

## Information Item

**Date:** December 14, 2021

**To:** Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Members of the City Council

**From:** Aaron King, Assistant City Manager  
Toneq' McCullough, Director of Transportation

**Subject:**

Information Regarding Two Grant Applications with the Federal Transit Administration for Funding through the Innovated Coordinated Access and Mobility and Enhancing Mobility Innovation Grant Programs

**Strategic Focus Area:** Quality Transportation

**Strategic Objective:** Enhance Multimodal Transportation options and Regional Connectivity

**Strategic Plan Action Item:** Yes

**Key Work Item:** No



The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has announced funding opportunities for two grants which the Department of Transportation (DOT) and Winston-Salem Transit Authority (WSTA) are preparing applications to pursue.

The first application is for the Innovated Coordinated Access and Mobility (ICAM) grant. The FTA has made funding available in the amount of \$3.5 million through Section 3006(b) of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act to award grants for pilot projects that improve the coordination of transportation services and non-emergency medical transportation services projects for transportation disadvantaged populations. Transportation disadvantaged populations include older adults, people with disabilities and people of low income. The program, will provide grants on a competitive basis, based on criteria including racial equity, barriers to opportunity, the Justice40 initiative, project scalability, demonstration of needs and benefits, project readiness and legal, technical and financial capacities.

The DOT and WSTA intend to pursue the ICAM grant to fund the installation and implementation of a GPS notification and tracking system for on demand-response para-transit trips and for the regional scheduling and ticketing system for WSTA. The GPS notification project would lead to more cost-effective and efficient trips for disadvantaged populations, in addition to providing an essential service for older populations needing to carry out medical and grocery trips. This would also lead to fewer late, canceled, no-show and empty trips. The regional scheduling and ticketing system will work in conjunction with systems already installed with our other regional transit providers such as Piedmont Area Regional Transit and High Point Transit, moving one step closer to a regional fare structure.

Federal awards are expected to be approximately \$350,000 per granted project. All awards require a 20% local match. DOT and WSTA will apply for a total grant amount of \$400,000. The local match of \$80,000 will come from WSTA reserve funds already budgeted.

The application deadline for the ICAM grant is December 6, 2021.

The second application is for the Enhancing Mobility Innovation (EMI) grant. The FTA has made funding available in the amount of \$2 million for projects that enhance mobility innovations for transit. Funds will be awarded competitively for projects that advance innovations in passenger-centric mobility, strategies and emerging technologies. Of the total available funds for the EMI grant, \$1 million is available to accelerate innovative mobility and is for projects to improve mobility and enhance the rider experience with a focus on innovative service delivery models, partnerships, creative financing and integrated payment solutions. The second \$1 million is available for projects that support the development of software solutions that facilitate integrated demand-response public transportation service, which will dispatch public transportation fleet vehicles through mobile devices and other technological means. The program, will provide grants on a competitive basis, based on criteria including demonstration of innovation, demonstration of benefits, planning and partnerships, local financial commitment, implementation and legal, technical and financial capacity.

The DOT and WSTA intend to apply for the EMI grant to fund the installation and implementation of wireless on-board capabilities on fixed-route fleet buses, as well as a regional scheduling and ticketing system for WSTA. These projects, implemented concurrently, will innovate the transit rider experience allowing for advanced trip planning, scheduling and access both on and off buses throughout the Winston-Salem Urban Area. Access to wireless internet while on a bus is also money saving for riders and allows for greater connectivity for riders who need to work or communicate on-the-go.

Federal awards are expected to be approximately \$250,000 per granted project with a 20% local match. The DOT and WSTA will apply for a total grant amount of \$450,000. The local match of \$90,000 will come from WSTA reserve funds already budgeted. The application deadline for the EMI grant is January 11, 2022.