

A Report to the Maryland General Assembly

Regarding

State Coordinating Committee for Human  
Services Transportation  
(Executive Order 01.01.2010.10)

The Maryland Department of Transportation

September 2018

**MSAR # 8881**

## **State Coordinating Committee for Human Services Transportation (Executive Order 01.01.2010.10)**

The State Coordinating Committee for Human Services Transportation (“the Committee”) was established by Executive Order in 1997. The Governor’s Executive Order 01.01.2010.10 expanded the membership and added a requirement for the Committee to provide an update to the Governor’s Office on the Committee’s progress annually. Specifically, the Executive Order directs that the Committee:

1. *Examine the transportation needs of citizens who are elderly, who have disabilities, and individuals requiring transportation to access jobs, medical and health appointments, senior citizens programs and other programs requiring the transportation of individuals who qualify as transportation disadvantaged.*
2. *Coordinate Maryland’s efforts to provide quality human services transportation services by working with appropriate federal, State and local agencies, transit customers and transportation providers to develop a cooperative, coordinated human services transportation system;*
3. *Devise a five-year human services transportation plan, which sets goals and objectives to help transportation disadvantaged citizens access jobs, education and training programs, healthcare services and other activities by providing cost-effective, affordable, high capacity, high quality, easily understood, safe and accessible transportation; and*
4. *Serve as the clearinghouse for human services transportation coordination issues throughout the State of Maryland, identify and facilitate a resolution to local and statewide issues regarding human services transportation, participate in the identification of possible allocations of human services transportation resources during emergency evacuations, evaluate cost-savings measures, investigate the need for the establishment of standards for vehicles and drivers within the human services transportation program, and examine other appropriate areas that facilitate the development of a quality human services transportation system in Maryland.*

Since the submission of the Committee’s September 2017 update, the group has met 4 times as a full committee and various other meetings have taken place on the ongoing special projects outlined below. These quarterly meetings have had discussions on various topics and had several keynote speakers relating to Human Service Transportation. Topics discussed over the last year have centered on how to more effectively remove transportation barriers across the various state jurisdictions and how to better use transportation funding of each of the member organizations more effectively especially as it relates to Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT).

Members of the Committee consist of requested representation from the following agencies per the Executive Order: Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT/MTA), Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Transportation Authority (MDOT/MdTA), Maryland

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Department of Disabilities (MDoD), Maryland Department of Aging (MDoA), Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), Maryland State Department of Education, Maryland Department of Human Resources, Maryland Department of Planning, Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs, Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council, and the Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Committee Business:

## **Human Service Providers (HSP) Grant Funding**

- A subcommittee of the SCCHST was created in January 2015. This subcommittee plays a significant role in the determination of funding received through the FTA's Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (Section 5310) for the private non-profit corporations that provide human services transportation.
- The subcommittee recommended and MDOT MTA awarded approximately \$1.2 million in Section 5310 (Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities) Program funding in a Special Solicitation 22 private non-profit organizations/Human Services Providers (HSP) in the State of Maryland. \$3.4 million in requests were made by various organizations.
- The MTA Senior Rides Program (SRP) awarded \$187,000 to eight (8) private non-profit HSP organizations for FY 2019. Requested grant amount was \$359,000.
- The awards are determined on a competitive scoring basis for both of these programs.

## **Transportation Association of Maryland (TAM)**

- The Transportation Association of Maryland, Inc. (TAM) is a statewide professional Association that is dedicated to improving mobility for all Maryland citizens. TAM is a viable and effective advocate for its members and provides professional development, training, and forums for the pursuit of excellence in public transportation by public, private, and specialized transportation providers. One of TAM's goals this year is to increase their HSP membership.
- MDOT MTA will provide a training session for all providers receiving Section 5310 funding thru the MTA during the annual TAM Expo being held in Chesapeake Bay Beach, MD in October 2018. This training will center on FTA Safety requirements. This will be the third year MDOT MTA has provided this training for providers at no cost.

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- The SSCHST Committee supports the outreach activities of TAM in an effort to help develop additional opportunities in Maryland's efforts to provide quality human services transportation services by working with appropriate federal, State and local agencies, transit customers and transportation providers to develop a cooperative, coordinated human services transportation system.

## **Five-Year Human Services Transportation Plan**

MDOT MTA continues to work on the update of the SCCHST's Five-Year Human Services Transportation Plan. The SCCHST is charged to "devise a five-year human services transportation plan, which sets goals and objectives to help transportation-disadvantaged citizens access jobs, education and training programs, healthcare services and other activities by providing cost-effective, affordable, high capacity, high quality, easily understood, safe and accessible transportation." A draft plan is currently being developed by agencies participating on the committee.

In addition, and in consultation with the Committee, the draft plan concepts have been presented to various stakeholders. Stakeholder engagement will continue to be integral in the process of updating the Five-Year Plan.

## **Looking Ahead:**

The SCCHST will continue to finalize the draft five-year plan, support the outreach efforts of TAM, and act as a resource for information regarding Human Service Transportation across the State.