DRPT
Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation

Transit Special Allocation:
New Freedom and Senior Transportation Program Recommendations

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Policy Goals

The New Freedom Program and Senior Transportation Program offer opportunities to improve services for the disabled and seniors across the Commonwealth.

Funding for these programs meets the following policy goals:

1. Encourage the efficient and effective delivery of transportation services by advancing projects from recently completed Coordinated Human Service Plans.
2. Ensure that Virginians have a transportation system that is safe, enables easy movement of people and goods, enhances the economy and improves quality of life.
3. Support public-private partnerships, recognizing that sometimes private solutions can be the best solutions.

Transit Special Allocation: Overview

- DRPT issued a supplemental solicitation for transit projects to be funded through the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5317 New Freedom Program and DRPT's Senior Transportation Program.

- Solicitation for one-time funding.

- Application period from June 16 to August 15
  - Received 10 proposals in the amount of $1,216,4661 for New Freedom Program
  - Received 13 proposals in the amount of $125,325 for the Senior Transportation Program

Transit Special Allocation: Recommendations

- Seven New Freedom Programs for approval
  - Federal funds: $414,367
  - State funds: $190,168
- Thirteen Senior Transportation Program Projects for approval
  - State funds: $119,059
- Total: $414,367 Federal funds and State $289,128 funds

Transit Special Allocation: Source of Funds

- Previously unallocated FTA Section 5317 New Freedom Funds
  - Balance of $1,161,576 prior to solicitation
  - Anticipated allocation from new solicitation: $414,367
  - Remaining unallocated balance: $747,209

- Previously unallocated Commonwealth Mass Transit Trust Funds for human service transportation appropriated by the 2008 Virginia Acts of Assembly, Chapter 879 Item 449 A.2
  - $1,500,000 available in Six-Year Improvement Program
    - Previously allocated: $719,150 in capital projects and $253,495 in New Freedom Projects
    - Anticipated allocation from new solicitation: $190,168 in New Freedom Projects and $119,059 in Senior Transportation Projects
    - Remaining unallocated balance: $218,128

FTA Section 5317
New Freedom Program

- Program designed to support and enhance transportation for people with disabilities beyond the ADA (new/expanded service, mobility coordination, travel training)
- Federal Operating match: 50-50 percent
- Federal Capital/Planning match: 80-20 percent
- State to match up to 95 percent of the local match

Recommended FTA New Freedom Recipients: Bristol District

- Four County Transit ($68,000):
  - Purchase two wheelchair accessible minivans with ramps to access persons with disabilities that cannot be reached due to the location they live. The project will serve the Counties of Buchanan, Dickerson, Russell and Tazewell.

- Mountain Empire Older Citizens ($103,686):
  - Extend hours and days of service for Counties of Lee, Scott and Wise
  - Create a volunteer program to provide passenger assistance

- Mt. Rogers Community Service Board ($73,202):
  - Purchase two wheelchair accessible vehicles
  - Use operating funds to create service for people with disabilities in Carroll County for shopping and medical transportation

Recommended FTA New Freedom Recipients: Salem District

- Pulaski Area Transit ($45,550):
  - Begin Saturday service to the Town and County of Pulaski. Over 65 people with disabilities who now ride have said that they have a need for Saturday service for shopping and employment.

Recommended FTA New Freedom Recipients: Fredericksburg District

- George Washington Regional Commission ($238,500):
  - Create a Regional Mobility Coordinator position that will coordinate human service transportation and act as a single point of contact for transportation service information
  - Initiate a travel training program
  - Use operating funds to provide transportation for people with disabilities without service

Recommended FTA New Freedom Recipients: Lynchburg District

- Central Virginia Area Agency on Aging ($52,632):
  - Provide transportation services to almost seventy consumers of the Lynchburg Area Center for Independent Living, Inc.

Recommended FTA New Freedom Recipients: Staunton District

- Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission ($33,000):
  - Provide an education program for people with disabilities on transportation options
  - Coordinate transportation options for young adults with disabilities

Senior Transportation Program

- Program provides funds for services for adults 60 years of age and older (vouchers, travel training, volunteer driver programs, new/expanded service)
- Senior Transportation funds used to support 95 percent of proposed project

Recommended Senior Transportation Recipients: Culpeper District

- JAUNT ($10,000):
  - Provide transportation for seniors for shopping and medical transportation for the County of Nelson

- Rappahannock-Rapidan CSB/AAA ($10,500):
  - Develop a volunteer driver transportation network for the County of Culpeper, Fauquier, Madison, Orange and Rappahannock

Recommended Senior Transportation Recipients: Fredericksburg District

- BAY Transit ($8,000):
  - Create a travel training and transit outreach for seniors

Recommended Senior Transportation Recipients: Hampton Roads District

- Historic Triangle Seniors Center ($10,000):
  - Expand hours of operation of service for seniors in the Williamsburg area

Recommended Senior Transportation Recipients: Lynchburg District

- Central Virginia Area Agency on Aging ($10,699):
  - Provide transportation for seniors for shopping transportation for the Counties of Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford and Campbell

- Danville Senior Center ($10,000):
  - Provide expanded hours for dialysis transportation

Recommended Senior Transportation Recipients: Richmond District

- Chesterfield County ($10,000):
  - Provide senior discount tickets to be used on Access Chesterfield transportation program
- Richmond Community Action Program ($10,000):
  - Provide transportation for seniors for the Counties of Goochland and Powahatan

Recommended Senior Transportation Recipients: Salem District

- Blacksburg Transit ($10,000):
  - Create a travel training program for seniors
- New River Valley Senior Services ($10,000):
  - Expand shopping transportation for seniors for the Counties of Floyd, Giles, Montgomery and Pulaski

Recommended Senior Transportation Recipients: Staunton District

- Rockbridge Area Transportation System ($5,000):
  - Develop a Community Volunteer Program for Glasgow/Natural Bridge
- Shenandoah Area Agency for Aging Services ($10,000)
  - Provide transportation vouchers for non-emergency rides for low-income seniors for the Counties of Clarke, Frederick, Page, Shenandoah and Warren
- Valley Program for Aging Services ($10,526):
  - Develop a Volunteer Driver Program for the County of Bath

Measuring Success

- DRPT will provide technical assistance to ensure successful implementation and conduct on-site reviews.
- Recipients will provide DRPT with progress reports that provide data on program usage, customer feedback and issues or challenges that need to be addressed.
- Program results will be recorded in a DRPT database to serve as a basis of comparison for future applications.