

**MASS TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
PUBLIC HEARINGS ON  
SECTION 5310 PROGRAM MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The Mass Transportation Authority will hold two public hearings on Thursday, August 9, 2018, at 12:00 noon and 6:00 p.m. at the Mass Transportation Authority Administration and Training Center, 1401 S. Dort Hwy, Flint, MI 48503. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to introduce policy changes to our Program Management Plan for Section 5310 funding.

The Mass Transportation Authority has been designated by the Governor as the local recipient administering agency for the Section 5310 program in Genesee County, MI. MTA has the responsibility for administering this program, and ensuring a fair and equitable distribution of funds, and that the program adheres to federal and state program guidelines. MTA will notify eligible applicants of the availability of the program, develop criteria, solicit applications and monitor program compliance. MTA has the sole responsibility to certify the eligibility of the applicants, review applications, select applications for inclusion in the program, ensure that all required audits are performed on Section 5310 contracts and close out projects.

The Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission (GCMPCC), the Technical Advisory Council (TAC) review and approve Section 5310 projects listed in the TIP/STIP, and the Specialized Services Committee and the Local Advisory Council (LAC) for the Elderly and Elderly Disabled have a role in the approval of eligible applications, and the distribution of funds.

The Mass Transportation Authority (MTA) goal under Section 5310 funding is to provide assistance in meeting the special transportation needs of the elderly and individuals with disabilities in Michigan in order to give them access to jobs, health care, shopping, education, recreation, public and social services and employment by encouraging the development, maintenance, improvement and use of the passenger transportation services.

**The MTA objectives include:**

- Promote the safe, effective, and efficient delivery of public transportation services to the elderly and individuals with disabilities by:
  1. Providing essential public transportation services to the elderly and individuals with disabilities.
  2. To achieve increased access to jobs, education, recreation, shopping, medical needs, and other cultural and social activities.
- Enhance coordination and consolidation of public transportation services in order to encourage the most efficient use of resources.
- Encourage the development, maintenance, improvement, and use of passenger transportation services.
- Promote inclusion of services to the elderly, elderly disabled, and developmentally disabled in the MTA 5 Year and 10 Year Strategic Plan.
- Seeking public and official input on transportation services to the elderly, elderly disabled, and developmentally disabled as an integral part of the strategic planning process.

**Project Selection Criteria and Method of Distributing Funds:**

The Mass Transportation Authority is the designated recipient of Section 5310 funds for Genesee County, MI, and is responsible for a fair and equitable distribution of funds to sub-recipient agencies.

Sub-recipients are identified by MTA as coordinators of services for the elderly and individuals with disabilities for specific service areas. The application process for Section 5310 funding is not a competitive process. Funds will be allocated to senior centers and those currently providing transportation services to the elderly, elderly disabled and developmentally disabled. The members of the Specialized Services Committee, and the Local Advisory Committee review the applications and approve the applicants for funding. The amount of funding per agency is determined by need, annual number of elderly, elderly disabled and developmentally disabled passengers served, number of buses in the applicant fleet, cost per bus, and useful life and lifetime miles of buses purchased with previous Section 5310 funds. The actual amount of funding apportioned to an agency for the purchase of a vehicle is also directly related to the cost of a comparable vehicle for replacement.

The focus for funding has been for those agencies who represent the elderly, elderly disabled, and developmentally disabled and are currently providing transportation services to the targeted client population. All senior centers, senior programs, and associated programs for the targeted client population are included in Section 5310 funding announcements. They are also invited to all meetings of the Specialized Services Committee and the Local Advisory Committee which are always open to the public. Funding announcements are posted in the local newspapers, as well as email notifications sent to participating agencies, and those agencies currently serving the transportation needs of the elderly, elderly disabled, and developmentally disabled.

Eligible applicants must demonstrate fiscal resources and management capabilities, equipment inventory, proper maintenance plans and procedures, and overall technical capacity to provide transportation services to the elderly and individuals with disabilities.

Section 5310 funds are distributed to eligible non-profit agencies for bus replacement funding. The projects to be funded are reviewed and approved in the TIP/STIP by the Technical Assistance Committee of the Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission, and the Metro Alliance. The distribution of funds is reviewed annually by the Specialized Services Committee and the Local Advisory Committee for the Elderly and Individuals with Disabilities. Both Committees also review and approve the Specialized Services Local Coordination Plan and the Vehicle Accessibility Plan as documented in the LAC meeting minutes.

Agency vehicles to be replaced using Section 5310 funds will be evaluated and must meet the following replacement criteria (either by years and/or miles):

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| • Car-Minivan-Maxi-van-Van Conversion          | 4 years or 100,000 miles  |
| • Buses-Cutaway – purchased prior to 1/8/08    | 5 years or 150,000 miles  |
| • Buses-Cutaway – purchased on or after 1/8/08 | 7 years or 200,000 miles  |
| • Buses - Medium Duty                          | 7 years or 200,000 miles  |
| • Buses – Medium/Heavy Duty                    | 10 years or 350,000 miles |
| • Buses – Heavy/Heavy Duty                     | 12 years or 500,000 miles |

Priority shall be placed on the funding of replacement vehicles prior to expansion vehicles.

**Annual Program of Project Development and Approval Process:**

The application process for Section 5310 typically begins in December with the distribution of application forms and solicitation of applications, as well as technical assistance provided by the Mass Transportation Authority. The completed application is due to MTA by early January. The applications are then reviewed and approved by the Specialized Services Committee and the Local Advisory Committee. Components of the application include the Vehicle Accessibility Plan and Local Coordinated Plan, all of which must be reviewed and approved with the application. Once the Specialized Services Committee and the Local Advisory Council approve the application, it is then submitted to the Michigan Department of Transportation by February 15 of the funding cycle. All projects in the Section 5310 application are discussed and included in the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan developed through the Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission, and all projects are listed in the local and state TIP/STIP, to be approved by the Technical Advisory Committee of the Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission and Metro Alliance.

Persons unable to attend the public hearings may submit comments in writing via mail or fax. Those submitting comment should identify themselves by name and address. Written testimony postmarked no later than August 8, 2018 should be addressed to:

MTA, 1401 S. Dort Hwy, Flint, MI 48503 Attention: Section 5310 Program Management Plan.

Individuals may also submit fax comments to 810 7676580.