

## **ITEM 8 – Information**

October 20, 2021

### Status Report on the 2021 Enhanced Mobility Grant Program

**Background:**

TPB, with COG as its administrative agent, is the designated recipient of the Federal Transit Administration's Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program for the Washington DC-VA-MD Urbanized Area. The board will be briefed on the program and the status of the 2021 solicitation and selection process. The board is scheduled to approve funding recommendations at its November meeting.



## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Transportation Planning Board  
**FROM:** Lynn Winchell-Mendy, TPB Transportation Planner  
Sergio Ritacco, TPB Transportation Planner  
**SUBJECT:** Status Report on the 2021 Solicitation for Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Grant Applications  
**DATE:** October 14, 2021

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This memorandum provides an overview of the TPB's 2021 solicitation for Enhanced Mobility grant applications which began on July 1 and ended on September 1, 2021. A selection committee held their initial meeting in late-September to review 23 applications requesting over \$11.1 million in federal Enhanced Mobility funds. TPB officers will review funding recommendations in late-October and, after their concurrence, the TPB will be asked to approve the recommendations at its November meeting. Applicants will be notified about the funding recommendations after the expected November board action.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities program provides matching grants for transportation for people with disabilities and older adults unable to use or access public transit. COG is the Designated Recipient for this program for the Washington DC-VA-MD Urbanized Area ([see map](#)), where funds must be used for projects serving residents in this area. The TPB solicits and selects grant applications for funding every other year. For the 2021 solicitation, approximately \$6.6 million in Federal funds were available. The applicants must match the federal funds: 20 percent for capital or mobility management projects and 50 percent for operating projects.

## **2021 SOLICITATION FOR ENHANCED MOBILITY GRANT APPLICATIONS**

The 2021 solicitation for the Enhanced Mobility program was conducted from July 1 through September 1, 2021. More than 3,000 contacts received notice of the availability of grant funds. The grant opportunity was also promoted through TPB News, the Transportation Planning Board's email newsletter, and COG and TPB social media accounts. TPB staff conducted seven virtual pre-application conferences for interested organizations on the application process, the federal requirements, and project eligibility.

After the solicitation period closed, 22 eligible applications (one was determined to be ineligible) were forwarded to the selection committee for consideration. The federal funding requests totaled over \$11.1 million, more than two times the amount of funding available.

## SELECTION COMMITTEE PROCESS

After the solicitation period closed, TPB staff thoroughly reviewed the applications received and when necessary, asked for clarifications or a revised budget from the applicants. TPB staff developed summary materials and scored each application based on the selection criteria described below. In late-September, TPB member Canek Aguirre chaired the selection committee meeting where five members, experts in aging, disability, transit and human service transportation coordination, conducted a thoughtful and deliberative process. Currently staff is finalizing the selection committee recommendations to be forwarded to TPB officers for concurrence.

### Selection 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.

**Selection Criteria for Enhanced Mobility Funding**

Criterion	Maximum Points
Coordination among jurisdictions and agencies	25
Responsiveness to the TPB's Coordinated Plan: Priority Projects (up to 12 points) Strategies (up to 8 points)	20
Institutional capacity to manage and administer an FTA grant	20
Project feasibility	15
Regional need	10
Customer focus and input	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

## FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS AND NEXT STEPS

Funding recommendations are currently under development for TPB officer concurrence and are on schedule to be presented at the TPB's November meeting for approval. If approved, approximately \$6.6 million Enhanced Mobility funds will be awarded.

- Applicants will be notified of the funding recommendations after TPB action at the November meeting. Any applicant with a project that isn't recommended for funding will receive suggestions for strengthening the application for the next solicitation and offered the opportunity for a debrief with TPB staff.
- Following the TPB approval, staff will develop the submittal materials for FTA approval. Upon FTA approval, staff will work with the applicants to administer the grants.
- The TPB will conduct the next solicitation for grant applications in 2023.

# FTA SECTION 5310 ENHANCED MOBILITY PROGRAM

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Providing matching grants for projects serving Older  
Adults and People with Disabilities

Lynn Winchell-Mendy  
Transportation Planner

Transportation Planning Board  
October 20, 2021



# Purpose

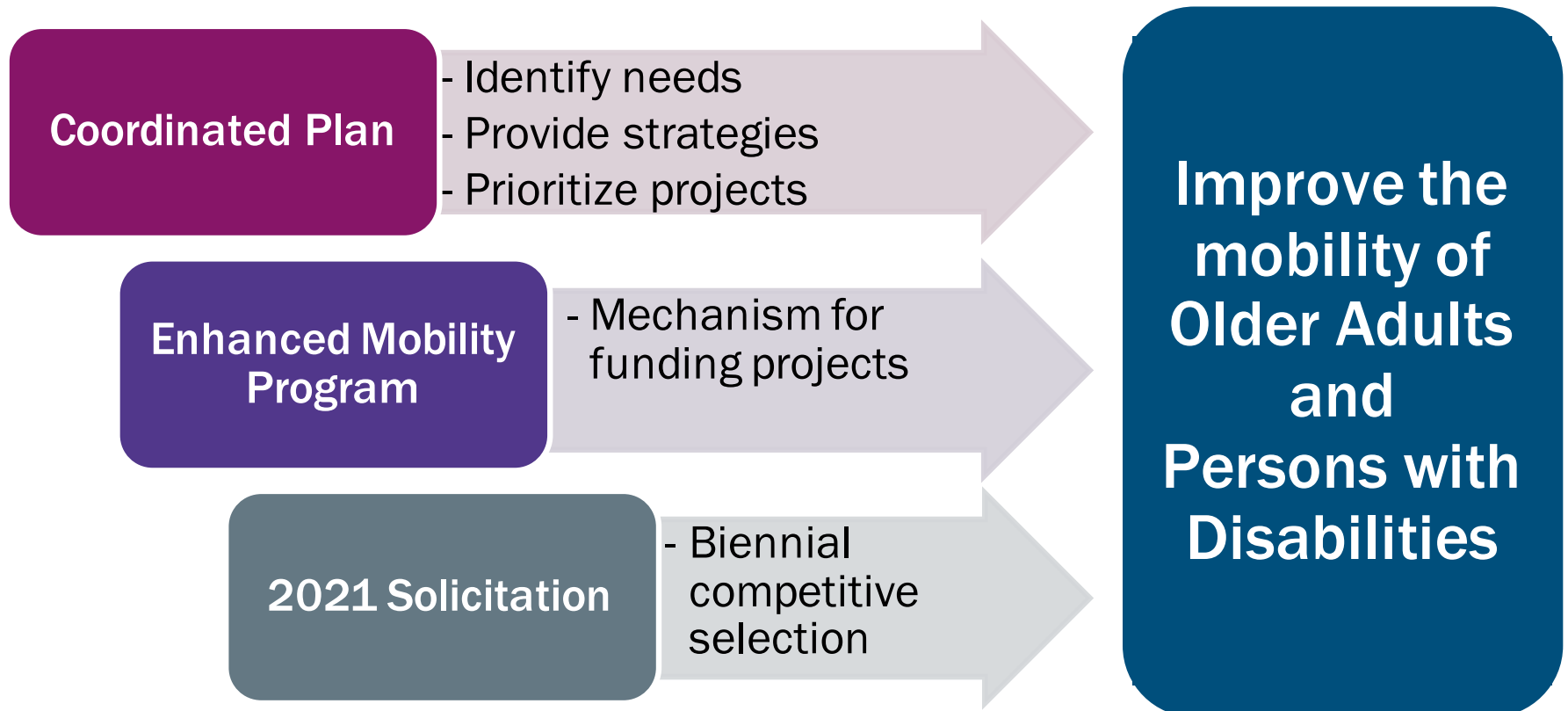
- Provide an overview of the Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility program
- Review solicitation process
- TPB action in November to approve funding recommendations



Source: NADTC

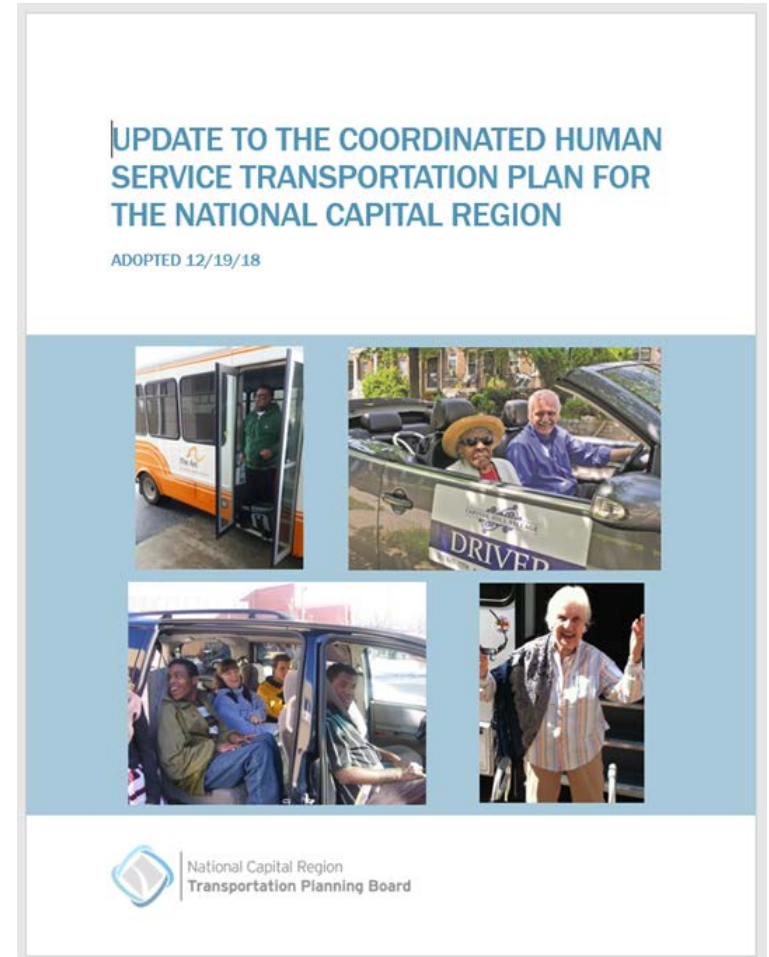


# Process and Goal

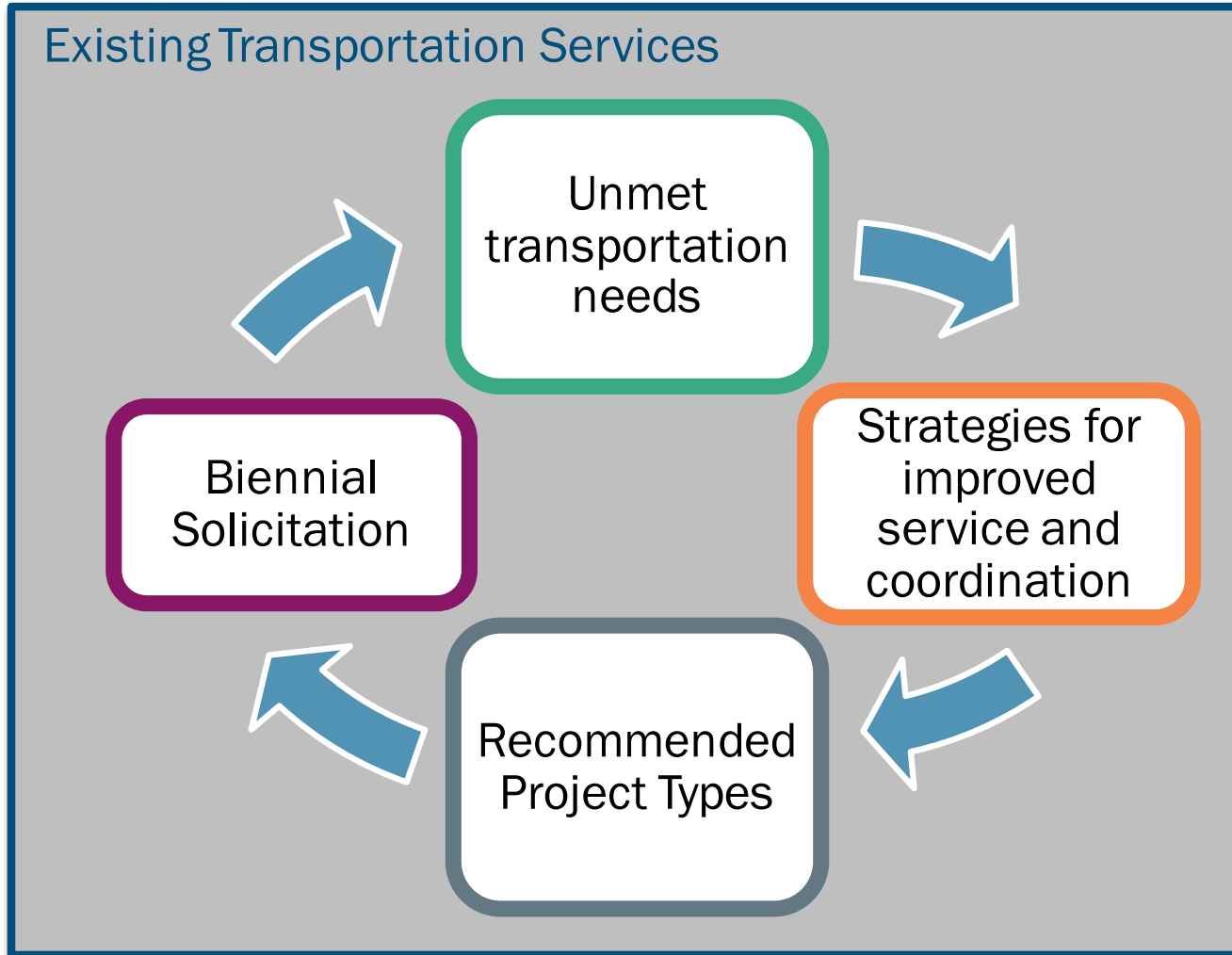


# Coordinated Plan

- FTA required plan to guide implementation of the Enhanced Mobility program
- Updated every 4 years
- Developed with input from TPB's Access for All Advisory Committee
- To be updated in 2022



# Tackling Unmet Need





# Tackling Unmet Need - Strategies

- I. Expand availability and coordination of transportation options
- II. Increase awareness of existing transportation services
- III. Improve accessibility of transportation options
- IV. Make transportation options more affordable and sustainable



Source: Jewish Council for the Aging VillageRides



# Tackling Unmet Need - Priority Projects

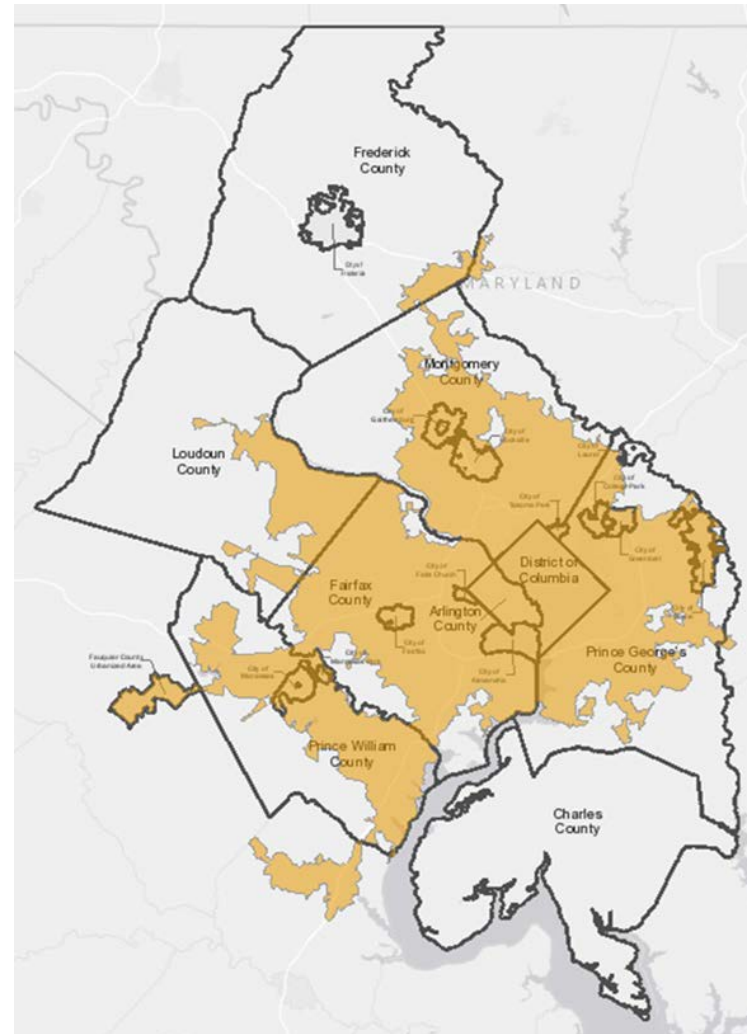
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- Mobility Management
- Coordinated Planning Efforts
- Travel Training
- Door-through-door or Escorted Transportation Service
- Increase Access to Transit Stations
- Increase Wheelchair-Accessible Options in Taxi and Ride-Hailing Services
- Volunteer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



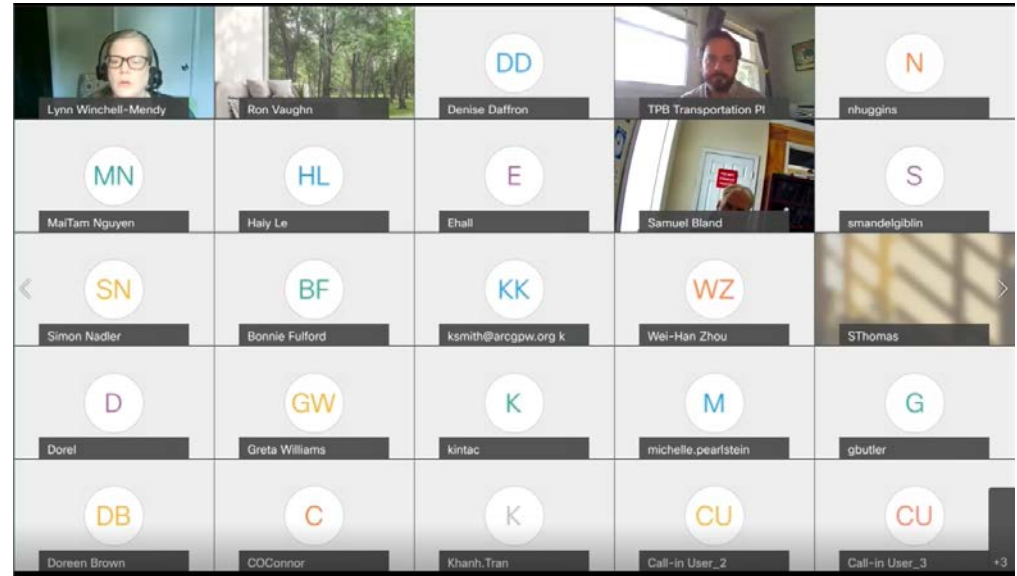
# Enhanced Mobility Program

- Must benefit populations in the Washington DC-VA-MD Urbanized Area
- Unique TPB role to prioritize and select while COG implements
- Approximately \$3.0 million per year in matching grants
- Matching required
  - 20% for Capital or Mobility Management
  - 50% for Operating



# 2021 Solicitation

- July 1 through September 1, 2021
- Five virtual pre-application conferences
- Promoted through *TPBNews* and social media



# 2021 Solicitation

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<b>3,000+</b>	Contacts received notice
<b>23</b>	Applications submitted
<b>\$11.1 M</b>	Requested in federal dollars
<b>\$6.6 M</b>	In federal funding available including reallocated dollars
<b>\$1.68</b>	Requested for every <b>\$1</b> available
<b>109</b>	Wheelchair accessible minivans and buses requested



# 2021 Selection

- Chaired by a member of the TPB
- Selection committee of local and national experts
- Recommend projects based on selection criteria:

Criterion	Maximum Points
Coordination among jurisdictions and agencies	25
Responsiveness to the TPB's Coordinated Plan: Priority Projects (up to 12 points) Strategies (up to 8 points)	20
Institutional capacity to manage and administer an FTA grant	20
Project feasibility	15
Regional need	5
Equity Emphasis Areas	5
Customer focus and input	10



# Next Steps

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- **October**
  - Complete Selection Committee recommendations
- **November**
  - Tech notice with review of applications received
  - TPB approval and TIP amendment
  - TPB staff notify applicants and begin submission process with FTA
- **Next Solicitation**
  - Summer 2023



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Transportation Planning Board