



Letters of Intent Being Accepted for Elderly and Disabled Program

AKRON, Ohio (June 15, 2018) – The Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS) is accepting Letters of Intent (LOI) from non-profit organizations, state or local government authorities, or operators of public transportation services, including private operators of public transportation services to provide transportation services or improvements in Summit County, Portage County, or the Chippewa and Milton Township areas of Wayne County, Ohio. Successful projects will be funded under the Federal Transit Administration’s (FTA) Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program (FTA Section 5310). \$988,277 in federal funds is available for project implementation. Funds expended under this program must be used in the AMATS area.

All projects must follow the Elderly and Disabled Program requirements and rules contained within the current program guidance (FTA C 9070.1G; July 7, 2014). FTA program guidance can be downloaded at www.transit.dot.gov/sites/fta.dot.gov/files/docs/C9070_1G_FINAL_circular_4-20-15%281%29.pdf. All projects specifically require a local match and compliance with DOT rules. The purpose of the Elderly and Disabled Program is to provide grants for competitively selected projects to enhance mobility for seniors and persons with disabilities by providing funds for programs to serve the special needs of transit-dependent populations beyond traditional public transportation services and American with Disabilities Act (ADA) complementary paratransit services. Eligible projects can be found on page III-9 of the FTA program guidance.

Project sponsors must submit a LOI in order to seek funding for Elderly and Disabled projects to be scheduled over the next two years. The AMATS Policy Committee is expected to make final project selections on September 20, 2018. AMATS, the federally designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for Summit and Portage counties and the Chippewa and Milton Township areas of Wayne County, is the agency responsible for allocating locally controlled federal transportation funds.

AMATS is requesting that interested project sponsors submit a LOI by July 6, 2018. Elderly and Disabled Program applicants will submit separate Letters of Intent based on their proposed projects. The LOI should contain a detailed, concise description of the project, its total cost, the amount of the request, its purpose, background, and duration. This includes:

1. A description of your agency: including name, address, mission, population served, chief executive officer and tax-exempt identification number.
2. The specific problem and population to be addressed by the applicant with this proposal.
3. Why it is necessary for your organization to provide this service.

4. How will this project coordinate with the existing public and social service agency transportation network in the area?
5. Where is this project recommended in the AMATS Area Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan, approved May 10, 2018?

Eligible project sponsors will be asked to complete an application for the Elderly and Disabled Program by August 6, 2018. Eligible sponsors will be sent a blank application form for the Elderly and Disabled Program to be completed and returned before the deadline.

A more detailed explanation of the Elderly and Disabled Program and the process to identify projects to be selected for the TIP is included in the AMATS Funding Policy Guidelines (FPG) dated May 2017. The AMATS Area Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan provides the basis and priorities for project selection. These guides can be found under the Planning/Transit section of the AMATS website. The FPG can be found in Funding.

Additional information on the management of the Elderly and Disabled Program can be found in the Program Management Plan also posted on the AMATS website. METRO RTA will serve as the designated recipient of Federal Transit Administration funds for projects awarded in Summit County. PARTA will serve as the designated recipient for projects in Portage County. Sponsoring agencies must comply with all federal requirements, including: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and DBEs (Disadvantaged Business Enterprise).

An advisory committee, comprised of AMATS member organizations, will select the successful grant recipients. All projects must be consistent with the AMATS Area Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan and will be evaluated based on the area's need for the project, the project coverage area, its effectiveness, and the level of integration and coordination with the area's transportation system. The AMATS Area Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan can be viewed at www.amatsplanning.org.

Please direct questions to Jeff Gardner, AMATS, ph. 330.375.2436 x.4431 or JJGardner@akronohio.gov.

The LOI should be received at the address below or via e-mail by **July 6, 2018**.

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