



# Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (Section 5310)

Program Guidance & Funding Timeline

## Introduction

The Region 1 Planning Council (R1), in its capacity as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Rockford Region, is initiating a call for projects for the local apportionment of Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (Section 5310) funds. This document provides information on the process R1 will use to solicit, select, and award Section 5310 funds allocated to the Rockford urbanized area. Eligible capital expenditures will be prioritized in the programming of available funds through this call for projects.

*NOTE: In any year in which remaining funding exists after the programmed project's unit costs have been considered, and it is determined the level of funding remaining is not capable of supporting an additional vehicle purchase, the remaining funding may be prioritized to provide for surveillance and other necessary equipment to the vehicles from the Program of Projects.*

## Funding Programs

Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities the Section 5310 program aims to improve mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities by removing barriers to transportation service and expanding transportation mobility options. This program supports transportation services planned, designed, and carried out to meet the special transportation needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities. Rockford Mass Transit District (RMTD) and Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) are the co-designated recipients of the allocated funds to the Rockford urbanized area. The MPO, in coordination with RMTD, has created a process to help determine the best use of the Section 5310 funds received. Additional information on this program can be found on The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) website: <https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/enhanced-mobility-seniors-individuals-disabilities-section-5310>.

A summary of this program and available funding in the Rockford Region is provided as Attachment A.

## Project Selection & Programming Process

The following process will be used for the award of the Section 5310 funds.

**Step 1 – Solicitation of Projects:** The official selection process starts with the Call for Projects and interested agencies completing the appropriate application to apply for the Section 5310 funding. To the extent possible, and for the purposes of easing the task of comparing projects, an application form will be distributed. The application is published on the R1's website at <https://r1planning.org/>.

**Step 2 – Staff Review:** R1 staff will review the proposed project applications for completeness and verify the project is located within the Rockford Adjusted Urbanized Area. R1 staff will conduct an initial project

selection to determine if the submitted project will proceed to the evaluation process. R1 will also provide received applications to the IDOT Office of Intermodal Project Implementation for their review and determination of applicant eligibility. The *eligibility criteria* detailed in the application will be used in this initial review.

**Step 3 – Transportation Alternatives Selection Committee Review and Recommendation:** After completion of the evaluation process, R1 staff will prepare a program of projects based upon the reviewed applications, and subsequent information, if needed. Staff will submit the program of projects to the MPO’s Transportation Alternatives Selection Committee for consideration and recommendation of the program of projects.

**Step 4 – TIP Programming:** The action of the Transportation Alternatives Selection Committee will be incorporated by formal resolution via an amendment to the current Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and be placed within the draft TIP for the coming fiscal year. Once the formal resolution is adoption by the MPO Policy Committee, it will be forwarded to the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

## 2024 Schedule

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| April 5, 2024:   | Call for Projects is released.   |
| May 3, 2024:     | Applications due no later than 5:00 PM.  |
| May 13-17, 2024: | Transportation Alternatives Selection Committee will review applications and recommend a program of projects. Recommendation of funding allocation is completed by majority vote of the Transportation Alternatives Selection Committee. |
| May 23, 2024:    | Recommendation is brought before MPO Technical by formal resolution via an amendment to the current TIP.   |
| May 31, 2024:    | Recommendation is brought before MPO Policy Committee by formal resolution via an amendment to the current TIP and placed into the draft TIP for the coming fiscal year.   |
| May 31, 2023:    | Applicants notified of results.  |

## Application Process

Completed applications should be submitted electronically to the Region 1 Planning Council contact information provided below no later than **5:00 PM on May 3, 2024**.

Applications and questions may be submitted to:

**Sydney Turner**

Director of Planning & Programming

Region 1 Planning Council

127 N Wyman, Suite 100

Rockford, IL 61101

[sturner@r1planning.org](mailto:sturner@r1planning.org)

