PUBLIC NOTICE: 2020-2024 TIP Amendment # 17

PIN 5825.07 VTC Access and Mobility Management

New Project

The Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council (GBNRTC), the Metropolitan Planning Organization for Erie and Niagara Counties, is proposing to amend the 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) by adding one (1) new project.

PIN 5825.07 VTC Access and Mobility Management

This new project will provide rural Erie county seniors and persons with disabilities the opportunity to engage in critical healthcare treatment. The program will be able to serve the local target population with 1,000 trips and 10,000 passenger miles—transport to critical medical, dental and mental health appointments in rural Erie County. The use of volunteer drivers provides a low cost, highly reproducible program providing non-emergent medical transportation to those in rural areas.

Total project cost is $207K. $124K in Federal funding will come from FTA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Federal Funds</th>
<th>Non-Federal Funds</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 - Planning</td>
<td>$96,205</td>
<td>$64,828</td>
<td>$161,033</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 - Implementation</td>
<td>$13,744</td>
<td>$9,261</td>
<td>$23,005</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 - Expansion</td>
<td>$13,744</td>
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<td>$23,005</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$123,693</strong></td>
<td><strong>$83,350</strong></td>
<td><strong>$207,043</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The project is scheduled to take place in FFY 20.

Public comments will be received until 7/21/20.

If you have any additional questions or comments please email us at staff@gbnrtc.org, or contact us at the address and telephone number above.

*The Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council (GBNRTC) assures that no person shall on the grounds of race, color, sex, age, disability or national origin, as provided by Title VI of the United States Civil Rights Act of 1964 and subsequent legislation, regulations, statutes and orders, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any MPO program or activity.*
1. Public Friendly Description of Project:  
The Volunteer Transportation Center Access and Mobility Management Project seeks to develop and implement a volunteer transportation organization to recruit volunteers to provide rides to critical medical, dental and mental health appointments in rural Erie County.

2. Project Need:  
This pilot program directly addresses the identified strategy in the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan for Erie and Niagara Counties by developing a Volunteer Transportation Program (see pg. 51) to fulfill gaps in rural transportation options (see pg. 44) for seniors and individuals with disabilities to medical appointments and other critical services.

3. Purpose/Objectives:  
To systematically implement Volunteer Transportation Center’s proven and replicable model in Erie County to provide non-emergency medical transportation and provide up to 1,000 trips for the target population in 18 months.

4. Description of Proposed Work:  
The pilot project will recruit and use volunteers to provide rides to critical medical appointments for seniors and individuals with disabilities in lacking mobility options in southern Erie County.

5. Location:  
X Erie County ☐ Niagara County ☐ Erie & Niagara County ☐ Study Only

6. Potential Utility Involvement:  ☐ Yes X No
   If yes, please explain:

7. Funding:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Federal Amount</th>
<th>Federal Source</th>
<th>Local Amount</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Planning - $96,205</td>
<td>Federal Transit Administration</td>
<td>$64,828</td>
<td>$161,033</td>
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<tr>
<td>Implementation - $13,744</td>
<td>Innovative Coordinated Access &amp; Mobility Pilot (ICAM) grant program</td>
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<td>$23,005</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expansion - $13,744</td>
<td></td>
<td>$9,261</td>
<td>$23,005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>$83,350</td>
<td>$207,043</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Please use a separate line for each funding source.
2. Please list NFTA match and overmatch on separate lines.
8. Basis of Cost Estimate:
The cost estimate for the Erie County pilot is based on established volunteer transportation programs which Volunteer Transportation Center operates in Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties.

9. Let (Obligation) Date: October 1, 2020
MPO Required Information

Please refer to attached guidance for assistance

10. Does the project link to defined 2050 long-range planning (MTP) goals?
   X No ☐ Yes

   If yes, please define applicable MTP categories and goals.
   • While the project not link directly to MTP goals, it does respond to the identified senior mobility concerns in our communities on pg. 31

11. Describe project relationship to defined performance measures:

12. Is the project on a transit route?
   X No ☐ Yes

   If yes, please identify route(s):

13. Are bicycle/pedestrian amenities included in project?
   X No ☐ Yes

   If yes, please explain:

14. Does the project address any safety concerns?
   X No ☐ Yes

   If yes, please explain:

15. Will this project retain/attract businesses?
   X No ☐ Yes

   If yes, please explain:

16. Is project located in an Environmental Justice (EJ) Communities of Concern area? (See Map in Guidance section)
   ☐ No X Yes

   If yes, what is the number of groups over regional thresholds?
   Seven townships in southern rural Erie County with 1-2 groups over the regional threshold.

17. MPO Required Attachments:
   X Location map showing geographic area(s) of project
   X Cover letter briefly summarizing project proposal (see GBNRTC support letter)
VOLUNTEER TRANSPORTATION CENTER ACCESS & MOBILITY PILOT PROJECT

*Project Service Area in Southern Erie County highlighted on the map below.

2019 COORDINATED PLAN
Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan Update

Map 10: Equity Analysis Erie and Niagara Counties
January 4, 2019

Ms. Virginia Dize
Co-Director
National Aging and Disability Transportation Center

Sent via the NADTC Fluid Review Portal

Dear Ms. Dize:

As the Executive Director of the Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council (GBNRTC), I wish to express my support for Shared Mobility Inc.'s (SMI) submission to the National Aging and Disability Transportation Center's (NADTC) Innovations in Accessible Mobility Grant to develop and expand volunteer transportation systems in Erie County for older adults, people with disabilities, and low-income individuals. SMI, a Buffalo-based transportation non-profit that focuses on testing and replicating innovative shared use models for underserved communities, will partner with the Volunteer Transportation Center (VTC) on this initiative.

Currently, VTC serves Jefferson, St. Lawrence, and Lewis counties in northern New York, an area the size of the State of Connecticut. In 2017 alone, VTC’s 250 volunteers provided 5 million miles of transportation for its clients across the state’s North Country. VTC has developed a model of gathering and coordinating a robust pool of 250 volunteer drivers to serve patients without adequate transportation access. VTC’s innovative model is one that SMI and its local partners wish to incubate in their communities. SMI, leaning on its experience forming and operating Buffalo CarShare (2008 - 2015), as well as inclusivity planning research funded through the National Aging and Disability Transportation Center, will further its objective of serving people of low income with few and burdensome transportation options - 50% of Buffalo CarShare membership made under $25,000 a year.

SMI is seeking funding to facilitate the development and deployment of volunteer transportation services with the assistance of VTC as an experienced operations partner. This program will serve older adults, people with disabilities, and low-income across Erie County with an anticipated 175,000 passenger miles in the first year of operation. For the past 10 years, SMI has worked across the shared mobility spectrum in carsharing, bikesharing, vanpooling, and other innovative mobility options for communities nationwide. As the nation’s first non-profit car sharing serving primarily low-income residents and older adults, their operations team is experienced in developing inclusive
mobility solutions. SMI and VTC’s collaboration offers over 50 years of collective experience serving under-resourced communities, aging adult populations and people with disabilities through an innovative and shared-use service model.

SMI’s approach aligns with GBNRTC’s ongoing mission to support more effective programs to serve the most vulnerable populations in our region. This proposal aims to help to bring an additional, sustainable transportation option for older adults, people with disabilities and individuals with limited incomes as identified in GBNRTC’s Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan and builds off SMI’s recent research efforts in inclusivity planning through the NADTC which has identified volunteer transportation as a key programming tool to increase mobility options for its target population.

I believe the proposal put forth by SMI and VTC is worthy of investment to ensure an impactful and sustainable launch of a strategically planned volunteer transportation program in our region.

Sincerely,

Hal Morse
Executive Director, GBNRTC