

**Federal Transit Administration
Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities
Section 5310**

Houston Urbanized Area Annual Allocation Process

There are several grant programs that are administered through the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), including 5310. METRO is the Designated Recipient for this program in the Houston Urbanized Area, which means METRO is responsible for the funds and their distribution for transit purposes. This fact sheet is a brief explanation of the program and a proposed formalization of the local process for the distribution of the funds in the Houston Urbanized Area.

Program purpose:

This program is intended to enhance mobility for seniors and persons with disabilities by providing funds for programs to serve the special needs of transit-dependent populations beyond traditional public transportation services and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) complementary paratransit services.

5310 Appropriations	
2018 Appropriation	\$ 3,297,513

Formula funds allocation:

- Congress establishes the funding for FTA programs through authorizing legislation that amends Chapter 53 of Title 49 of the U.S. Code. On December 4, 2015, President Obama signed the [Fixing America's Surface Transportation \(FAST\) Act](#), reauthorizing surface transportation programs through Fiscal Year 2020. The FAST Act continued the 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities formula program established in MAP-21.
- Prior to MAP-21, all funds were distributed through states (TxDOT) without regard to urban or rural boundaries. In order to sustain existing service, and because of operating assistance caps in other federal grant programs, METRO, as the Designated Recipient for 5310 in the Houston UZA, would allocate a designated amount, based on the last three years of eligible activities and associated grant funding, to the designated public transit providers in the UZA. Allocations must show a demonstrated benefit to elderly and disabled populations in the Houston UZA.

- Remaining funds would be allocated to non-profit organizations through a competitive process. METRO will issue a Call for Projects and lead a project evaluation committee to make recommendations to the METRO Board of Directors for the allocation of funds. METRO will coordinate with designated public transit providers to assist with outreach activities and notices of the availability of funds.

Members of the evaluation committee, which will be chaired by METRO, will include: two METRO representatives, two representatives from designated public transit providers who have previously operated and reported service inside the Houston UZA in the last finalized NTD report, one representative from the non-profit community knowledgeable of transportation programs, and a representative from the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC.)

- Any funds not allocated through these two approaches would go to METRO for use on eligible projects in the METRO service area.
- *All recipients of funds must meet the federal requirements outlined in the Program Management Plan.*

Sustaining Existing Service:

Funding distributions will be prioritized towards maintaining existing services. Existing providers proposing new service expansion over the previous year or proposing new service will be required to submit the service expansion or new project as part of the competitive process.

Actual annual federal appropriations will determine the amount of funds to be allocated. All existing providers may need to reduce service or find other sources of funding should appropriations be less than anticipated.

Estimated allocations for 2018 appropriation with this draft process:

(Based on the last three years of eligible activities and associated grant funding)

METRO Program Administration - \$329,751
Harris County – \$1,091,005
Fort Bend County – \$1,052,376
Funds available for competitive process – \$824,381