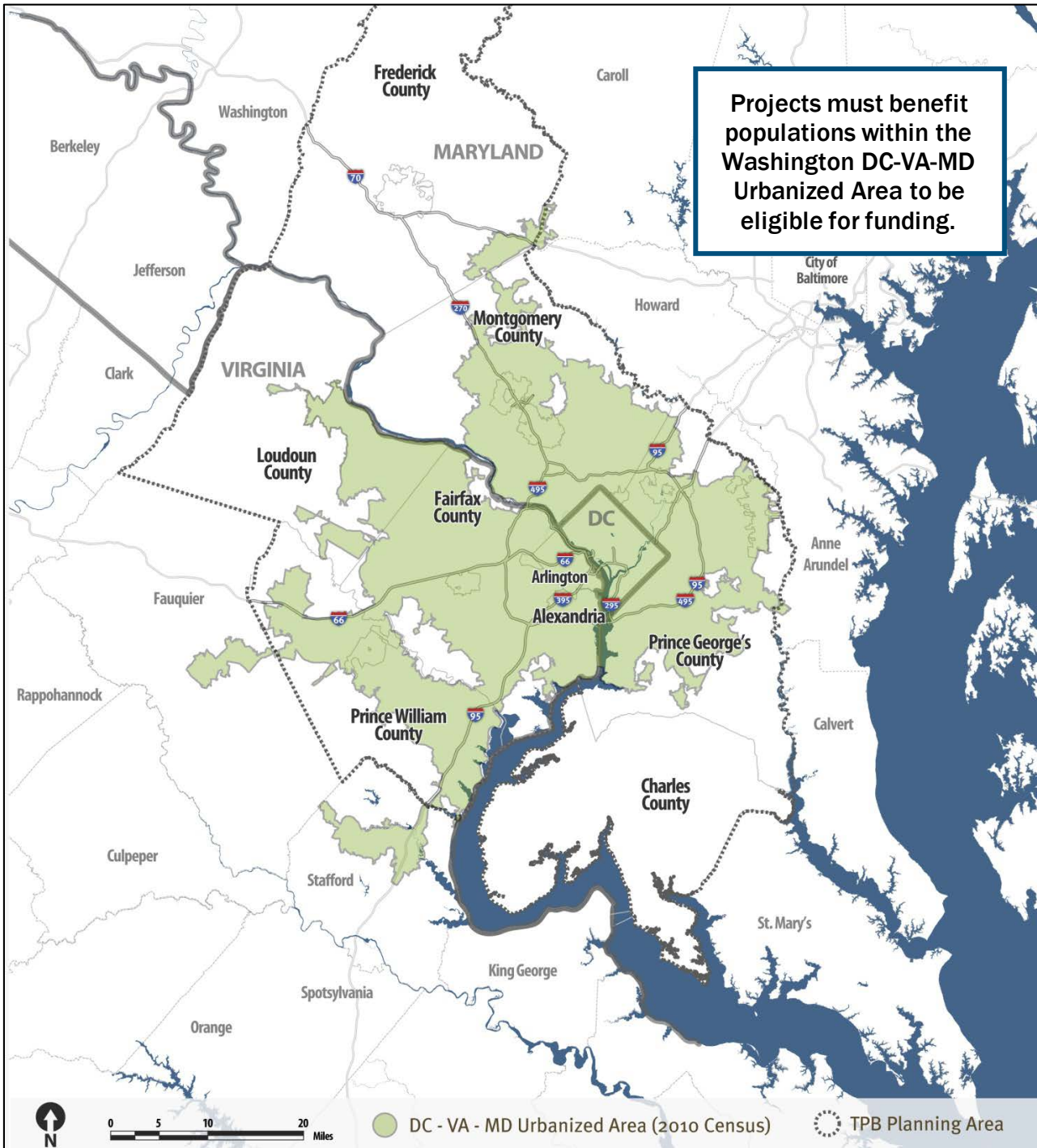
TIMELINE

The TPB will be asked to approve the Selection Committee's recommendations for grant funding (anticipated for November or December 2021). TPB staff will notify applicants in writing and those selected for funding will have approximately 30 days to complete the required FTA documents. Following FTA approval, COG will provide sub-grant agreements to the recipients. Depending on the timing of FTA approval and the final signature of the sub-grant agreements, grantees can expect to begin project implementation in late 2022/early 2023.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact Lynn Winchell-Mendy (lmendy@mwkog.org, (202) 962-3253) or Sergio Ritacco (sritacco@mwkog.org, (202) 962-3232) with questions.

FIGURE 1: THE WASHINGTON DC-VA-MD URBANIZED AREA



For detailed jurisdictional maps with zip codes, visit: mwkog.org/transportation/programs/enhanced-mobility/solicitation-process/eligible-urbanized-area/



ENHANCED MOBILITY PROGRAM: 2021 GRANT SOLICITATION

The National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) will conduct a solicitation for applications for the Federal Transit Administration's Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (Section 5310) grant program from July 1 through September 1, 2021 with pre-application conferences starting in June 2021.

Funding Amounts

Approximately \$6.3 million in federal funds will be available; funds must be matched by the applicant: 20% for capital or mobility management grants and 50% for operating grants. Matching funds must be identified by the time of application.

The Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities program enhances mobility for seniors and people with disabilities by providing matching grants for transportation services that go above and beyond traditional public transit and paratransit service.

Eligibility

Non-profit agencies, private providers, transit agencies and local governments are eligible. Both capital and operating projects are eligible, but the project must serve the Washington DC-VA-MD Urbanized Area; detailed maps are at mwcog.org/enhancedmobility. For specific eligibility guidance, see the FTA circular 9070.1G or contact staff.

Priority Projects

Priority Projects have been identified to address significant gaps in transportation for people with disabilities and older adults. The eight priority projects include travel training, mobility managers, and taxi and shuttle services among others and can be found at mwcog.org/enhancedmobility. Applications responding to priority projects can receive additional points in the selection scoring process, which includes seven criteria totaling a maximum of 100 points.

Pre-Application Conferences

Applicants must attend a pre-application conference. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic all pre-application conferences will be virtual only.

Register at mwcog.org/transportation/programs/enhanced-mobility/solicitation-process/pre-application-conferences/

Thursday, June 3, 2021
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

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12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Competitive Selection Process

An independent selection committee will make recommendations for funding to the TPB based on the seven selection criteria that total a maximum of 100 points. The selection criteria can be found at mwcog.org/enhancedmobility and include the following:

- Demonstration of coordination among agencies and/or jurisdictions;
- Responsiveness to the TPB's Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan (Strategies and/or Priority Projects); and
- Institutional capacity of the applicant to manage and administer an FTA grant including prior grant performance (if applicable).

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BE ADDED TO THE E-MAIL LIST, PLEASE CONTACT:

Lynn Winchell-Mendy, Transportation Planner: lmendy@mwcog.org, 202-962-3253

Sergio Ritacco, Transportation Planner: sritacco@mwcog.org, 202-962-3232

2021 SOLICITATION FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS

Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (Section 5310) Program

Lynn Winchell-Mendy
Transportation Planner

Transportation Planning Board
May 19, 2021



Purpose

- Provide brief overview of program and upcoming solicitation to prepare interested applicants in applying



FTA Enhanced Mobility Program

“Improve mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities...by removing barriers to transportation services and expanding the transportation mobility options available.”

- Matching grants that go above and beyond traditional public transit and ADA complementary paratransit service



Upcoming Solicitation Details

- Pre-Application Conferences:
June - July 2021
- Solicitation dates:
July 1 – September 1, 2021
- Funding:
Approximately \$6.3 million



Upcoming Solicitation Details, Cont'd.

- Matching funds (identified by application):
 - Operating: **50%**
 - Capital and Mobility Management: **20%**
- Funding period: **2 years**



Upcoming Solicitation Details, Cont'd.

- Who can apply?
Non-profit agencies, private providers, transit agencies, and local governments
- What type of projects?
Capital and operating grants that improve transportation for people with disabilities and older adults



Upcoming Solicitation Details, Cont'd.

- Mandatory Virtual Pre-Application Conferences:

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Application Process: On-line System

- Application process and required documentation is extensive and comprehensive

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
One Region Moving Forward

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Sergio Ritacco

Search Tools Communications Reporting

Application Preview As Administrators Question List

Process Manager / 2017 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program (5310) - Non-vehicle / Application for Projects Other than Vehicles - Enhanced Mobility 2017 / Preview

Fields with an asterisk (*) are required.

Opening Questions

DUNS Number
Please provide your unique nine digit D-U-N-S identification number.

If you do not have a DUNS number at this time you can leave this section blank. However, if your application is approved for funding you will need to have a DUNS number in order to receive FTA funds from MWCOG/TPB.

#

Administrator Comments

Authorizing Resolution*

As part of the application process your agency's governing body, such as a Board of Directors, is required to adopt a resolution authorizing your agency to apply for an FTA grant, approve the local match funding, and agree to comply with Federal requirements. If your organization does not have a governing body, the CEO or other official with the authority to enter into a contract with COG can provide a letter with these authorizations.

For an example of an authorizing resolution, please contact TPB staff listed under Technical Assistance.

If your Board is unable to adopt the resolution until after the application deadline, a draft resolution may be uploaded until your Board approves it. An authorizing resolution or letter will be required before a grant can be awarded.

Upload a file [1 MB allowed]

Administrator Comments

Grant Management Software provided by Foundant Technologies © 2017



Selection Process

- Selection Committee of local representatives and national experts; chaired by a TPB member
- Established by the Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan
- Schedule:
 - **TPB action to approve by Nov. or Dec. 2021**



Selection Process

- Selection Criteria include seven categories:
 - Coordination among agencies
 - Responsiveness to Coordinated Plan (includes scoring for priority projects)
 - Capacity to manage an FTA grant
 - Project feasibility
 - Regional need
 - Equity Emphasis Areas
 - Customer focus



Priority Projects

Priorities confirmed by AFA Committee to respond to the most significant unmet transportation needs:

- Mobility Management
- Coordinated Planning Efforts
- Travel Training
- Door-through-door or Escorted Transportation Service
- Increase Access to Transit Stations
- Increase Wheelchair-Accessible Options in Taxi and Ride-Hailing Services
- Volunteer Driver Programs
- Tailored Transportation Service for Clients of Human Service Agencies (Vehicle Acquisition)



Learn More and Help Spread the Word

1. For more information:
mwcog.org/enhancedmobility
2. Help TPB staff promote the grant opportunity in your communities



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National Capital Region
Transportation Planning Board