

ENHANCED MOBILITY PROGRAM

Increasing Travel Options for Underserved Populations

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Commuter Connections Subcommittee
July 15, 2025



Purpose

“Improve mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities...by removing barriers to transportation services and expanding the transportation mobility options available.”

- Enhanced Mobility is a program that administers federal grant funding to support the transportation of older adults and people with disabilities throughout the region.
 - Projects have included: Acquisition of wheelchair accessible vans and buses, volunteer driver programs, travel training, mobility management, and sidewalk/bus stop construction.



Program Background

- Over \$64M awarded to 172 projects during 13 rounds of Enhanced Mobility solicitations since 2007
 - \$22M for 59 projects during 7 solicitations under FTA's Job Access – Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom Programs
 - \$42M for 113 projects during 6 solicitations since 2014 under FTA's Enhanced Mobility Program
 - 47 projects currently active
- TPB's program was recently featured in a National Aging and Disability Transportation Center (NADTC) profile as an “innovative approach” to program implementation

nadtc SECTION 5310 PROFILE – DIRECT RECIPIENT

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments



BEST PRACTICES

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) employs a range of best practices to enhance mobility and accessibility for older adults and people with disabilities. These strategies use Section 5310 and other innovative funding solutions, collaborative partnerships, and data-driven approaches to create sustainable and effective transportation programs.

Photo courtesy of Metropolitan Washington COG

- Works closely with transportation committees to develop a unified vision for regional transportation.
- Uses the coordinated plan to establish evaluation criteria for competitively awarding funds.
- Maintains a comprehensive website and hosts trainings to inform the public as well as current and potential applicants of Section 5310 funding priorities, opportunities, and selection criteria.

- Evaluates and funds a variety of projects to meet the region's needs, including vehicle expenses, operating costs and innovative services like travel training and mobility management.
- Collects data from projects to determine effectiveness; uses findings to recommend changes for future funding opportunities.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Metropolitan Washington COG is a direct recipient of FTA Section 5310 funds. The COG serves all of Washington, D.C., and 23 other jurisdictions in Maryland and Virginia. Organizations and local governments located within jurisdictions comprising the Washington—Arlington, DC—VA—MD Urbanized Area (UZA) are eligible subrecipients of Section 5310 funds.

The COG is advised by a board of directors and the National Capital Region

Transportation Planning Board (TPB). The TPB is the federally designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the Washington DC metropolitan region and is staffed by COG employees. The TPB is responsible for the region's Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan, which is updated every four years. Every two years, COG/TPB conducts an open solicitation throughout the region for applications from prior Section 5310 subrecipients and potential new



Regional Coordination on Project Priorities

- Project selection is guided by the [Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan](#)
 - Last approved by TPB in May 2023 ([R11-2023](#))
 - Identifies strategies that help meet targeted transportation needs and priorities:
 - Door-through-door or Escorted Transportation Service
 - Increase Wheelchair-Accessible Options in Taxi and Ride-Hailing Services
 - Tailored Transportation Service for Clients of Human Service Agencies (Vehicle Acquisition)
 - Increase Access to Transit Stations
 - Volunteer Driver Programs
 - Mobility Management
 - Travel Training
 - Coordinated Planning Efforts



Awarded Projects: Seabury Resources for Aging

- Project Name: Tailored Transportation Service for Older Adults in the DC Region
- Funding: Awarded \$368,381 in capital and operating funds
- Project Details: Acquire a 15-passenger bus to expand existing fleet to total of three vehicles, enabling them to provide 1,600 more older adults with transportation services each year
- Service Area: Washington, DC and surrounding jurisdictions



Mission

Provide personalized, affordable services and housing options to help older adults in the greater Washington, DC area live with independence and dignity.



Awarded Projects: Opportunities, Inc.

- Project Name: Travel Training for All
- Funding: Awarded \$375,000 in capital funds
- Project Details: Opportunities, Inc. offers travel training to 200 participants for 5 hours per month, 60 hours per year, for 2 years. The project will train 30 new Direct Service Professionals to work one-on-one with participants
- Service Area: Montgomery and Prince George's Counties



Mission

Advocate for, empower and support full inclusion of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Awarded Projects: Dulles Area Transportation Assoc.

- Project Name: Volunteer Driver and Travel Training Program to Assist Seniors, Veterans and Individuals with Disabilities
- Funding: Awarded \$500,000 in capital funds
- Project Details: Expand the availability of transportation services to underserved populations, recruit and train volunteer drivers, and expand their travel training program.
- Service Area: Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William Counties

Additional Case Studies

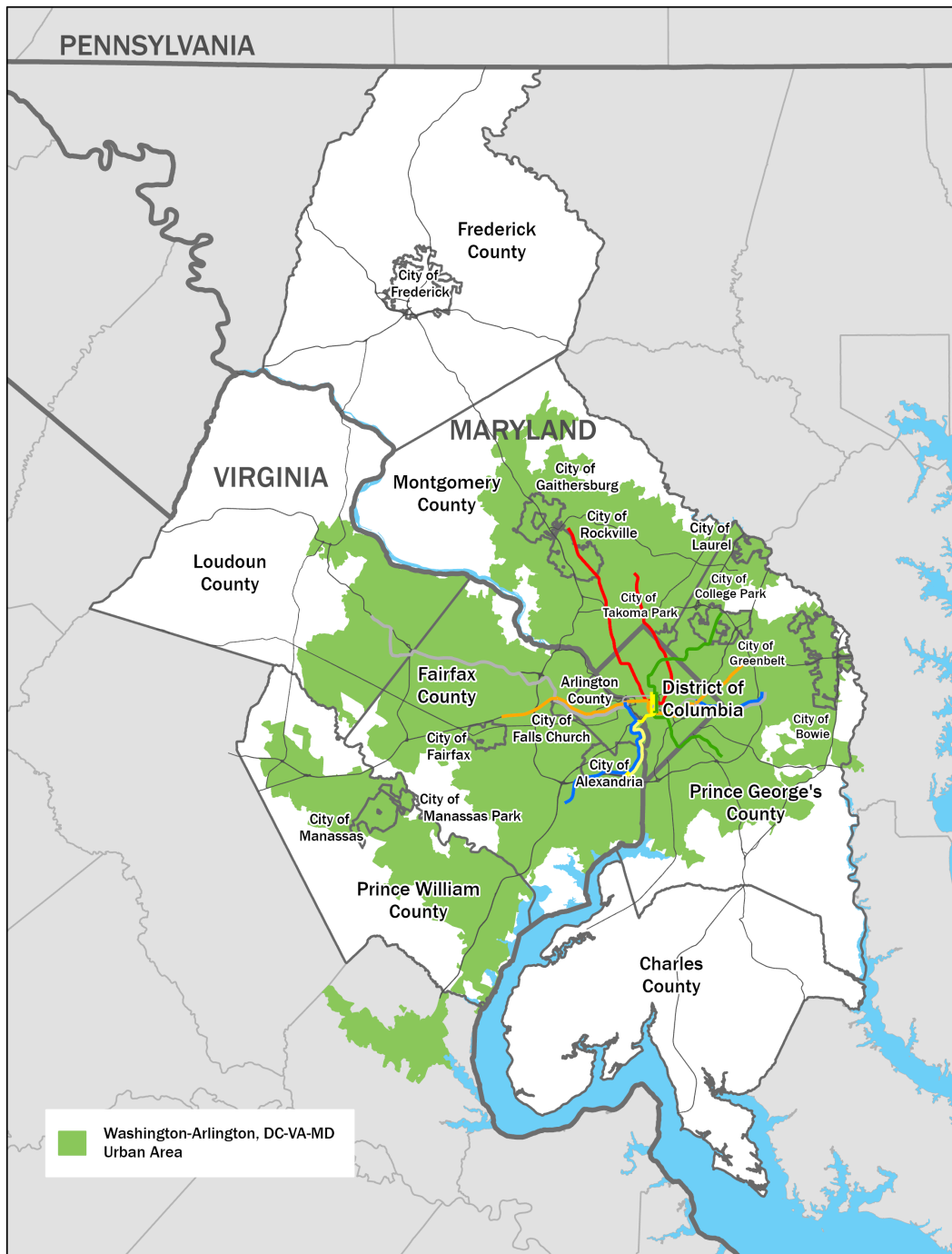
- Visit the [COG website](#) to view eight case studies on successful Enhanced Mobility projects



Mission

Improve mobility for older adults, veterans, and persons with disabilities while working with local businesses to offer sustainable commuting options.





2025 Grant Solicitation

- **Application Window:** August – September, 2025
- **Eligible Service Area:** Projects must benefit populations within the Washington, DC-VA-MD Urbanized Area
- **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
- **Other Requirements** Matching funds must be identified in application
 - Operating: **50%**
 - Capital and Mobility Management: **20%**
- **Anticipated funding available:** ~\$10 million

Project Selection

- Selection Committee of local representatives and national experts; chaired by a TPB member
- Selection criteria established by the Coordinated Plan
 - Coordination among agencies
 - Responsiveness to Coordinated Plan (includes scoring for priority projects)
 - Capacity to manage an FTA grant
 - Project feasibility
 - Regional need
 - Customer focus
- TPB will be asked to endorse selected projects in late 2025



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Transportation Planning Board