



CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS

City Council Agenda Communication

Meeting Date: September 20, 2021

Prepared By: Jon R. Oliphant, AICP, Planning & Development Director

Agenda Item: Section 5310 Transportation Grant Program Local Funding Contribution Consideration

Explanation: The Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC) currently has a call for projects for the Federal Transit Administration's Section 5310: Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities federal grant program. There is up to \$316,461.85 of federal grant funding available for projects that meet the goals of the Section 5310 program, which are to assist communities in meeting the transportation need of individuals with disabilities and older adults when the transportation service already provided is unavailable, insufficient, or inappropriate to meeting these needs. Applications are due to TCRPC by October 1.

Washington Township started a program within the last couple of years to provide free ride service to "mobile seniors" within the 61571 zip code. Much of Washington and Morton have been found to be within a mobility "grey area" where there is little to no alternative means of available motorized transportation. CityLink has proposed applying for this grant to establish a trial program for up to 12 months that would extend the Township's program to provide disability shuttle service from Washington to points primarily in Peoria and East Peoria that figure to have the highest demand. The 5310 program funds capital costs at a minimum 80/20 level while operating costs are funded at a minimum 50/50 level. The 5310 grant program specifically states that projects that fill or alleviate regional transit grey areas will be given priority when considering a decrease in local cost share requirements. The intention for this grant would be to apply for funds to assist with the **operations**.

The call for projects announcement letter is attached. Also attached is the Township's program brochure and senior/disability population statistics from the 2016 Heart of Illinois Human Services Transportation Plan.

Fiscal Impact: The FY 21-22 budget does not include any funding to be used towards transit improvements or grant contributions. While a total project estimate is still being developed by CityLink at the time of this writing, the Township has asked about the City's willingness to contribute up to \$50,000 as part of a local cost share with the Township also providing up to \$50,000. This would assume a total project cost of no more than \$200,000 to establish a disability shuttle service trial program that uses the Township's current program as a base. Funds that the City will receive as part of the American Rescue Plan Act may be able to be used towards this, though staff would need to investigate that in more detail should there be interest in participating in part of the local cost share.

Action Requested: Staff requests direction on whether there is interest in participating in a local cost share with Washington Township on this grant application. This is scheduled for consideration by the entire Council given the need to provide direction prior to the grant deadline on October 1.

August 16, 2021

Re: Section 5310: Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities

Dear HSTP Region 5 partner:

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC) is opening a call for projects for the Section 5310: Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities federal grant program.

There is up to \$316,461.85 of federal grant funding available for projects that meet the goals of the Section 5310 grant program¹. TCRPC encourages each of your respective organizations to openly investigate all projects which may be eligible for the funds.

Program Goals:

The goal of the Section 5310 grant program is to assist communities in meeting the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities and older adults when the transportation service already provided is unavailable, insufficient, or inappropriate to meeting these needs.

Eligible Applicants:

Private non-profit organizations, state and local government authorities, and operators of public transportation services that provide transportation services within the Peoria-Pekin urbanized area are eligible to receive Section 5310 funding.

Eligible Activities:

Section 5310 program funds are available for **capital and operating expenses** that support the provision of transportation services to meet the specific needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities.

Examples of eligible activities include²:

- Acquisition of expansion or replacement buses or vans³
- Vehicle rehabilitation
- Preventive maintenance
- Radios and communication equipment
- Vehicle wheelchair lifts, ramps, and securement devices
- Purchase and installation of benches, shelters, and other passenger amenities
- Computer hardware and software
- ITS (Intelligent Transportation Systems)

¹ Please see the Funding Breakdown section below for a full cost explanation.

² More project type examples are shown on the Section 5310 Application, part D. Eligible Projects.

³ Requested funds for vehicles should go through IDOT's Consolidated Vehicle Procurement (CVP) program.

- Dispatch systems
- Fare collection systems
- Coordinating individualized travel training and trip planning activities for customers
- Developing a one-stop transportation traveler call center
- Expansion of paratransit service parameters beyond the three-fourths mile required by the ADA
- Expansion of current hours of operation for ADA paratransit services that are beyond those provided on the fixed-route services
- Providing escorts or assisting riders through the door of their destination
- Building an accessible path to a bus stop that is currently inaccessible, including curb cuts, sidewalks, and accessible pedestrian signals
- Improving signage or wayfinding technology
- Supporting administration and expenses related to voucher programs for transportation services offered by human service providers
- Supporting volunteer driver and aide programs

Local Matching Requirements:

Capital and mobility management costs are funded at *a minimum of 80/20* federal to local match. Operating costs are funded at *a minimum of 50/50* federal to local match. A limited amount of this funding is approved for up to 100% federal share.

The determination of federal share for each project will be made by the project decision team. *Please apply for these funds under the assumption that if selected, your project will require the minimum local match requirement.*

Funding Breakdown:

There is \$316,461.85 of total funding available. These funds are a combination of three sources of 5310 funding:

- Annual apportionments from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for the Peoria urbanized area,
- Two COVID relief funding streams:
 - The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP), and
 - The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSAA, pronounced “Chris-a”).

Most of this available funding originates from annual FTA apportionments; these always require a local match (see Local Matching Requirements section). However, a limited amount of this funding, originating from ARP and CRRSAA, is approved for up to 100% federal share. Therefore,

highly rated, high-priority projects have the potential of receiving a higher federal share than the typical federal/local split.

Application Process & Coordination:

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE FRIDAY, October 1, 2021 AT CLOSE OF BUSINESS (4:00 p.m.).

If you should have any questions during this process please feel free to contact me, Reema Abi-Akar, at (309)673-9330 or by email at rabiakar@tricityrpc.org.

Please note that ***I will be out of the office for over two weeks with no phone and limited email access between September 15 and October 1.*** During that time, please contact Michael Bruner or Gabriel Guevara for questions or concerns.

Before Sep. 15, 2021	Between Sep. 15 and Oct. 1	
Reema Abi-Akar	Michael Bruner	Gabriel Guevara
rabiakar@tricityrpc.org	mbruner@tricityrpc.org	gguevara@tricityrpc.org
309-673-9330	309-673-9330	309-673-9330

Please submit your applications to:

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
Attn: Reema Abi-Akar
456 Fulton St. Suite 401
Peoria, IL 61602

OR

rabiakar@tricityrpc.org

Project Selection Process:

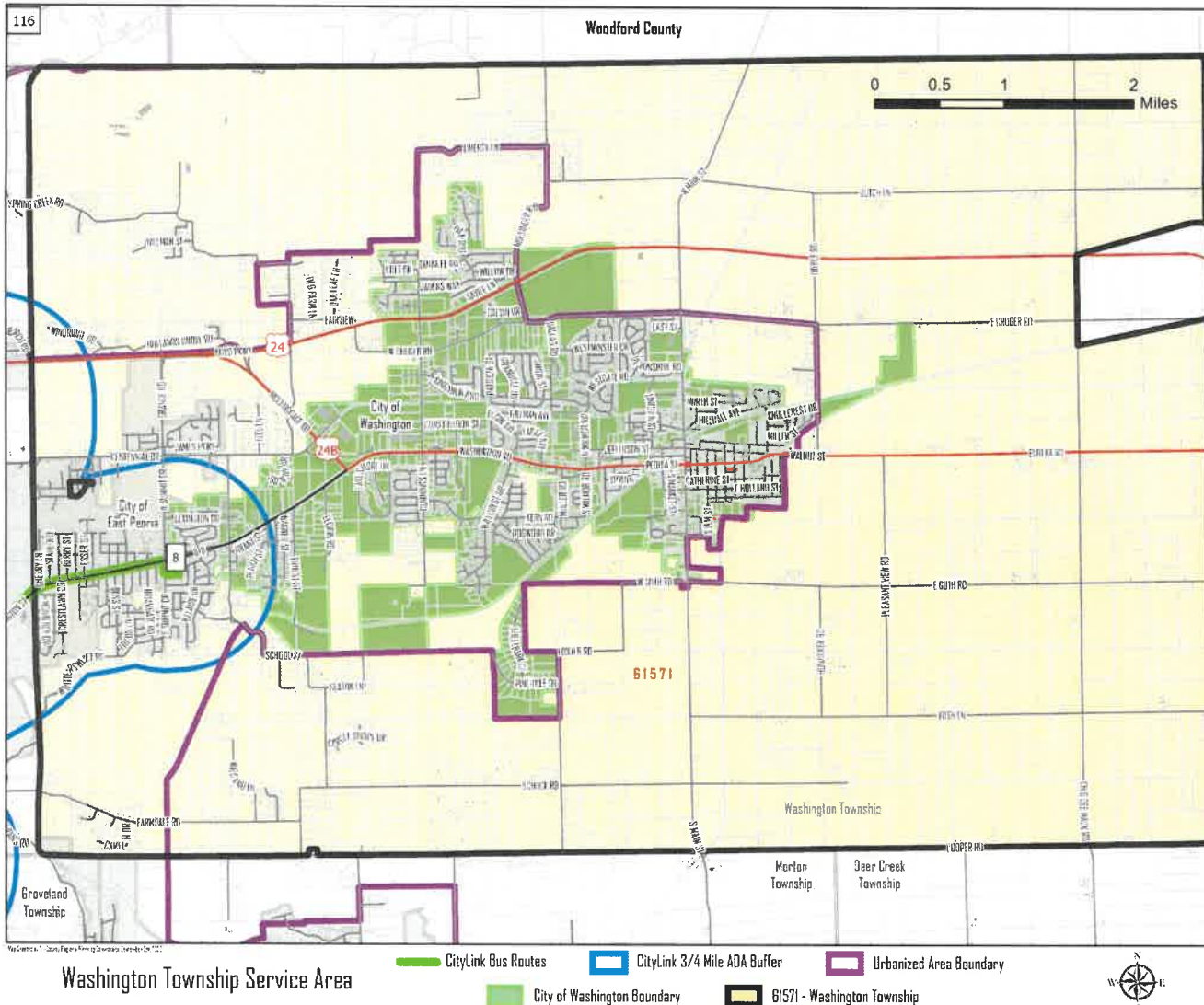
Once applications are received, TCRPC staff will review them for completion. Applications will be endorsed by the HSTP urban committee and scored by TCRPC staff⁴. Note that **projects that fill or alleviate regional transit Grey Areas will be given priority when considering a decrease in local cost share requirements.** Final selection is contingent upon approval from the FTA.

Sincerely,



Reema Abi-Akar, HSTP Region 5 Coordinator

⁴ See scoring criteria in Appendix A of each application.



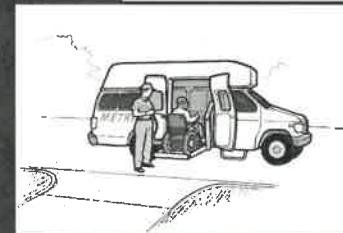
All the transit options, including the Washington/Morton Taxi 65+ Free Service, have restrictions on who can ride and the cost to ride based on various factors such as territory, client age, abilities and availability. Please note that through the combined efforts of all the transit partners, no person in our community should be without some form of local and out of town transportation if needed.

Sponsored by Washington Township—58 Valley Forge Drive, Washington, IL 61571

Questions? - Phone 309-444-2987

Mobile Senior (65+) FREE Ride Service Within Zip 61571

.....Plus understanding existing transportation options for all persons and abilities living in the 61571 Washington Township Area....



PHONE 309-266-7433

Identify yourself as a
65+ Free Ride Requester

What is the FREE 65+ Service?

Washington Township is sponsoring FREE car ride taxi service in cooperation with Morton/Washington Taxi for 'Mobile Senior' residents age 65 and over, who live in and are traveling within Washington Townships' 61571 zip code area.

What does 'Mobile Senior' Mean?

'Mobile Senior' means seniors who are 'ambulatory', meaning those who can get in and out of a car type vehicle with little or no help from others. Canes, walkers and wheelchairs are acceptable as long as those items fold up for transportation. The cab service cannot accommodate persons with permanently attached medical devices.

The cab driver will offer some assistance to help enter and disembark the vehicle if needed. The drivers will also fold up any walker or foldup wheelchair and unfold the same items at the arrival destination.

Where can I go?

Transportation would be provided to local points within Washington Township 61571 that may include:

- Medical, Dental, Eyecare or Therapy
- Exercise Facilities, Library, Post Office
- Banking, Beauty Salon, Barber Shop
- Attorney, Investment or Tax Service
- Shopping, Dining, Entertainment
- Visits to family or friends within Washington Township 61571

Why This Service?

To help our senior residents, who may not have any other transportation option, to stay mobile, help meet their needs and enjoy what our community has to offer.

Are there Any Rules?

- The Free Service is available Monday through Friday, from 8am to 6pm only.
- Riders must be able to show the driver proof of 61571 Washington Township residency and 65+ age.
- The Free service is only free point to point within Washington Township 61571. If traveling outside 61571, additional rider fees would apply.
- Caretakers or family members can ride free with a qualifying senior.
- All riders will be required to read and sign a "Program Participant Release and Waiver Form", absolving Washington Township of any liability.
- As a private carrier, Morton/Washington Taxi does not allow pets, therapy or companion animals to ride in their vehicles.

How Do I Call For A Free Ride?

Call Morton/Washington Taxi direct
PH. 309 – 266 -7433
**Identify yourself as a
65+ Free Ride Requester**

Thanks to Morton/Washington Taxi
for working with Washington
Township to provide this service!
PLEASE NOTE that taxi service is
also available to points beyond
Washington Township with rider
payment.

OPTIONS FOR ALL HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS AND MOBILE SENIORS TRAVELING WITHIN OR BEYOND WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

Based on location, age, and circumstances, there are existing options available to get you to services either inside or outside of Washington Township. Current agencies to contact are listed below. These options are subject to change.

**IF YOU LIVE WITHIN THE
WASHINGTON CITY AREA (Purple
Line and/or Green Area on Map)**
CALL—Agency on Aging—FIRST
Phone: 309-674-2071
Toll Free 1-877-777-2422

**IF YOU LIVE IN THE TOWNSHIP
(Tan area on map) BUT
NOT WITHIN CITY LIMITS**
CALL—We Care—FIRST
Phone: 309-263-7708

**IF YOU LIVE IN THE TOWNSHIP WEST
OF WASHINGTON (SUNNYLAND)
PLAZA (Blue Circle Area on map)**
CALL—CityLink/ CityLift—FIRST
Phone: 309-679-8183

**If the Agency you called FIRST
does not cover your area, they
will refer you to the correct
agency that does.**

**For further help or information,
please see tricitycountytrpc.org/**

Elderly & Handicap Statistics

Excerpts from 2016 Heart of Illinois Human Services Transportation Plan, 2010 Census and American Community Survey 2009-2013

2016 Heart of Illinois Human Services Transportation Plan Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
Page 24

Elderly Population AGE 65+ (2010 Census Summary File 1)

Municipality	Total Pop.	Elderly Pop.	Percent of Total
Bartonville	6,471	1,030	15.9
Chillicothe	6,097	1,023	16.8
Creve Coeur	5,451	692	12.7
Dunlap	1,386	108	7.8
East Peoria	23,402	3,978	17
Germantown Hills	3,438	225	6.5
Morton	16,267	3,084	19
Pekin	34,094	5,439	16.0
Peoria	115,007	15,073	13.1
Peoria Heights	6,156	892	14.5
Washington (urban)	15,134	2,030	13.4
Washington Twp (Includes urban)	23,604	3,300 (est.)	13
West Peoria	4,458	658	14.8

Washington (urban) Age 18 + with a Disability* 1,360

*American Community Survey 2009-2013

(Not sure how many are age 65+ of the total)