

ITEM 8 – Information
June 18, 2025

**Enhanced Mobility: Increasing Travel Options for
Underserved Populations**

Background: The Board will be provided with an overview of the federal Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility grants solicitation process, which begins with pre-application conferences in July and the solicitation period in August/September. The TPB will approve the projects later this fall. Enhanced Mobility provides funding for transportation for people with disabilities and older adults who have difficulty using public transportation. The program provides approximately \$10 million every 2 years in matching grant funds for non-profit organizations, local governments, transit agencies, and private for-profit providers.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Planning Board
FROM: Cherice Sansbury, Enhanced Mobility Program Manager
SUBJECT: Solicitation for Applications for Enhanced Mobility Grants
DATE: June 12, 2025

PURPOSE

The Enhanced Mobility program aims to fill gaps in transportation for older adults and persons with disabilities by providing matching grants for services that go above and beyond traditional public transit and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) complementary paratransit service. Eligible projects include travel training, vehicle acquisition, and volunteer driver programs specifically serving people who have mobility impairments.

SUMMARY

On August 1, 2025, the TPB will begin soliciting applications for Enhanced Mobility grant funding with a deadline of September 30, 2025 at 3 PM. Three pre-application conferences are scheduled in the month of July 2025, one pre-application conference per each state in the region (see the schedule on page 3). The District of Columbia meeting will have a web conference option. Eligible applicants include non-profit agencies, private providers, transit agencies, and local governments. Eligible projects must benefit populations in the Washington DC-VA-MD Urbanized Area, which is shown in Figure 1. Additional details can be found at mwcog.org/enhancedmobility.

BACKGROUND

COG, as administrative agent for the TPB, is the designated recipient for the Enhanced Mobility program for the Washington DC-VA-MD Urbanized Area. The program provides approximately \$10 million every two years in matching federal grants for non-profit organizations, local governments, transit agencies, and private for-profit providers through matching grant funds for capital and operating expenses. The FTA grant funding is meant to incentivize coordination of services; the intent is for agencies to work together to provide specialized transportation to clients and to eliminate any duplication and to potentially save on costs. Federal and state regulatory barriers make coordination of actual services across state lines in a multi-state region difficult to achieve. However, the TPB has had success with funding grants that promote the coordination of services within a single jurisdiction or a single state.

The TPB has conducted six solicitations for Enhanced Mobility grants since 2014. Cumulatively, 113 projects have been awarded at \$42 million. TPB is currently providing administrative oversight to 34 active Enhanced Mobility projects. Prior to the Enhanced Mobility program, the TPB facilitated seven solicitations for FTA's JARC and New Freedom programs, funding 59 projects totaling over \$22 million.

The Coordinated Plan

The federally required Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan ("Coordinated Plan") guides the implementation of the Enhanced Mobility program and is updated every four years. The Coordinated Plan identifies the unmet transportation needs of people with disabilities and older adults, strategies and priority projects for addressing the unmet needs, and outlines the competitive selection process for grant funding. The TPB adopted the [2023 Update to the Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan for the National Capital Region](#), which was developed under the guidance of the Access for All Advisory Committee.

2025 ENHANCED MOBILITY GRANT SOLICITATION

The TPB will conduct a solicitation for grant applications from August 1 to September 30, 2025. Approximately \$10 million in federal funds is available for capital and operating grants that improve transportation for people with disabilities and older adults. Important elements include:

- Grant funds must be matched by the applicant:
 - 20% for capital or mobility management grants ¹
 - 50% for operating grants
- Projects must benefit populations within the Washington DC-VA-MD Urbanized Area as shown in Figure 1.
- Grants are for two-years of funding and Federal rules require that at least 55% of the funds be spent on capital projects for non-profit agencies and qualifying local governments.

Competitive Selection Process and Priority Projects

The Coordinated Plan outlines the selection process for Enhanced Mobility grants. An independent selection committee, chaired by a TPB member, will be comprised of local and national experts in transit, human services, disabilities and aging who will review the applications and make recommendations for funding to the TPB. Selection Committee members evaluate applications on the selection criteria listed here and further described at mwcog.org/enhancedmobility:

- Coordination among agencies;
- Responsiveness to the TPB's Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan (Strategies and/or Priority Projects);
- Institutional capacity to manage and administer an FTA grant (includes past grant performance);
- Project feasibility;
- Regional need;
- Low-income Geographies; and
- Customer focus.

¹ FTA defines mobility management as short-range planning and management activities and grants for improving coordination among public transportation and other transportation service providers.

The TPB's Coordinated Plan identifies the following priority projects to make the best use of limited grant funding. Applicants can still propose eligible projects other than the priority projects, but may receive less points when being evaluated. For specific eligibility guidance, see the FTA circular 9070.1G² or contact TPB staff. More details on priority projects can be found in the [Coordinated Plan](#).

Priority Projects

- 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

Pre-Application Conferences

TPB staff will be holding three pre-application conferences to provide potential applicants with information on eligible projects, the online application process, how to use the grant budget templates, the federal requirements, and the TPB's selection process. Every applicant must register and attend a session; details are at mwkog.org/enhancedmobility.

VIRGINIA: American Physical Therapy Association (APTA)
3030 Potomac Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22305
Monday, July 14, 2025
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

MARYLAND: Cambria Hotel College Park
8321 Baltimore Avenue, College Park, MD 20740
Tuesday, July 22, 2025
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300 Washington, DC 20002
Wednesday, July 30, 2025
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
VIRTUAL OPTION AVAILABLE

SOLICITATION OUTREACH AND ADVERTISING

Staff will announce this grant opportunity in several ways: distribution to the TPB, the Access for All Advisory committee, email announcements, and other TPB communication channels including mentions in *TPB News*, social media posts, and limited media placement.

TIMELINE

After the TPB approves the Selection Committee's recommendations for grant funding (anticipated for November or December 2025), TPB staff will notify applicants in writing and those selected for funding will have approximately 30 days to complete the required FTA documents. Following FTA approval, COG will provide sub-grant agreements to the recipients. Depending on the timing of FTA

² FTA Circular 9070.1G is at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2014/06/06/2014-13178/enhanced-mobility-of-seniors-and-individuals-with-disabilities-final-circular>

approval and the final signature of the sub-grant agreements, grantees can expect to begin project implementation in late 2026/early 2027.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact Cherice Sansbury (csansbury@mwkog.org, (202) 962-3222) or Tyler Thompson (tthompson@mwkog.org, (202) 962-3203) with questions.

FIGURE 1: THE WASHINGTON DC-VA-MD URBANIZED AREA

