

Program of Projects
Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization
Federal Transit Administration – Section 5310
Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Grant Funding
June 2023
DRAFT

TPO Sub-Committee recommends approval to the Technical Committee and Executive Board.

Sub-Committee:

Rebecca Styers – Knoxville Area Transit

Deanna Flinchum – Tennessee Vans

Rich DesGroseilliers – Lakeway Metropolitan TPO

Doug Burton – TPO Staff

Dori Caron – TPO Staff

Sub-Committee Process, Application Review, and Recommendations

The TPO advertised the Section 5310 call-for-projects starting on March 26, 2023. The notice was posted on the TPO website, advertised in the regional newspapers, and sent to the TPO's 5310 interested agency database. Applications were due April 21, 2023. The TPO received eight applications. For this round, we had one new agency, Community Options, apply for funding. The other seven applicants have previously received funding from the TPO and all are in good standing as far as meeting federal, state, and TPO requirements. The TPO staff regularly reviews the status of approved projects and makes sure agencies are in compliance with both federal and state regulations.

When the applications were reviewed, the sub-committee was able to make a recommendation to fund all of them, except one, completely. The one exception, Community Options, is recommended to receive approximately 65% of the funding they requested. Community Options had asked for four non-accessible SUVs. However, FTA regulations state that agencies can only receive non-accessible vehicles if they can demonstrate that they have accessible vehicles available to them, on a regular basis, in their fleet. Community Options, in Maryville, does not have any accessible vehicles. So, the sub-committee awarded them funding to purchase one wheelchair accessible minivan and one SUV. Community Options has agreed to this modification of their application.

Another applicant is the Sevier County LIVE-IT program. LIVE-IT is a volunteer assisted transportation program that has previously received funding from the TPO. It is important to note that the services provided by the LIVE-IT are partially outside the TPO's planning area. LIVE-IT is headquartered and a majority of their clients live in Seymour, in Sevier County, which is in the current planning area. However, from time-to-time, the Program will have clients and/or trips that will be made in portions of Sevier County outside the TPO's planning area. This will be the last round of funding in which LIVE-IT will be able to apply for through the TPO, as Seymour has fallen out of the urbanized area based on the 2020 Census. The FTA has ruled that the new urban boundaries go into effect starting with Fiscal Year 2024 funding. The funding the TPO is awarding is from Fiscal Year 2022 and 2023. As some of the LIVE-IT services are provided outside the TPO's planning area, the TPO Executive Board (according to their bylaws) must approve this project by 2/3 vote.

In all, the sub-committee recommends approving projects in the amount of \$1,288,433 in federal funds. See Table One for the agencies funded, the specific projects, and dollar amounts. All projects (except administration) require some form of local match. Operating projects are funded at 50% federal funding and require a 50% local match. Capital projects are funded at 80% federal funding and require a 20% local match. Typically, the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) provides half of the local match. So, the breakdown for operating projects would be 50% federal, 25% TDOT, and 25% local match and for capital projects the breakdown would be 80% federal, 10% TDOT, and 10% local match. Administration is 100% federal funding and does not require a match.

The TPO Technical Committee and Executive Board are essentially approving the FTA (federal) funding only. While TDOT traditionally participates by providing half of the local match that decision does not occur until the TPO can submit a match request application with an approved FTA grant. The TPO cannot seek an FTA grant without prior approval of the Program of Projects by the Executive Board and having the projects added through an adjustment into the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). If, for some reason, TDOT does not participate in the local match, the local agency is required to provide all of the local match.

Recommended Agencies to Receive Operating Funding (See Table One for Projects and Funding)

Knoxville Knox County CAC – Volunteer Assisted Transportation (VAT) Program

2247 Western Avenue – Knoxville TN, 37921

The VAT Program provides assisted transportation for Knox County residents who require an escort, using volunteers, driving agency-owned vehicles.

Sevier County LIVE-IT Program

11935 Chapman Highway, TN 37865

LIVE-IT provides assisted transportation for Sevier County residents who require an escort, using volunteers, driving their own vehicles. Please note: some of Sevier County LIVE-IT's service area is outside the urban area boundary.

East Tennessee Human Resource Agency (ETHRA)

9111 Cross Park Drive, Suite D-100 – Knoxville, TN 37923

ETHRA provides demand response transit services. This program will provide funding to provide additional trips for persons who are elderly and/or have a disability.

Blount County CAA – SMiles Program

3509 Tuckaleechee Pike – Maryville, TN 37803

Smiles provides assisted transportation for Blount County residents who require an escort, using volunteers, driving their own vehicles.

Recommended Agencies to Receive Capital Funding

Sertoma Center

1400 East Fifth Avenue – Knoxville, TN 37917

Sertoma Center serves adults with intellectual disabilities through residential, vocational, and community services that empower persons to reach their fullest potential.

Emory Valley Center

715 Emory Valley Road – Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Emory Valley Center supports children and adults with intellectual, developmental, and physical disabilities.

Arc Knox County – Sunshine Industries

3000 North Central Street – Knoxville, TN 37917

Sunshine Industries is a vocational training center for adults with intellectual and developmental delays.

Community Options, Inc.

523 West Lamar Alexander Parkway, Suite 2 – Maryville, TN 37801

Community Options serves people with intellectual and developmental disabilities including, but not limited to autism, cerebral palsy, and downs syndrome.

Recommended Agencies to Receive Mobility Management (Capital) Funding

Knoxville Knox County CAC – Volunteer Assisted Transportation (VAT) program

2247 Western Avenue – Knoxville, TN 37921

CAC VAT Program provides assisted transportation for Knox County residents who require an escort, using volunteers, driving agency-owned vehicles. Please note, this Mobility Management funding is a separate project from the VAT operating funding that is also recommended for approval.

Sevier County LIVE-IT Program

11935 Chapman Highway, TN 37865

LIVE-IT provides assisted transportation for Sevier County residents who require an escort, using volunteers, driving their own vehicles. Please note, this Mobility Management funding is a separate project from the LIVE-IT operating funding that is also recommended for approval.

Administration Funding (DOES NOT REQUIRE MATCH)

Knoxville Knox County Planning/Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization

400 Main Street, Suite 403 – Knoxville, TN 37902

For specific projects and funding see attached table.

TABLE ONE
Knoxville Regional TPO
Section 5310 Program of Projects
Projects Recommended to TPO Executive Board
For Approval

Agency	Project Description	Federal Funds	TDOT Match Funds*	Local Match Funds	Total Project Costs
Knoxville Knox County CAC Volunteer Assisted Transportation Program	Operating funding for VAT Program –funding should cover 24 months of service	\$168,750.00	\$84,375.00	\$84,375.00	\$337,500.00
Sevier County Live-IT Volunteer Assisted Transportation Program	Operating funding for VAT Program – funding should cover 12-18 months of service	\$32,090.00	\$16,045.00	\$16,045.00	\$64,180.00
East Tennessee Human Resource Agency	Operating funding for transit services – funding should cover 12-18 months of service	\$90,909.00	\$45,454.50	\$45,454.50	\$181,818.00
Blount County CAA SMILES Volunteer Assisted Transportation Program	Operating funding for SMILES Program – funding should cover 24 months of service	\$160,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$320,000.00
Total Operating Funding		\$451,749.00	\$225,874.50	\$225,874.50	\$903,498.00
Sertoma Center (Knoxville)	Capital funding for 2 wheelchair accessible vans & 2 SUVs	\$208,000.00	\$26,000.00	\$26,000.00	\$260,000.00
Emory Valley Center (Oak Ridge)	Capital funding for 2 standard vans	\$92,800.00	\$11,600.00	\$11,600.00	\$116,000.00
ARC Knox County (Sunshine) (Knoxville)	Capital funding for 1 standard	\$46,400.00	\$5,800.00	\$5,800.00	\$58,000.00
Community Options (Maryville)	Capital funding for 1 wheelchair accessible van & 1 SUV	\$104,000.00	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00	\$130,000.00
Knoxville Knox County CAC Volunteer Assisted Transportation Program	Capital funding for VAT Program for Mobility Management – funding should cover 24 months of service	\$180,000.00	\$22,500.00	\$22,500.00	\$225,000.00
Sevier County Live-IT Volunteer Assisted Transportation Program	Capital funding for VAT Program for Mobility Management – funding should cover 12-18 months of service	\$1,600.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$2,000.00
Total Capital Funding		\$632,800.00	\$79,100.00	\$79,100.00	\$791,000.00
Knoxville Regional TPO	Administration funding staff and/or projects or studies	\$133,884.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$133,884.00
Total All Funding Awarded		\$1,218,433.00	\$304,974.50	\$304,974.50	\$1,828,382.00
Total Federal Funding Available		\$1,218,433.00			
Total Federal Funding Remaining		\$0.00			

*While TDOT typically provides half of the match requirement, their decision is not final until they review an approved FTA grant. Therefore, agencies have been notified they may be responsible for the entire match requirement. Other Notes: FTA federal funding is from FY 2022 & FY 2023.