OVERVIEW OF SOLICITATION AND APPLICATION PROCESS

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

Pre-application Conferences

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TPB Staff

Reminders for Today's Meeting

- Please mute your line when you aren't speaking.

- Reduce background noise, movement, and distractions.
- Identify yourself before speaking for those joining by phone.
- Use the chat box feature to pose questions to the group or to the host.
- If you encounter any technical difficulties, please notify staff.

Today's Agenda

1. Welcome and Basic Introductions (5 min)
2. Overview of Enhanced Mobility Program (15 min)
3. Demonstration of Foundant and How to Register (5 min)
4. Review of Application(s) Part I (20 min)
5. *Break and Project Introductions (10 min)*
6. Review of Application(s) Part II (45 min)
7. Final Questions and Wrap-Up (20 min)

Purpose: What You'll Learn

- **Enhanced Mobility Program**
  - Program purpose
  - Funding available
  - Entities and projects eligible
- **Selection Process & On-line Application**
  - Timeline and Selection Criteria
  - Using Foundant
  - Application walk-though, including Federal requirements
- **Please ask questions through out the session!**
  Very detailed questions may be deferred to a later one-on-one conversation
- **Consider potential project partners!**

Overview of Enhanced Mobility Program

FTA Enhanced Mobility Program

- **Goal:** "Improve mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities….by removing barriers to transportation services and expanding the transportation mobility options available."
- Provides matching grants that go above and beyond traditional public transit and ADA complementary paratransit service
- Program is intended to incentivize coordination of services

FTA Enhanced Mobility Program (continued)

- The solicitation is governed by the Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan for the National Capital Region
- TPB is the designated recipient of the Enhanced Mobility funding, with COG as its administrative agent

Since 2017 TPB has conducted four solicitations and funded 71 projects totaling over $25 million

Solicitation Details

- July 1 – September 1, 2021
- $6.3 million in Federal dollars (required match provided by grantee and must be identified at time of application)
  - 50% for Operating
  - 20% Capital and Mobility Management
- 2-years of grant funding (3 for preventative maintenance)
- $150,000 minimum application (Federal, plus match)

Solicitation Details (continued)

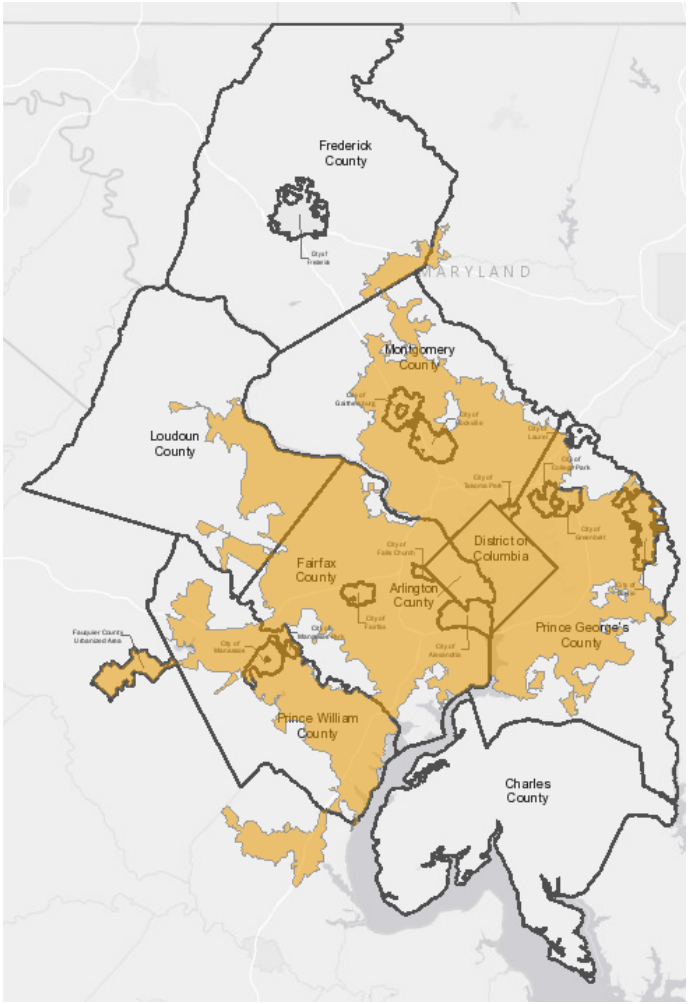
- **Who can apply?**
  - Non-profit agencies, private providers, transit agencies, and local governments
- **What type of projects?**
  - Capital and operating grants that improve transportation for people with disabilities and older adults
- No in-kind, no food, no furniture, no public transit fare, no giveaways/incentives, no rent/utilities/phone (except as part of indirect cost calculation), no older driver safety expenses/projects, no ADA improvements to buildings

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)

Washington DC-VA-MD Urbanized Area



- To be eligible, the project must serve residents of the Washington DC-VA-MD Urbanized Area

- Jurisdictional map with zip codes and an interactive map are available here: https://www.mwcog.org/maps/map-listing/ua_zip/

Changes Since Last Solicitation

Foundant System

- Question branching – one application
- Always making improvements – may look different in places

Budget-Related

- Vehicle budget
  - Line items for base price, contingency, and options
  - Requirement to complete and upload vehicle order spreadsheet

Application

- Removed non-essential information
- Changed order of items for better flow
- General Liability Insurance
- Vehicle Utilization Plan

Eligible Activities

- No requests for ADA improvements to buildings

Tips for Success

- Start the application early
  - Deadline: September 1, 2021, at 3pm
  - Late or incomplete applications (including required documents) will not be considered for funding
  - Applications submitted by August 4 can be reviewed by TPB staff to ensure completeness

- Ask TPB staff questions to make sure:
  - Only eligible items are on your budget(s)
  - You know what items are considered operating, capital or mobility management expenses

Tips for Success (continued)

- Requirement: Matching funds must be secured by time of application
- Clear, concise responses
- Prior applicants and grantees can learn from past experience (follow up questions from FTA, site visits results, etc.)
- Justify the following:
  - Remaining funds in existing projects
  - Funds leftover in closed projects
- Consider “cost” of meeting the requirements – Is it worth it?

Competitive Selection Process

- Independent Selection Committee of local representatives and national experts on transit, human services, aging and disability issues
- Chaired by a TPB member
- Selection Committee makes funding recommendations to the TPB based on seven selection criteria:

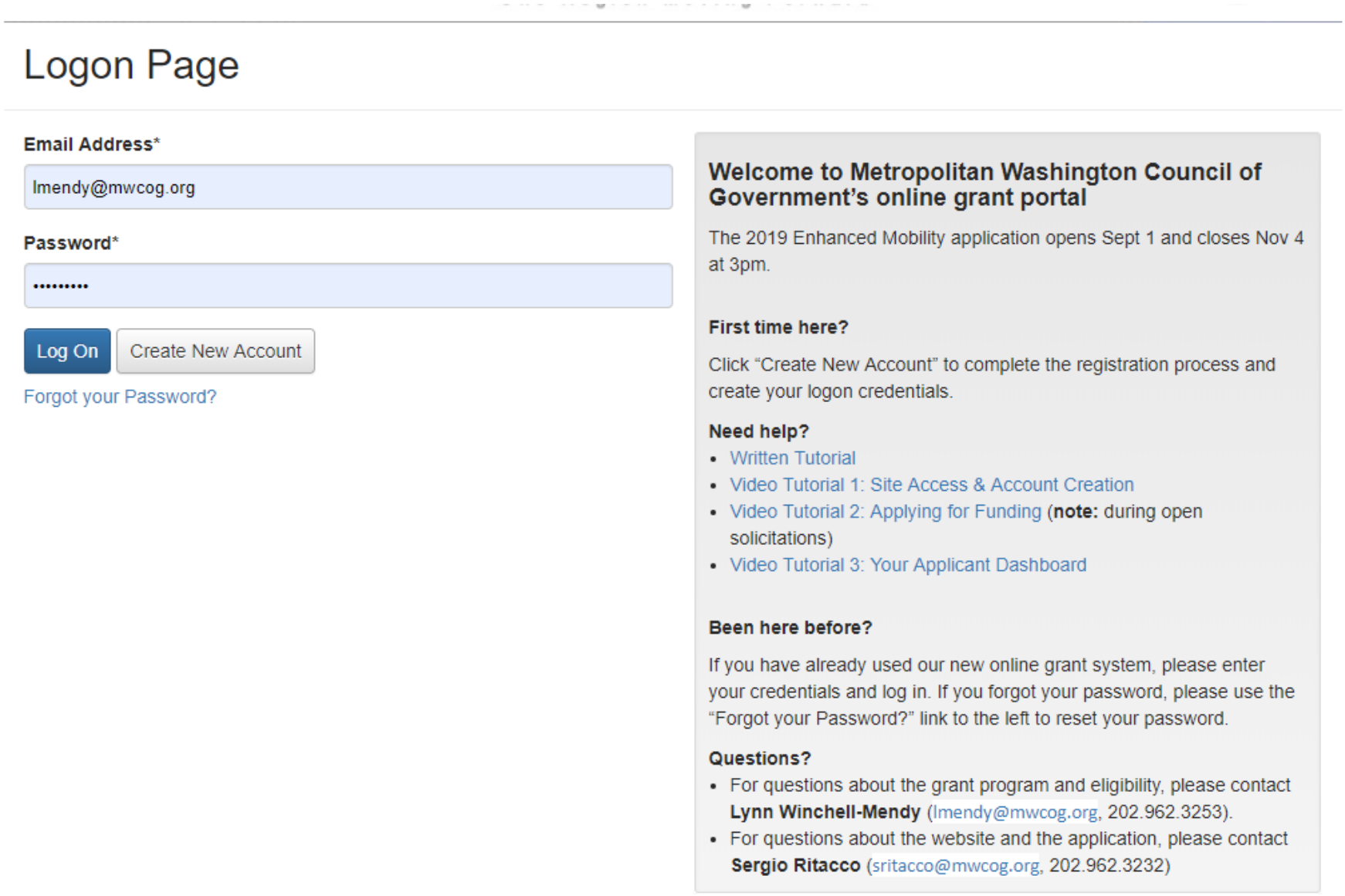
1. Coordination among agencies
2. Responsiveness to Coordinated Plan
   a. Priority Projects
   b. Strategies
3. Capacity to manage an FTA grant
4. Project feasibility
5. Regional need
6. Equity Emphasis Areas
7. Customer focus

Timeline

- Selection Committee finalizes recommendations (November 2021)
- TPB Approval and applicants notified (December 2021)
- Successful applicants are given 30 days to complete FTA required paperwork (January 2022)
- Approval by FTA (can take 9 months)
- Subgrant agreements signed (Fall 2022)
- Grantees begin projects (by Spring 2023)
- Earliest possible vehicle delivery (Aug 2023)

Demonstration of Foundant: Online Application

Online Application in Foundant



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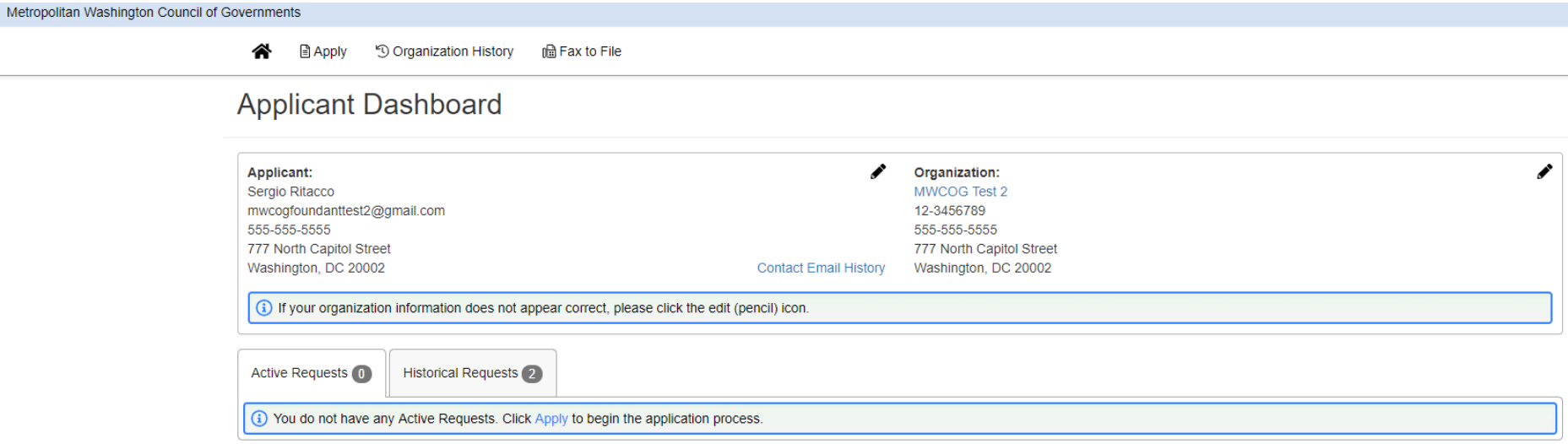

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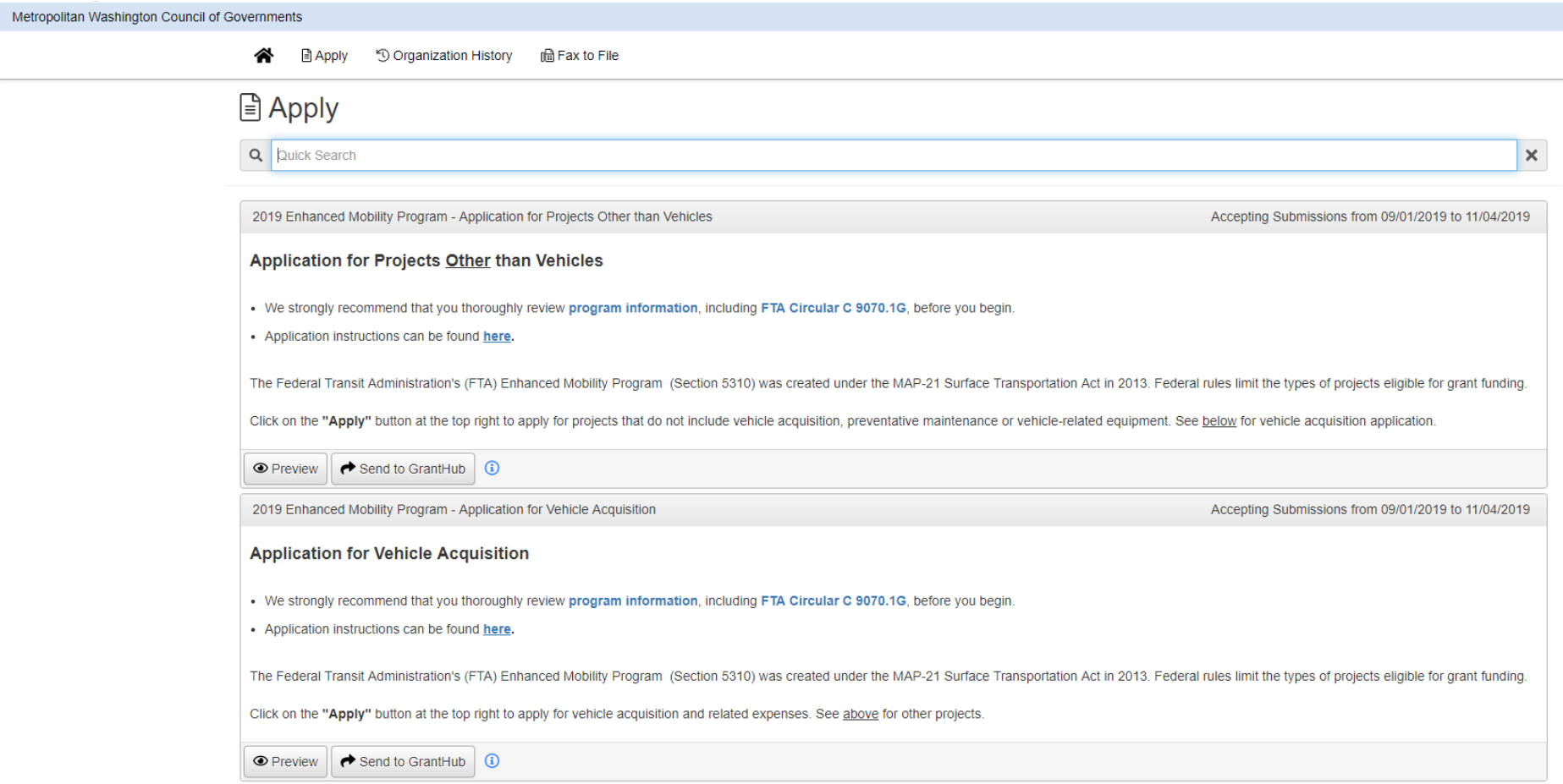

Application Walk-through & Federal Requirements

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