



MEMORANDUM

TO: MPO Technical Committee & HSTP Region 5 Urban Committee

FROM: Staff

SUBJECT: Call for Projects: Section 5310 – Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities

DATE: August 16, 2023

Action needed:

None. Information item only.

Application Process:

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. [Approximately \\$329,798 of grant funding is available](#) from Federal Fiscal Years (FFY) 2022 and 2023 for projects that meet the goals of the Section 5310 grant program. TCRPC encourages each of your respective organizations to investigate projects which may be eligible for the funds.

[Applications must be completed digitally and submitted to \[funding@tricityrpc.org\]\(mailto:funding@tricityrpc.org\) by Friday, September 15, 2023 by 4:00 p.m.](#) Digital copies of the form will be available on TCRPC website, but may also be requested from TCRPC staff. Please direct any questions to staff at (309) 673-9330 or by email at funding@tricityrpc.org.

Background:

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Peoria-Pekin urbanized area. As the MPO, TCRPC is a Co-Designated Recipient of Section 5310 funding, along with IDOT, for the Peoria-Pekin urbanized Area. IDOT receives 55 percent of the urbanized area's allotment to be used in the statewide Consolidated Vehicle Procurement (CVP) program. The remaining 45 percent of funding is allocated to TCRPC to be programmed for capital and operational expenses.

Program Goals:

The goal of the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA's) Section 5310 Program is to help entities meet the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities and older adults when the provided transportation service is unavailable, insufficient, or inappropriate to meet 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 include:

- 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
- Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)
- 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

Please note that the purchase of vehicles is not eligible for this program.

Local Matching Requirements:

Capital and mobility management costs are funded at 80/20 federal to local match. Operating costs are funded at 50/50 federal to local match.

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 staff. Note that projects that fill or alleviate regional transit Grey Areas will be given priority. Final selection is contingent upon approval from the FTA.

Proposed Selection Schedule

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| Aug 16, 2023 | Staff issues Call for Projects |
| Sep 15, 2023 | Applications due to staff; staff reviews project submissions |
| Sep 26, 2023 | HSTP Urban Committee assigns Regional Significance scores and recommends projects to Technical Committee |
| Oct 18, 2023 | Technical Committee reviews project recommendations and develops recommendation to Commission |
| Nov 1, 2023 | Commission makes final decision |