



Alexandria Commission on Persons with Disabilities
301 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: 908-655-5524

Honorable Mayor Gaskins and Member of City Council
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

May 14, 2025

Re: Recommendations to the Federal Transit Administration's Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities Grant Applications

Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council:

At its May 14, 2025 meeting, the Alexandria Commission on Persons with Disabilities chose to endorse the City's application for the Federal Transit Administration Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities discretionary grant program. The project will seek federal funding for critical Human Services Transportation vehicles to transport residents with disabilities to and from public services, as well as create a shared fleet of vehicles for all transportation needs for residents with disabilities. This procurement represents the continuing commitment to the City's residents with disabilities in ensuring all residents have access to all City amenities.

With the Commissions' mission "to promote the rights of persons with disabilities by advocating for equality, dignity and independence through advising the community and advancing public awareness," the commission finds this procurement of wheelchair-accessible vehicles to be directly in line with our mission. These vehicles will not just provide the necessary transportation that members of our community find difficult to access but provide transportation options that integrate wheelchair users into the transportation network for all users of public services; specifically, access to adaptive recreation programs at our city's rec centers.

The Commission on Persons with Disabilities is supportive of the City's application to the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities discretionary grant program for the purchase and maintenance of wheelchair-accessible electric vehicles and charging infrastructure in FY 2027 and FY 2028 for a total grant ask of up to \$1 million.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Megan Prince", followed by a long, horizontal, wavy line.

Megan Prince
ACDP Chair



Alexandria Transportation Commission
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

www.alexandriava.gov

Phone: 703.746.4025

Honorable Mayor Gaskins and Member of City Council
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

May 21, 2025

Re: Recommendations to the Federal Transit Administration's Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities Grant Application

Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council:

At its May 21 meeting, the Alexandria Transportation Commission voted to endorse the City's application for the Federal Transit Administration Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities discretionary grant programs for the purchase and maintenance of wheelchair-accessible electric vehicles and charging infrastructure in FY 2027 and FY 2028 for a total application of up to \$1 million. The project will seek federal funding for critical Human Services Transportation vehicles to transport residents with disabilities to and from public services, as well as create a shared fleet of vehicles for all transportation needs for residents with disabilities. This procurement represents the continuing commitment to the city's residents with disabilities and ensuring all residents have access to all city amenities.

The Transportation Commission is supportive of the City's alternative fuel fleet policy which states the goal of city-owned and operated vehicle fleet management shall be to purchase and use the most cost-effective and lowest emission vehicles possible while still meeting operational requirements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Matthew McManus". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line drawn underneath it.

Matthew McManus (May 27, 2025 14:30 EDT)

Matt McManus

Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission
Jim Parajon, City Manager
Emily Baker, Deputy City Manager
Michael Moon, Interim Director, T&ES
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES
Katie North, Division Chief, T&ES
Owen Albrecht, Paratransit Manager, T&ES



June 1, 2025

Dear Mayor Gaskins and Members of the City Council:

We are writing to you as the Miracle League of Alexandria (MLA) to endorse the City of Alexandria's application for funding through the Federal Transit Administration Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities discretionary grant program.

As you know, the MLA has worked with the City and the special needs community for the past 15 years to provide an enhanced experience to members of that community. During that period, we found that transportation is a major issue for them, particularly for those in wheelchairs or using walkers. We felt that the problem was serious enough to have us send a "311" request to the City Manager to see what could be done to improve transportation options for the community.

That request gave rise to us meeting with the City's Paratransit Office. While they are doing good work in the area, we still believe that more can be done if additional resources are available. The funding under the grant program would allow the City to acquire additional vehicles specifically equipped to transport special needs individuals (as well as seniors and others with disabilities) in wheelchairs or using walkers.

Providing mobility to special needs individuals gives them the same opportunities as others in the City. Getting to medical appointments; attending City functions; participating in or just attending sporting events; any number of activities that a lack of transportation hinders their involvement. Our work with special needs individuals over the years has shown us that they share the same common wishes and desires as the rest of the City's residents. However, transportation is a major barrier for them. Acquiring several more handicap accessible vehicles is an excellent way for the City to help them fulfill their life in our City.

Making use of an available Federal program seems like a very viable option to achieve these goals. We hope that you support the City's application for these funds. We do. And it fits in with the MLA approach of working with various City organizations on other initiatives: expanding having sensory rooms in all new schools and recreation centers; developing sensory bags to help calm individuals (both special needs and others); coordinating "field trip" days to the Kelley Cares Miracle Field for special needs students at all levels of ACPS to play baseball; working with the Washington Nationals on sponsorship arrangements for game shirts for our special needs players; etc.

We are available if you would like to discuss this further. Thank you for your consideration on this issue.

Sincerely,

Mac Slover

Mac Slover, Chair

Laura Fries

Laura Fries, Vice Chair

William Rivers

William "Bill" Rivers, Secretary/Treasurer

& Miracle League of Alexandria Board Members

Miracle League of Alexandria, 15 West Mount Ida Avenue, Alexandria, Virginia 22305

www.miracleleagueofalexandria.com



City of Alexandria, Virginia
Commission on Aging

Department of Community & Human Services
4850 Mark Center Drive, 9th Floor
Alexandria, VA 22311
703.746.5999

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/dchs/commission-on-aging>
agingcommission@alexandriava.gov

Honorable Mayor Alyia Gaskins and Members of the City Council

City Hall

301 King Street

Alexandria, VA 22314

June 3, 2025

Re: Recommendations to the Federal Transit Administration's Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities Grant Application

Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council:

At its June 2, 2025 Executive Committee meeting, the Alexandria Commission on Aging voted to endorse the City of Alexandria's application for funding through the Federal Transit Administration's Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities discretionary grant program. This initiative will play a critical role in supporting the mobility, independence, and overall well-being of older adults and individuals with disabilities in our community.

The proposed project will seek federal funding to procure Human Services Transportation vehicles that will provide essential transportation for residents with disabilities and older adults, ensuring they can reliably access public services, medical appointments, grocery stores, community centers, and other vital destinations. The creation of a shared fleet of vehicles dedicated to these needs will help bridge transportation gaps and improve quality of life for some of Alexandria's most vulnerable residents.

The Commission on Aging is actively involved in updating Alexandria's Age-Friendly Strategic Plan, which identifies transportation as a critical component in creating a livable community for all ages. Transportation access is fundamental to aging in place, and this proposed grant directly



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Commission on Aging

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supports the goals of the strategic plan by addressing mobility barriers and enhancing service delivery for older adults and individuals with disabilities.

Accordingly, the Commission on Aging strongly supports the City's grant application requesting up to \$1 million in federal funding in FY 2027 and FY 2028 for the purchase and maintenance of wheelchair-accessible electric vehicles and the necessary charging infrastructure.

This investment represents a meaningful step forward in ensuring transportation equity and advancing age-friendly initiatives in the City of Alexandria. We urge full consideration and support for this application.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Michael Schuster

Chair, Alexandria Commission on Aging