

ITEM 8 – Action

July 21, 2021

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) Funding Recommendations and a FY 2021-2024 TIP Amendment to Include the Projects

Action: Approve Resolution R1-2022 to approve funding recommendations for ARPA and to approve an amendment of the FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include these projects.

Background: The board will be briefed on the projects recommended for funding for ARPA appropriations to the DC-MD-VA urbanized area. A grant solicitation for current and past FTA Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility grant recipients was conducted from May 21 to June 21. A selection committee reviewed the grant applications and recommended projects to be presented to the TPB officers for concurrence. The board will be briefed on the solicitation and selection process and asked to approve the projects for funding and inclusion in the TIP.

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD
777 North Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE PROJECTS FOR FUNDING UNDER THE FEDERAL TRANSIT
ADMINISTRATION'S AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 (ARPA) PROGRAM AND TO
AMEND THE FY 2021-2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)**

WHEREAS, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB), which is the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the Washington Region, has the responsibility under the provisions of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act for developing and carrying out a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process for the Metropolitan Area; and

WHEREAS, FAST authorizes the Federal Transit Administration's Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility program to provide capital and operating grants to eligible subrecipients to "improve mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities...by removing barriers to transportation services and expanding the transportation mobility options available";

WHEREAS, under FAST, projects funded by the Enhanced Mobility program must respond to strategies in a "locally developed, coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan"; and

WHEREAS, in June 2013, the Governor of Maryland, the Governor of Virginia and the Mayor of the District of Columbia designated the TPB, with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), as the administrative agent, as the recipient of the Enhanced Mobility program for the Washington, DC-VA-MD Urbanized Area; and

WHEREAS, the TPB adopted an Update to the Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan at its regular meeting on December 19, 2018 (R9-2019), which includes the comments and input of the TPB's Access for All Advisory Committee received on June 7, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the TPB, with COG as the administrative agent, is the Designated Recipient of ARPA funding for the Washington, DC-VA-MD Urbanized Area because of its role as Designated Recipient of Enhanced Mobility; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of ARPA funding is to support expenses eligible under Enhanced Mobility, but recipients are directed to prioritize payroll and operational needs; and

WHEREAS, eligibility criteria was adopted to make ARPA funding available to existing subrecipients and recent subrecipients of Enhanced Mobility (or JARC and New Freedom projects funded under an Enhanced Mobility solicitation) who qualify; and

WHEREAS, a solicitation for ARPA grant applications was conducted from May 21 through June 21; and

WHEREAS, a selection committee comprised of COG/TPB staff met on July 6, 2021 to review the applications and evaluate them against the selection criteria; and

WHEREAS, the selection committee recommended funding six projects described in the attached memorandum; and

WHEREAS, the TPB Officers and Chair of the AFA Committee concurred with the selection committee recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the attached FY 2021-2024 TIP amendment includes the project information for these projects;

WHEREAS, there is \$532,226 in FTA ARPA program funds, at 100% Federal, allocated to COG for supporting qualifying projects in the Washington, DC-VA-MD Urbanized Area program; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD approves five projects for funding described in the attached memorandum and TIP amendment and amends the FY 2021-2024 TIP to include these projects.

**National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board
 FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program
 TIP Action 21-31: Formal Amendment
 for TPB Review and Approval on July 21, 2021**

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------|
| <i>TIP ID</i> | 6366 | <i>Agency Project ID</i> | | <i>Total Cost</i> | \$17,164,444 |
| <i>Lead Agency</i> | TPB | <i>Municipality</i> | Region-wide | <i>County</i> | |
| <i>Project Type</i> | Human Service Transportation Coordination | <i>Completion Date</i> | | <i>TCM</i> | |
| <i>Project Name</i> | Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities | | | | |
| <i>Project Limits</i> | | | | | |

This program is intended to enhance mobility for seniors and persons with disabilities by providing funds for programs to serve the special needs of transit-dependent populations beyond traditional public transportation services and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) complementary paratransit services.

Description

This also includes funding for six sub-projects funded in FY 2021 by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 and five sub projects funded in FY 2021 by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). See the listing of subprojects for each on the following pages.

These funds are for the urbanized area within the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia metropolitan region.

| Phase | Fund Source | Prior | FY2021 | FY2022 | FY2023 | FY2024 | Future | Total |
|-------|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------|---------------------|
| OTHER | SECT. 5310 | \$3,220,000 | \$4,284,444 | \$3,220,000 | \$3,220,000 | \$3,220,000 | - | \$17,164,444 |
| | <i>Total Other</i> | \$3,220,000 | \$4,284,444 | \$3,220,000 | \$3,220,000 | \$3,220,000 | - | \$17,164,444 |
| | <i>Total Programmed</i> | \$3,220,000 | \$4,284,444 | \$3,220,000 | \$3,220,000 | \$3,220,000 | - | \$17,164,444 |

Version History

| <i>TIP Document</i> | <i>MPO Approval</i> | <i>State Approval</i> | <i>FHWA Approval</i> | <i>FTA Approval</i> |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 21-00 Adoption 2021-2024 | 03/20/2020 | 10/01/2020 | 05/27/2020 | 05/27/2020 |
| 21-23 Amendment 2021-2024 | 04/21/2021 | 4/21/2021 | 06/02/2021 | N/A |
| 21-31 Amendment 2021-2024 | <i>Pending</i> | <i>Pending</i> | <i>Pending</i> | N/A |

Current Change Reason

SCHEDULE / FUNDING / SCOPE - Programming Update

Funding Change(s):

Total project cost increased from \$16,632,218 to \$17,164,444

ARPA PROJECTS FUNDED IN FY 2021

These subprojects will be added to the comprehensive list of subrecipients and subprojects for the TPB's Enhanced Mobility Program.

| Subrecipient | Description | Cost | Location |
|---|---|------------------|---------------------------|
| Boat People SOS | Mobility Management services for transportation to vaccination sites. | \$100,000 | Northern Virginia/some DC |
| Dulles Area Transportation Association | Continuation of Mobility Management services for transportation to vaccination sites for Veterans who are seniors and/or have a disability. | \$30,640 | Northern Virginia |
| Easter Seals Serving DC MD VA | Vehicle operating expenses and maintenance to restart direct transportation services for adult day program participants. | \$188,856 | MD |
| Liberty Transportation Management Corporation | Operating expenses for wheelchair accessible taxi service. | \$143,370 | DC |
| New Horizons Supported Services, Inc. | Operating expenses to support direct transportation services to recreation and employment for program participants with disabilities | \$69,360 | MD |
| TOTAL: | | \$532,226 | |

Amendment Summary Report for TIP Action 21-31
 Formal Amendment
 For TPB Review and Approval on July 21, 2021

| TIP ID | PROJECT TITLE | % CHANGE | COST CHANGE | COST BEFORE | COST AFTER | CHANGE REASON | NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION |
|--------------|--|------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---|
| 6366 | Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities | 3 | \$532,226 | \$16,632,218 | \$17,164,444 | Programming Update | PROJECT CHANGES (FROM PREVIOUS VERSION): Sect. 5310 - Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Program + Increase funds in FFY 21 in OTHER from \$3,752,218 to \$4,284,444 <i>Total project cost increased from \$16,632,218 to \$17,164,444</i> |
| TOTAL | | \$3 | \$532,226 | \$16,632,218 | \$17,164,444 | | |



MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Planning Board
FROM: Lynn Winchell-Mendy, Transportation Planner
SUBJECT: Funding Recommendations for the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) and Amendment of the TIP
DATE: July 15, 2021
CC: Kanti Srikanth, TPB Staff Director
Lyn Erickson, Plan Development and Coordination Program Director
Nicholas Ramfos, Director, Transportation Operations Programs

The purpose of this memo is to provide funding recommendations for FTA's ARPA program. On July 7, 2021, the selection committee finalized its recommendations for grant funding \$532,226 of allocated FTA funds from applications totaling \$1.16M in requested funds, with concurrence from the TPB officers and the Access for All (AFA) Committee Chair. The TPB will be asked on July 21, 2021 to approve these funding recommendations and amend the FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) accordingly.

BACKGROUND

The TPB's Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities program provides funding to remove barriers to transportation services and expand transportation mobility options for these communities. The federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 provided supplemental funds (\$50M nationally) to the FTA's Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities program (Section 5310). The allocations of these funds to the National Capital region provided this second opportunity to competitively award additional funds to existing subrecipients and recent subrecipients of previous Enhanced Mobility (or JARC and New Freedom) program funds to help mitigate adverse fiscal impacts to the organization or the service due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

SUMMARY

A TPB and COG staff selection committee reviewed the nine applications received for this supplemental funding and on July 6, 2021, finalized its recommendations for awarding the available \$ 532,226. A description of the Committee's recommendations is provided below with additional details on the recommended projects in Attachment A. Also, an overview of the ARPA program is provided in Attachment B.

The TPB's Selection Committee for FTA's ARPA program was made up of five COG/TPB staff members as outlined in Attachment B. The selection committee discussions resulted in a unanimous recommendation to fund five applications, some at a scaled amount. The committee's recommendations were reviewed by TPB Officers and the AFA Chair who were offered the opportunity for a briefing on the applications and recommendations and concurred with the presentation for approval at the July 21, 2021 meeting.

FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

The Selection Committee recommends funding five of the nine applications received, competitively allocating the \$532,226 in federal funding available. Total funding requests of \$1,169,334 exceeded the amount available. With the intent of providing some relief to as many of the programs/services adversely affected by the pandemic as possible, the Selection Committee acted to provide funding to higher scoring applications from agencies that did not receive funds under the CRRSAA solicitation, and scaled several of the recommendations. The funds are 100% Federal, so no match is required.

Recommendations are for funding both operating expenses for direct transportation providers and for transportation to vaccination sites. One application recommended for funding at a significantly scaled amount is to an agency who received CRRSAA funding, but serves Veterans, a unique demographic. Attachment A provides a summary of the projects being recommended for funding.

NEXT STEPS

Approve the recommendations for funding and the update of the TIP to include the projects. Following the approval, applicants will be notified of the TPB action and staff will develop the submittal materials for FTA approval. Upon FTA approval, staff will work with the applicants to issue contracts and administer the grants.

The four applications not recommended for funding, are described on pages 4 & 5 of Attachment A. Upon TPB's action, these applicants will be notified and offered a debriefing about their application with TPB staff, including suggestions for improving their application for consideration in the current Enhanced Mobility solicitation.

ATTACHMENT A - RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUNDING UNDER THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 (ARPA)

1. **Boat People SOS:** Mobility Management services for transportation to vaccination sites. Expenses include staff salary and fringe, workshop costs, marketing, and PPE.

Geographic Focus: VA/DC

| Requested | | Recommended | |
|---------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|
| Federal Funds | \$100,000 | Federal Funds | \$100,000 |

2. **Dulles Area Transportation Association:** Continuation of Mobility Management services for transportation to vaccination sites for Veterans who are seniors and/or have a disability. Expenses include staff salary and taxi vouchers.

Geographic Focus: Northern Virginia

| Requested | | Recommended | |
|---------------|----------|---------------|----------|
| Federal Funds | \$80,000 | Federal Funds | \$30,640 |

3. **Easter Seals Serving DC|MD|VA:** Vehicle operating expenses and maintenance to restart direct transportation services for adult day program participants. Expenses include driver salary and fringe, fuel, training, vehicle operating costs (not specific), and PPE.

Geographic Focus: MD

| Requested | | Recommended | |
|---------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|
| Federal Funds | \$369,680 | Federal Funds | \$188,856 |

4. **Liberty Transportation Management Corporation:** Operating expenses for wheelchair accessible taxi service. Expenses include dispatcher, mechanic and administrator salaries, preventative maintenance (oil, fluids, tires), PPE, insurance

Geographic Focus: DC

| Requested | | Recommended | |
|---------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|
| Federal Funds | \$143,370 | Federal Funds | \$143,370 |

5. **New Horizons Supported Services, Inc.:** Operating expenses to support direct transportation services to recreation and employment for program participants with disabilities. Expenses include vehicle lease and fuel.

Geographic Focus: MD

| Requested | | Recommended | |
|---------------|-----------|---------------|----------|
| Federal Funds | \$100,000 | Federal Funds | \$69,360 |

Applications Not Recommended for Funding

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

- Applications were lower scoring;
- Applicant will be receiving funding for the same project under the first round of federal supplemental funds through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA)
- Region being served has already received funding for another or a similar project (spreading funds throughout the region).

It is important to note that applications not recommended for funding at this time will have another opportunity with the current Enhanced Mobility solicitation and will receive recommendations for improving their application. They will also be offered a debriefing about their application with TPB staff.

| Applications Not Recommended for Funding | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|--|-------------------------|---|
| Applicant | Geographic Focus | Proposed Project | Federal Funds Requested | Reason |
| ECHO | Virginia | Restart direct transportation services to employment and programming for people with disabilities. Request includes transportation program salaries, vehicle operating costs (fuel, preventative maintenance, insurance, licensing, etc.) | \$113,471 | Received funding under CRRSAA for the same project. Application was lower scoring. |
| Montgomery County DOT | Montgomery County, MD | Mobility Management services and taxi vouchers for transporting older adults and people with disabilities to vaccination sites. Request includes percentage of oversight staff salaries and fringe, taxi vouchers, partner organization staff time for eligibility screening. | \$81,212.50 | Current Enhanced Mobility grant has a balance and could be used for transportation to vaccination for eligible County residents. Application was lower scoring. Funding under CRRSAA included transportation to vaccination sites in the same jurisdiction. |

| | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|---|-----------|---|
| The Arc of Prince William/INSIGHT, Inc. | Prince William County, VA | Restart direct transportation services to programming for people with developmental disabilities. Driver salary and fringe, fuel, preventative maintenance. | \$81,600 | Received funding under CRRSAA for the same project. Application was lower scoring. |
| Regency Taxi | Montgomery County, MD | Mobility Management services and taxi vouchers for transporting older adults and people with disabilities to vaccination sites. Request includes staff salary and training for coordination, taxi vouchers, and marketing. | \$100,000 | Received funding under CRRSAA for a similar project. Application was lower scoring. |

ATTACHMENT B - AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 (ARPA)

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. 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. Under ARPA the Designated Recipient for Section 5310 is tasked with the management of the program, including the approval of grant awards. The funds are 100% Federal; no match is required.

Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan

By adopting eligibility criteria that made funding available only to existing subrecipients and recent subrecipients of Enhanced Mobility (or JARC and New Freedom projects funded under an Enhanced Mobility solicitation) who qualify, the projects are known to be consistent with the 2018 Update to the Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan for the National Capital Region ("Coordinated Plan") and the expanded eligibility of transportation to vaccination sites.

Selection Process and Criteria for ARPA

The TPB adopted the following eligibility criteria for ARPA:

- Funding will be made available to existing subrecipients and recent subrecipients of Enhanced Mobility (or JARC and New Freedom projects funded under an Enhanced Mobility solicitation) who qualify.
- The application must be for the benefit of the same project as the existing or recently closed award, and/or for transportation to COVID vaccination sites. If for vehicles already delivered, it should be to support the purpose of the vehicles, i.e. driver salaries, coordination staff, operating costs, etc.
- Applicants will be required to document impact, specifically the need to end or limit activities or services and lay off or furlough staff.
- Applicants will be required to document that any CARES act dollars received have been fully expended or were not used for the project in the application
- It is recommended that the request be at least \$75,000 - \$100,000 for ease of management but does not preclude applying for funding for lower amounts.

The TPB used the same quantitative scoring process and eligibility criteria for ARPA that was used for CRRSAA:

| Criterion | Maximum Points |
|--|----------------|
| Project Focus: Additional points (up to the 45) will be awarded to projects addressing transportation to vaccination sites in Equity Emphasis Areas | 45 |
| Project Feasibility | 25 |
| Institutional Capacity to Manage and Administer an FTA Grant | 20 |
| Partnership/Coordination Additional points (up to the 10) will be awarded to partnerships across department or jurisdictions | 10 |

Solicitation for ARPA projects

The TPB solicitation for ARPA funds was conducted from May 21 through June 21, 2021. Notification of the funding opportunity was sent to existing subrecipients and recent subrecipients of Enhanced Mobility (or JARC and New Freedom projects funded under an Enhanced Mobility solicitation) who qualify. An overview of ARPA funding, eligibility criteria to apply and selection criteria was also shared with the TPB, the TPB's Technical Committee, the Access for All Advisory Committee.

Selection Committee

An internal selection committee was convened and consisted of five COG/TPB staff members:

- Ms. Lynn Winchell-Mendy, TPB Transportation Planner
- Ms. Sergio Ritacco, TPB Transportation Planner
- Ms. Lyn Erickson, Plan Development and Coordination Program Director
- Mr. Nicholas Ramfos, Program Director, Transportation Operations Programs
- Ms. Jenny Schitter, COG Principal Health Planner

After the solicitation period closed, the selection committee thoroughly reviewed all the applications and scored them based on the selection criteria listed above.

The Selection Committee collectively reviewed the applications, scores, and after a thoughtful and deliberative process, developed funding recommendations as described in Attachment A. The recommendations are being shared with Officers of the Board and the Access for All Committee Chair for concurrence. Staff can respond to any questions you may have on the recommendations.

PROJECTS RECOMMENDED FOR AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 (ARPA) FUNDING

For Approval and Inclusion in the FY 2021-2024 TIP

Lynn Winchell-Mendy
TPB Transportation Planner

Transportation Planning Board
July 21, 2021



Outline of Presentation

- ARPA program basics/eligibility/selection criteria
- Review five recommended projects
- Action on resolution R1-2022 to approve projects and amend the TIP
- Next steps



ARPA Program Basics

- On March 11, 2021, ARPA was signed into law
- Included \$50 million for the 5310 Enhanced Mobility Program
- Washington, DC/VA/MD urbanized area = \$532,226 (100 % Federal) available for award
- For expenses eligible under Enhanced Mobility, but recipients are directed to prioritize payroll and operational needs



ARPA Eligibility

- Existing subrecipient/recent subrecipients of Enhanced Mobility (or JARC and New Freedom projects funded under an Enhanced Mobility solicitation)
- Application for the benefit of the same project as the existing or recently closed award, and/or for transportation to COVID vaccination sites
- Applicants required to document impact, specifically the need to end or limit activities or services and lay off or furlough staff
- Applicants required to document that any CARES act dollars received was fully expended or not used for the project in the application



ARPA Selection Criteria

Recommendations for funding were based on the following selection criteria:

| Criterion | Maximum Points |
|--|----------------|
| Project Focus: Additional points (up to the 45) will be awarded to projects addressing transportation to vaccination sites in Equity Emphasis Areas | 45 |
| Project Feasibility | 25 |
| Institutional Capacity to Manage and Administer an FTA Grant | 20 |
| Partnership/Coordination Additional points (up to the 10) will be awarded to partnerships across department or jurisdictions | 10 |



Selection Recommendations

- Internal selection committee of COG and TPB staff
 - 5 members scored 9 applications based on Selection Criteria
 - Met July 6 and developed recommendations for funding
- Selection committee recommends funding 5 of the 9 applications received, using the entire \$532,226
 - Recommendations prioritize awarding funds to organizations that did not receive funding under CRRSAA
 - Recommendations include operating expenses for direct transportation providers and transportation to COVID vaccination sites



Summary of Applications Received

Funding Available: \$532,226

Requested: \$1,169,333

| | Requested |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Total Number of Projects: | 9 |
| DC: | 1 |
| MD (includes some DC): | 4 |
| VA (includes some DC): | 4 |



Projects Types

- Mobility Management services and vouchers for transportation to vaccination sites
- Payroll & operating expenses to restart or continue direct transportation services



Project Recommendations

Boat People SOS

Mobility Management services for transportation to vaccination sites. Expenses include staff salary and fringe, workshop costs, marketing, and PPE

Geographic Focus: Northern Virginia, some DC

- **Total:** \$100,000

Dulles Area Transportation Association (DATA)

Continuation of Mobility Management services for transportation to vaccination sites for Veterans who are seniors and/or have a disability. Expenses include staff salary and taxi vouchers

Geographic Focus: Northern Virginia

- **Total:** \$30,640



Project Recommendations

Easter Seals Serving DC|MD|VA

Vehicle operating expenses and maintenance to restart direct transportation services for adult day program participants. Expenses include driver salary and fringe, fuel, training, and PPE

Geographic Focus: MD

- **Total: \$188,856**

Liberty Transportation Management Corporation

Operating expenses for wheelchair accessible taxi service. Expenses include dispatcher, mechanic and administrator salaries, preventative maintenance (oil, fluids, tires), PPE, insurance

Geographic Focus: DC

- **Total: \$143,370**



Project Recommendations



Photo courtesy of NADTC

New Horizons Supported Services, Inc.

Operating expenses to support direct transportation services to recreation and employment for program participants with disabilities

Expenses include vehicle lease and fuel

Geographic Focus: MD

- **Total: \$69,360**



Next Steps

- Approve R1-2022
 - 5 projects recommended for funding
 - amend the FY 2021-2024 TIP to include the projects
- TPB staff notifies applicants
 - Projects not recommended for funding will receive a notice with recommendations for improvement, and be offered a debriefing
 - Confirm Federal compliance for projects recommended for funding
- TPB staff submits selected projects to FTA for final approval



Lynn Winchell-Mendy

TPB Transportation Planner

(202) 962-3253

lwmendy@mwkog.org

mwkog.org/TPB

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002



Photo courtesy of NADTC



National Capital Region
Transportation Planning Board