

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

Hannah Henn & Samuel Oji

Montgomery County Department of Transportation

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Topics Covered

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

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

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**.

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

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

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

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

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

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):

Samuel Oji, Enhanced Mobility and Senior Services Chief

240-777-5895

Samuel.Oji@montgomerycountymd.gov

For questions on program policy and future program development:

Hannah Henn, Senior Engineer for Strategic Innovation

240-777-8389

Hannah.Henn@montgomerycountymd.gov