# Slide 1:

# Presentation Title: Transportation Services Improvement Fund Programs in Montgomery County. Supporting Persons with Disabilities, Senior Citizens, Persons of Limited Income

Update to Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

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Logos: MCDOT logo, Montgomery County logo

Slide 2: Topics Covered

* Transportation Services Improvement Fund
* Previous Program
* Program Goals
* Process
* New Program
* Next Steps

Slide 3: Transportation Services Improvement Fund (TSIF)

* $0.25 fee collected by State on TNC (Uber, Lyft, etc.) rides originating in County
* Fees distributed to County on quarterly basis
* State requires use of Fund for transportation purposes
* County Code Section 53-801 further specifies allowable uses of Fund
* Anticipating near term annual collections of $2-2.5M

Slide 4: Section 53-801 Allowable Uses of Fund

(d)   *Use of the Fund*.  Disbursements from the Fund **must only be used to supplement, and must not supplant**, Fiscal Year 2019 expenditures appropriated in the annual operating budget resolution to:

      (1)**offset the higher operational costs of accessible taxicab** services for owners and operators including, but not limited to:

         (A)   vehicle costs associated with purchasing and retrofitting an accessible vehicle;

         (B)   costs associated with receiving training in providing accessible transportation services; and

         (C)   additional time involved in providing accessible taxicab services; or

      (2)**provide incentives or program enhancements to improve or expand transportation options for**:

         (A)   persons with **disabilities**;

         (B)   eligible **senior citizens**; or

         (C)   persons of **limited income**.

Slide 5: Initial Program

* Executive Regulation 01-17 enacted July 2017
* Focus on offsetting additional costs associated with wheelchair accessible service
* $15K reimbursement over 5 years for wheelchair accessible vehicle (WAV)
* $0.10 reimbursed per mile in WAV taxi
* $10 payment for wheelchair trips

Slide 6: Process and Program Goals

* Improve and expand transportation options for persons with disabilities, eligible senior citizens, and persons of limited income
* 100% Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAV) taxis
* Informed by outreach to:
  + Commission on People with Disabilities
  + Commission on Aging
  + Taxicab Services Commission
  + Transportation industry lenders
  + Wheelchair accessible vehicle retrofitters
  + Other industry regulators

Slide 7: Findings and Approach Informing 2019 Program

**FINDINGS**

* Need to increase participation and improve services to targeted populations
* Increasing availability and improving WAV service requires incentives, not just offsets
* WAV clients continue to face long wait times and unreliable service

**APPROACH**

* Reduce barriers to entry
* Offset higher costs to purchase and operate WAV vehicles
* Offset costs associated with additional time required to load and unload wheelchairs
* Incentivize drivers to provide shorter rides
* Encourage better customer service

Slide 8: New Program for Taxi Services

* Executive Regulation 11-19 passed July 2019
* Up to $15K capital assistance up front
* Maintains mileage payments
* Increases payment for wheelchair trips from $10 to $15-20 per trip
* $1K annual insurance reimbursement WAV taxis
* Reimburse licensing fees for WAV taxis
* Guarantees $10 minimum fare to drivers for Call-n-Ride trips
* Defines requirements for length of service

Slide 9: Next Steps

* Finalize agreements and application forms
* Engage drivers and taxi industry
* Collect and analyze resulting data on accessible services
* Develop grant programs for additional available funds (i.e. JCC)
* Partner with other regulators
* Reexamine taxicab regulations

Slide 10: Learn More

**View the complete Executive Regulation 11-19**:

<https://montgomerycountymd.gov/exec/Resources/Files/11-19.pdf>

**For information on taxi regulation, licensing, and how to apply for funding assistance programs defined in Executive Regulation 11-19**:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-dir/taxi_reg/taxi_user.html>

240-777-0311 or TTY (240) 251-4850 mcdot.taxioffice@montgomerycountymd.gov

**For questions about existing assistance programs for passengers** (i.e. Call-n-Ride):

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**For questions on program policy and future program development**:

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