

## **ITEM 11 - Action**

March 20, 2013

Approval of Request for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), as the Administrative Agent for the TPB, to become the Designated Recipient for the New Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility Program under MAP-21 in the Washington Region

### **Staff**

**Recommendation:** Adopt Resolution R16-2013 to authorize the TPB chairman to submit a formal request to the governors and the mayor that COG, as the administrative agent for the TPB, be designated as the recipient to administer new Section 5310 projects.

**Issues:** None

**Background:** FTA interim guidance on MAP-21 requires that MPOs initiate discussions on the designated recipient for the new Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program. At the February 20th meeting, the Board was briefed on discussions with the District of Columbia Department of Transportation (DDOT), the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA), and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) on the designation of a recipient to establish the new program in the Washington Region.

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

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE TPB CHAIR TO SUBMIT  
A FORMAL REQUEST TO THE GOVERNORS AND MAYOR THAT  
THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (COG), AS  
THE ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT FOR THE TPB, SERVE AS THE DESIGNATED  
RECIPIENT OF THE SECTION 5310 ENHANCED MOBILITY PROGRAM UNDER  
THE MOVING AHEAD FOR PROGRESS IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY ACT**

**WHEREAS**, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB), the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the Washington Region, has the responsibility under the provisions of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act (MAP- 21) and for developing and carrying out a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process for the Metropolitan Area; and

**WHEREAS**, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is the administrative agent for the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB); and

**WHEREAS**, in 2005 the Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), established the Section 5316 Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) program to improve access to jobs for low-income persons and the Section 5317 New Freedom program for transportation improvements for persons with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, SAFETEA-LU also established the Section 5310 Elderly and Individuals with Disabilities program which was administered on a statewide basis by the District of Columbia Department of Transportation (DDOT), the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT); and

**WHEREAS**, in August 2006 COG, as the administrative agent for the TPB, was designated by the Mayor of the District of Columbia, the Governor of Maryland, and the Governor of Virginia as the recipient to administer the JARC and New Freedom programs in the Washington DC-VA-MD Urbanized Area; and

**WHEREAS**, in July 2006 the TPB established the Human Services Transportation Coordination Task Force to oversee the development of the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan to identify transportation needs to be addressed by the JARC, New Freedom and Section 5310 programs, and a competitive selection process for identifying projects for JARC and New Freedom funding in the National Capital Region; and

**WHEREAS**, the Coordinated Plan was developed under the guidance of the task force

which included the active participation of representatives from public, private and non-profit transportation and human services providers, as well as participation by members of the public who provided insight into local transportation needs and strategies for improvement for low-income communities, persons with disabilities and older adults; and

**WHEREAS**, the Coordinated Plan, the selection criteria and the process for a competitive selection process were adopted by the TPB at its regular meeting on April 18, 2007 (R22-2007); and

**WHEREAS**, the TPB adopted an Update to the Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan at its regular meeting on December 16, 2009 (R13-2010); and

**WHEREAS**, in 2012 MAP-21 established the Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program to fund projects to serve the special needs of transit-dependent populations beyond traditional public transportation services and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) complementary paratransit services; and

**WHEREAS**, MAP-21 provides a single apportionment for Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility program funds to the Washington DC-MC-MD Urbanized area and requires that in large urbanized areas a Designated Recipient be named before funds are awarded;

**WHEREAS**, on October 10, 2012, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) issued guidance asking that MPOs in large urbanized areas initiate the process for designating a new 5310 Designated Recipient;

**WHEREAS**, beginning in October, the chair of the TPB Human Service Transportation Coordination Task Force and TPB staff have facilitated discussions with staff of the DDOT, MTA, DRPT and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) on the designation of a recipient to establish the new program in the Washington Region; and

**WHEREAS**, these discussions have led to the recommendation that COG, as the administrative agent for the TPB, serve as the Designated Recipient for the Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility Program and that the program be implemented in accordance with a competitive project selection process guided by the TPB Human Service Transportation Coordination Task Force and the Coordinated Plan, and approved by the TPB;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD authorizes the Chair to submit a formal request in the attached letter to the Mayor of the District of Columbia, the Governor of Maryland, and the Governor of Virginia to designate the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, as the administrative agent for the TPB, as the recipient for the Washington DC-MD-VA Urbanized Area Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility Program.



**DRAFT LETTER TO MAYOR GRAY, GOVERNOR O’MALLEY, AND GOVERNOR MCDONNELL**

*District of Columbia*

*Bowie*

*College Park*

*Frederick County*

*Gaithersburg*

*Greenbelt*

*Montgomery County*

*Prince George’s County*

*Rockville*

*Takoma Park*

*Alexandria*

*Arlington County*

*Fairfax*

*Fairfax County*

*Falls Church*

*Loudoun County*

*Manassas*

*Manassas Park*

*Prince William County*

March 20, 2013

The Honorable Vincent C. Gray  
Mayor, District of Columbia  
John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 316  
Washington, DC 20004

The Honorable Robert F. McDonnell  
Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia  
Patrick Henry Building  
1111 E. Broad Street, 3rd Floor  
Richmond, VA 23219

The Honorable Martin O’Malley  
Governor, State of Maryland  
State House  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1925

Dear Mayor Gray, Governor McDonnell, and Governor O’Malley:

Pursuant to a resolution adopted by the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) on March 20, 2013, I am formally requesting that you designate the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, as the administrative agent for the TPB, the official recipient of the Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program funds for the Washington D.C-VA-MD Urbanized Area.

This request for designation was developed in collaboration with the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA), the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA). The TPB is the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the Washington Region and its membership includes representatives of the transportation agencies of the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia, local governments, WMATA, the Council of the District of Columbia, the Maryland and Virginia General Assemblies, and non-voting members from the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority and federal agencies.

The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP- 21) established the Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility Program to serve the special needs of transit-dependent populations beyond traditional public transportation services through grants to non-profit and local government agencies. The program provides a single apportionment to the Washington DC-MC-MD Urbanized area. Furthermore, MAP-21 requires that in large urbanized areas, a Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility Designated Recipient be named before funds are awarded.

Since 2006, COG, as the administrative agent for the TPB, has been serving as the designated recipient of the Section 5316 Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) program and the Section 5317 New Freedom program under the Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). COG and TPB will build upon the successful implementation of the JARC and New Freedom programs to implement the new Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility. This effort will be conducted in accordance with a competitive selection process guided by stakeholder involvement from the TPB Human Service Transportation Coordination Task Force and its Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan, and approved by the TPB.

The timeliness of this designation is important because Enhanced Mobility funds cannot be utilized until the designation is on file with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). I am asking that a letter designating COG the recipient of Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility funds for the Washington D.C.-VA-MD Urbanized Area be sent to the FTA Region III Administrator, Brigid Hynes-Cherin, by April 30, 2013.

If you need more information, please contact Ronald Kirby at (202)-962-3310 or [rkirby@mwkog.org](mailto:rkirby@mwkog.org), or Wendy Klancher at (202)-962-3321 or [wklancher@mwkog.org](mailto:wklancher@mwkog.org) of the TPB staff, who will be pleased to answer any questions you or your staff may have regarding this request.

Sincerely,

Scott York  
Chairman  
National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

cc: Terry Bellamy, Director, District Department of Transportation  
Sean Connaughton, Secretary of Transportation, Commonwealth of Virginia  
Darrell Mobley, Acting Secretary of Transportation, State of Maryland