

**Winston-Salem Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
Transportation Advisory Committee
Action Request**

Meeting Date: November 18, 2021 **Agenda Item Number:** 8

Action Requested: Review of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 and Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities Grant Program Funding Allocation for the Winston-Salem Urban Area for Fiscal Year 2022 and Plans to Amend the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP)

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION: **Attachments:** Yes No X

Transit systems located in urbanized areas of more than 200,000 in population are eligible to use Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Sections 5307 funds for operating and capital assistance. The Winston-Salem Urban Area received **\$5,218,133** in FY 2021. MPO staff anticipates the FY 2022 apportionment to be approximately the same. The FY 2022 Federal Fiscal year began October 1, 2021. Staff is bringing this item for information so that when FTA announces the FY 2022 Section 5307 funding availability; there will not be a delay in allocating these funds to eligible agencies in the MPO therefore expediting the application process through FTA.

Currently, there are three (3) transit agencies in the MPO eligible to receive 5307 funding based upon data reported to the National Transit Database (NTD). Those agencies are Davidson County Transportation, Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation (PART), and Winston-Salem Transit Authority (WSTA). The number of eligible agencies may increase in future years. Additionally, activities traditionally eligible under the Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) program, which provides for job access for low-income individuals, continue to be an eligible activity for these funds.

Based upon policies adopted by the Winston-Salem Urban Area MPO in 2017, funding will be distributed in accordance with the percentages developed by FTA. Each year, MPO staff shall coordinate a joint allocation meeting with eligible agencies to confirm that the funding identified can be used by the agency and staff, and will use that information for recommendation to the TAC for final approval and distribution. MPO staff will coordinate this meeting once a funding apportionment is announced. Staff will also recommend approval of an amendment to the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP).

TAC Vote: Motion by: _____ **Second by:** _____

Vote: For _____ **Against** _____

The Federal Transit Administration Section 5339 program is a formula-based grant program to replace, rehabilitate and purchase buses and bus facilities. The program provides available federal resources to eligible direct recipients that operate fixed route bus services or that allocate funding to fixed route bus operators. The program originated through the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) which changed the program from discretionary to formula based. Funding is now designated to states and designated recipients in urbanized areas (200,000 people or more). The Winston Salem Urban Area received **\$580,567 in FY 2021**. The FY 2022 Federal Fiscal year began October 1, 2021. Staff is bringing this item for information so that when FTA announces the FY 2022 Section 5339 funding availability, there will not be a delay in allocating these funds therefore expediting the application process through FTA.

MPO staff will bring an item for final approval of allocation once a funding apportionment is announced. Staff will also recommend approval of an amendment to the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP).