

ITEM 7 – Action

April 21, 2021

CRRSSA Funding Recommendations and a FY 2021-2024 TIP Amendment to Include the Projects

Action: Approve Resolution R17-2021 to approve funding recommendations for CRRSAA 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 Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSAA) 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 February 23 to March 24. 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 CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE AND RELIEF SUPPLEMENTAL
APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 2021 (CRRSAA) 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 Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), as the administrative agent for the TPB, 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 CRRSAA funding for the Washington, DC-VA-MD Urbanized Area because of its role as Designated Recipient of Enhanced Mobility; and

WHEREAS, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSSA) was signed into law on December 27, 2020, and the purpose of CRRSAA 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 CRRSAA 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 CRRSAA grant applications was conducted from February 24 through March 24; and

WHEREAS, a selection committee comprised of COG/TPB staff met on April 7, 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; and

WHEREAS, there is \$532,218 in FTA CRRSSA program funds, at 100% Federal, allocated to COG for supporting qualifying projects in the Washington, DC-VA-MD Urbanized Area program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD approves six 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 21-23: Formal Amendment
 Approved by the TPB on April 21, 2021**

<i>TIP ID</i>	6366	<i>Agency Project ID</i>		<i>Total Cost</i>	\$16,632,218
<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>					

Description 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. This also includes funding for six sub-projects funded in FY 2021 by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021. 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	5310 - Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Program	\$3,220,000	\$3,752,218	\$3,220,000	\$3,220,000	\$3,220,000	-	\$16,632,218
	<i>Total Other</i>	\$3,220,000	\$3,752,218	\$3,220,000	\$3,220,000	\$3,220,000	-	\$16,632,218
	<i>Total Programmed</i>	\$3,220,000	\$3,752,218	\$3,220,000	\$3,220,000	\$3,220,000	-	\$16,632,218

CRRSAA PROJECTS FUNDED IN FY 2021

SUBRECIPIENT	DESCRIPTION	COST	LOCATION
Capitol Hill Village	Mobility Management services for transportation to vaccination sites.	\$90,000	DC
Dulles Area Transportation Association (DATA)	Mobility Management services for transportation to vaccination sites for Veterans who are seniors and/or have a disability.	\$80,000	Northern Virginia
ECHO	Vehicle operating expenses, including driver salaries and benefits to avoid layoffs, and maintenance	\$100,000	Northern Virginia
Prince George's County DPW&T	Expansion of an existing taxi voucher program to include transportation to vaccination sites.	\$107,218	Prince George's County, MD
Regency Taxi	Mobility Management services for transportation to vaccination sites, including escort by the driver when necessary.	\$75,000	Montgomery County, MD and some DC
Arc of Prince William/INSIGHT, Inc.	Reestablishment of transportation for individuals with developmental disabilities, including salary and benefits for furloughed drivers.	\$80,000	Prince William County, VA

*Map Has Not Been Marked

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	Pending	Pending	Pending	N/A

Current Change Reason

SCHEDULE / FUNDING / SCOPE - Programming Update

Funding Change(s):

Total project cost increased from \$16,100,000 to \$16,632,218

Change Report for TIP Action 21-23
 Formal Amendment
 for TPB Review and Approval on April 21, 2021

TIP ID	PROJECT TITLE	% CHANGE	COST	COST BEFORE	COST AFTER	CHANGE REASON	NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION
6366	Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities	3	\$532,218	\$16,100,000	\$16,632,218	Programming Update	PROJECT CHANGES (FROM PREVIOUS VERSION): Edit project description to include 6 sub-projects funded by CRRSAA listed on supplemental page. 5310 - Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Program Increase funds in FY 21 in OTHER from \$3,220,000 to 3,752,218

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Planning Board

FROM: Nicholas Ramfos, Director, Transportation Operations Programs
Lynn Winchell-Mendy, Transportation Planner

SUBJECT: Funding Recommendations for the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSAA) and Amendment of the TIP

DATE: April 15, 2021

The purpose of this memo is to provide funding recommendations for FTA's Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSAA) program. On April 7, 2021, the selection committee finalized its recommendations for grant funding \$532,218 of allocated FTA funds from applications totaling \$1.4M in requested funds with concurrence from the TPB officers and the Access for All (AFA) Committee Chair. The TPB will be asked on April 21, 2021 to approve these funding recommendations and amend the FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include these projects and the funding 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 Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations 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 supplemental opportunity to provide additional funds for 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 April 7, 2021, finalized its recommendations for awarding the available \$532,218. 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 CRRSAA program is provided in Attachment B.

The TPB's Selection Committee for FTA's CRRSAA 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 six applications, all at a scalable amount. The committee's recommendations were reviewed by TPB Officers and the AFA Chair who were able to ask clarifying questions about the recommendations and concurred with the presentation for approval at the April 21 meeting.

FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

The Selection Committee recommends funding six of the nine applications received, competitively allocating the \$532,218 in federal funding available. Since the total funding requests of \$1,430,221 exceeded the amount available, and with the intent of providing some relief to as many of the programs/services adversely affected by the pandemic, the Selection Committee acted to provide partial funding to all of the six applications recommended. The funds are 100% Federal, so no match is required.

Recommendations prioritize awarding funds for payroll and operating expenses for direct transportation providers to bring staff back or keep them from being furloughed, per the primary intent of the funding, and secondarily for transportation to COVID vaccination sites. Attachment A provides a summary of the projects being recommended for funding.

NEXT STEPS

The TPB will be asked to 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. These activities will be carried out as expeditiously as possible given the needs and that some of the awards are to help provide transportation services for Covid vaccinations.

Applicants with projects not recommended for funding will be notified and offered a debriefing about their application with TPB staff, including suggestions for improving their application for a second round of pandemic relief funding made available by the recently enacted American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021.

ATTACHMENT A - RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUNDING UNDER THE CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE AND RELIEF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 2021 (CRRSAA)

1. **Capitol Hill Village:** Mobility Management services for transportation to vaccination sites. Expenses include staff salary and taxi vouchers.

Geographic Focus: DC

Requested		Recommended	
Federal Funds	\$100,000	Federal Funds	\$90,000

2. **Dulles Area Transportation Association:** 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	\$100,630	Federal Funds	\$80,000

3. **ECHO:** Vehicle operating expenses and maintenance. Expenses include driver salaries & benefits (to avoid layoffs), fuel, insurance, preventative maintenance, and licensing.

Geographic Focus: Northern Virginia

Requested		Recommended	
Federal Funds	\$212,977	Federal Funds	\$100,000

4. **Prince George’s County Department of Public Works and Transportation:** Expansion of an existing taxi voucher program to include transportation to vaccination sites. Expense is taxi vouchers.

Geographic Focus: Prince George’s County, Maryland

Requested		Recommended	
Federal Funds	\$230,000	Federal Funds	\$107,218

5. **Regency Taxi:** Mobility Management services for transportation to vaccination sites. Expenses include staff salary, training, driver salary for escorted transportation service, and marketing.

Geographic Focus: Montgomery County, Maryland, some DC

Requested		Recommended	
Federal Funds	\$105,764	Federal Funds	\$75,000

6. **The Arc of Greater Prince William/INSIGHT, Inc.:** Reestablishment of transportation for individuals with developmental disabilities. Expenses include salary and benefits for furloughed drivers, fuel, preventative maintenance, and repairs.

Geographic Focus: Prince William County, Virginia

Requested		Recommended	
Federal Funds	\$175,450	Federal Funds	\$80,000

Applications Not Recommended for Funding

The following table shows the applications not recommended for funding (see next page for Table). The rationale for not funding these applications include:

- Applications were lower scoring.
- Question of whether project meets the intent of the funding.
- The results from previous COG/TPB grants have not yet been realized.
- Poor past performance.

It is important to note that applications not recommended for funding at this time will have another opportunity under the ARP solicitation and will receive a notice with 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
Boat People SOS	Virginia	<p>To assist seniors and individuals with disabilities to register and get vaccinated within the given timelines using educational workshops and mass media campaign on vaccine safety and existing Mobility Management program to help identify transportation options.</p> <p>Request includes staff salary & fringe, PPE, transportation vouchers, marketing, audit, travel, phone, printing</p>	\$100,000
Chinese Culture and Community Service Center	Montgomery County, MD	<p>Door-to-door transportation service to improve mobility and quality of life during the pandemic by delivering meals, groceries, and medication and providing transportation to medical appointments, including vaccination.</p> <p>Request includes driver and management staff salary, fuel, insurance, PPE</p>	\$160,000
MontCo Taxi Union Co-op	Montgomery County, MD	<p>Staffing and increased marketing for a recently expanded wheelchair accessible taxi program to ensure sufficient passengers and income for its driver-members, and driver lot fees for the co-op's revenue.</p> <p>Request includes administrative and management staff salary and marketing</p>	\$245,400

ATTACHMENT B - CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE AND RELIEF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 2021 (CRRSAA)

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 CRRSAA 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 CRRSAA

The TPB adopted the following eligibility criteria for CRRSAA:

- 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 adapted the Enhanced Mobility quantitative scoring process to the eligibility criteria 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 CRRSAA projects

The TPB solicitation for CRRSAA funds was conducted from February 24 through March 24, 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 CRRSAA 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, and COG staff involved in Public Health and Emergency Preparedness.

Selection Committee

Towards the goal of getting the funding out into our region as soon as possible, an internal selection committee was convened and consisted of five COG/TPB staff members:

- Lynn Winchell-Mendy, TPB Transportation Planner
- Sergio Ritacco, TPB Transportation Planner
- Lyn Erickson, Plan Development and Coordination Program Director
- Nicholas Ramfos, Program Director, Transportation Operations Programs
- 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. TPB is requested to approve the recommendations and update of the TIP.

PROJECTS RECOMMENDED FOR CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE AND RELIEF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 2021 (CRRSAA) FUNDING

For Approval and Inclusion in the FY 2021-2024 TIP

Lynn Winchell-Mendy
TPB Transportation Planner

Transportation Planning Board
April 21, 2021



Outline of Presentation

- CRRSAA program basics/eligibility/selection criteria
- Review six recommended projects
- Action on resolution R17-2021 to approve projects and amend the TIP
- Next steps



CRRSAA Program Basics

- On December 27, 2020, CRRSAA was signed into law
- Included \$50 million for the 5310 Enhanced Mobility Program
- Washington, DC/VA/MD urbanized area = \$532,218 (100 % Federal) available for award
- For expenses eligible under Enhanced Mobility, but recipients are directed to prioritize payroll and operational needs



CRRSAA 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



CRSSAA 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 April 7 and developed recommendations for funding
- Selection committee recommends funding 6 of the 9 applications received, using the entire \$532,218
 - Recommendations prioritize awarding funds for payroll and operating expenses for direct transportation providers
 - Recommendations include transportation to COVID vaccination sites



Summary of Applications Received

Funding Available: \$532,218

Requested: \$1,430,221

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

Capitol Hill Village

Mobility Management services for transportation to vaccination sites. Expenses include staff salary and taxi vouchers.

Geographic Focus: District of Columbia

- **Total:** \$90K

Dulles Area Transportation Association (DATA)

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:** \$80K



Project Recommendations

ECHO

Vehicle operating expenses and maintenance. Expenses include driver salaries & benefits (to avoid layoffs), fuel, insurance, preventative maintenance, and licensing.

Geographic Focus: Northern Virginia

- **Total:** \$100K

Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation

Expansion of an existing taxi voucher program to include transportation to vaccination sites. Expense is taxi vouchers.

Geographic Focus: Prince George's County, Maryland

- **Total:** \$107.2K



Project Recommendations

Regency Taxi

Mobility Management services for transportation to vaccination sites. Expenses include staff salary, training, driver salary for escorted transportation service, and marketing.

Geographic Focus: Montgomery County, Maryland and some District of Columbia

- **Total:** \$75K

The Arc of Greater Prince William/INSIGHT, Inc.

Reestablishment of transportation for individuals with developmental disabilities. Expenses include salary and benefits for furloughed drivers, fuel, preventative maintenance, and repairs.

- **Geographic Focus:** Prince William County, VA
- **Total:** \$80K



Next Steps

- Approve R17-2021
 - 6 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

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Photo courtesy of NADTC



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