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2025 Section 5310 Application
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Description Area	FY2024-2025 Application Section 5310: Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program
Description Area	
Description Area	Application instructions
Description Area	Application Due: April 24, 2025 at NoonIf you have any questions, please contact Fluturi Demirovski at Fluturi.Demirovski@rtachicago.org or 312-913-3239 or Robert Morris at Robert.Morris@rtachicago.org or 312-913-3236Welcome to the FY2024-2025 Application for the Section 5310: Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program. Please follow the instructions and complete all information on the following pages to apply. If you need to take a break from your application, please click "Save and Resume Later." You will be provided with a link to copy or email to yourself where you can resume your application anytime within 30 days.The final step of this application includes several documents to be downloaded, signed, and re-uploaded as part of your application. Please complete this step before submitting your Section 5310 application.Learn more about the Section 5310 Program and view previously selected projects at https://www.rtachicago.org/region/section-5310 .

Description Area	Applicant Information
Project Title	Grundy Transit System
Applicant's Legal Name	County of Grundy
Contact Person	Amanda Olvera
Address	245 N IL Route 47 Morris, IL 60450
Telephone #	(815) 941-6769
Email	aolvera@grundycountyil.gov
Applicant Fiscal Year Begins	December
Applicant Fiscal Year Ends	November
SAM #	5G6H7
Request Type (Check all that apply)	Operating Mobility Management New Project
Organization type (Check all that apply)	Local Govt.

Description Area	Section 1: Applicant questions
Description Area	The following questions should be answered for all projects, unless otherwise noted.1. Check what goal(s) from the Human Services Transportation Plan(HSTP) and strategies from the On To 2050 Plan this project is designed to address to meet the needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities (check all applicable boxes below):
Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP)	Goal #1 - Establish Mobility Mgmt and Travel Training Network (pg 71) Goal #2 - Expand Service Areas and Hours (pg 74) Goal #7 - Explore Collaboration/ Consolidation of Similar Services (pg 81)
On To 2050 Plan	Facilitate Partnerships for Service Sharing and Consolidation Ensure Equitable Transit Access Improve the effectiveness and accessibility of demand response services
Description Area	Details: Human Services Transportation Plan
Description Area	Details: On To 2050 Plan

2. Provide a detailed description of your project. Explain what you are requesting funding to provide; why the project is needed; and how the project will support strategies for goals selected in questions #1. Please be concise. (Project Description Narrative [+/- 500 words]):

The Grundy Transit System, also known as GTS, is the demand-response community program for Grundy County. GTS services are provided for the general public with a special emphasis on transportation for senior citizens and persons with disabilities. GTS operates 14 ADA-accessible paratransit vehicles. GTS is administered and operated by the County of Grundy.

Demand-response services are available Monday - Friday from 6 am - 6 pm, except for federal holidays. Fares range from \$4 - \$8 per one-way trip. GTS buses operate throughout all of Grundy County with delivery points to portions of Will County, IL.

The County of Grundy is requesting funding to provide mobility management and expansion of service hours.

Goal #1 - Establish Mobility Management and Travel Training Network

GTS plans to hire a part-time mobility manager to support the GTS office with the following needs:

- Travel trainings
- Attending community outreach events
- Coordination of linked trips

These functions are currently being carried out by current GTS staff. Hiring a part-time mobility manager will allow GTS to provide more focus on senior riders and persons with disabilities.

Goal #2 - Expand Service Areas and Hours

GTS plans to provide expansion of service hours in two phases:

- Phase One: Expand weekday services from 6 am - 6 pm to 5 am to 7 pm
- Phase Two: Offer Saturday service hours from 8 am - 2 pm

These expanded service hours will allow GTS to address the needs that we are currently not meeting. Additional drivers will be hired to accommodate the additional service hours. Hiring additional drivers would give us the ability to support more employment ride requests and cut down on trip denials. Most of our trip denials are due to the high demand during peak hours.

Goal #7 - Explore Collaboration/Consolidation of Similar Services

GTS would hire a part-time Mobility Manager to explore services available to seniors and persons with disabilities in Grundy County and develop ways to coordinate those services. Collaboration and consolidation of similar services would make it easier for seniors and persons with disabilities since we would have an established relationship with the organization they are trying to get to or participate in.

3. What entity is currently or will operate the service? Does your agency enter into agreements with service providers? (Operating Projects Only)	Grundy County is the current operator of our demand response service and will continue to act as the operator. Yes, in the past we have entered into agreements with service providers.
4. How does this project improve access to other transportation services that go beyond the project's geographic boundary?	We currently dedicate staff time making connections with other transit systems. By being able to hire a Mobility Manager we would have a dedicated staff member responsible for connecting more regularly. Linked trips have occurred with KAT (Kendall Area Transit) and NCAT (North Central Area Transit in LaSalle County). GTS participates in HSTP programs for downstate Region 3.
5. How will seniors and individuals with disabilities be given priority on all project activities, if the service is not limited to those individuals?	GTS is a general public transportation service as a recipient of 5311 funding. GTS has overwhelmingly served seniors and persons with disabilities as part of the service demand. Seniors and persons with disabilities will be given priority and that a minimum of 50% of GTS trips will be provided to those demographics. In FY 2024, 61% of our passenger trips were provided to senior and disabled populations. As a result, GTS views that 50% goal to be readily achievable.
6. Describe how the project will be marketed to serve seniors and individuals with disabilities and promote public awareness? Include information on how populations with Limited English Proficiency will be apprised of the project and whether marketing materials will be available in other languages.	Our project will be marketed to serve seniors and individuals with disabilities and promote public awareness by posting it on our website, social media pages, newspaper ad, announced on our monthly local radio spot and by distributing marketing materials to those who serve the target population. The most common non-English language spoken in the GTS service area is Spanish. All GTS marketing materials are offered in Spanish-language options. GTS has access to language translation services as well. We will make other language formats available upon request.
7. How will this project coordinate with public transportation providers and /or other human service agencies? If the project will not include coordination, provide a detailed explanation.	GTS maintains a relationship with surrounding transit providers and regularly communicates with these organizations regarding linked trip requests. GTS has built relationships with human service agencies that serve Grundy County and has developed service contracts with a number of these organizations. These social service agencies include We Care of Grundy County, PADS, Grundy County Special Ed Cooperative, Grundy County Health Department, among others.

8. Describe your organization's experience, technical ability, and capacity to successfully and efficiently manage federal grants? Identify which staff will be administering this grant and what experience they have managing federal grants. Please include the percentage of time the person(s) will spend managing this grant.

The County of Grundy has many years of organizational experience operating and successfully managing 5311 Rural Transit in Grundy County. We have administered Federal 5311 funds since GTS service began in 2012. In 2018 the County of Grundy took the service in-house and has self-managed the system since. In addition, we have managed and administered Title III B funds since 2024. Transit Director Amanda Olvera has been involved in all of the above since 2016 and will be administering this grant along with the Mobility Manager. 15% of the time will be spent on managing this grant.

Description Area

Mobility management consists of short-range planning and management activities and projects for improving coordination among public transportation and other transportation service providers carried out by a recipient or subrecipient through an agreement entered into with a person, including a government entity, under 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53 (other than Section 5309). Mobility management does not include operating public transportation services. Mobility Management used for staff position is intended to build coordination among existing public transportation provider and other transportation service providers with the result of expanding the availability of service.

9. Detail your Mobility Management efforts for your operating or capital project. This questions applies to all applicants, regardless of use of Section 5310 funding for Mobility Management.

GTS currently dedicates time building coordination among existing public transportation providers however this funding would allow us to hire a part-time Mobility Manager. By having a dedicated member of our staff, time to explore and build coordination would increase, they would also conduct travel trainings, coordinate linked trips with surrounding systems and organizations, and also attend community outreach events. The Mobility Manager would also be responsible for assisting in the administering of the program, invoice preparation and submittal, along with reporting preparation and submittal.

Description Area

Section 2: Performance measures

Description Area

This section details performance measures associated with each project type and Human Services Transportation Plan goal area. Performance measures will be used to monitor and assess each project’s progress, improvements and overall effectiveness towards improving transportation options for older adults and people with disabilities. Each applicant is required to provide baseline data and projections (where applicable) for each Human Services Transportation Plan goal area associated with the project application. Successful applicants will be required to report quarterly on each associated performance measure. Data will also be used to evaluate future Section 5310 project applications (for ongoing operating projects).

Description Area

Goal #1Establish Mobility Management and Travel Training Networks
DescriptionProjects that support this goal are largely tied to operating projects. Because of this, performance measures are tied to progress made with operating projects.
Potential Performance Measures:New partners added to Section 5310-funded operating projects.Increase in hours and geographic coverage of operating projects.

Please explain how you will collect and report on identified performance measures for this project and identify any additional performance measures that will be used.

GTS will use the Mobility Manager position to help identify service agreements with social service agencies that primarily support senior and disabled ridership. These performance measures can be tracked through the amount of new service agreements developed and ridership provided to those agencies and our existing agencies. Public outreach efforts can generally be tracked through new rider registrations and will be used as an additional measure of the program. The Mobility Manager will work with medical providers and local employers to promote projected increase in hours. These performance measures can be collected through ridership tracking during expanded operational hours.

Description Area

Number of partners

Existing 2024

4

Projected in 2025

4

Projected in 2026

5

Description Area

Section 2(Cont'd): Performance measures

Description Area

Goal #2Expand Service Areas and HoursDescriptionProjects that support this goal are operating projects, many of which are existing projects previously funded by Section 5310. Existing projects are expected to provide data (where available) for previous years as well as projections in each area. New project applications are required to provide projections only.Potential Performance Measures:Extend service area boundaries.Extend hours of operation for night/early morning.Current and projected ridership.

Please explain how you will collect and report on identified performance measures for this project and identify any additional performance measures that will be used. Please provide details on how you derived your projections (explain how you will extend service boundaries, hours of operation, and increase ridership).

Through GTS's scheduling system, data will be gathered monthly and evaluated to identify performance measures. Projections are based on existing ridership trends. By expanding our hours of operations on weekdays from 6 am - 6 pm to 5 am - 7 pm and expanding service to include weekend service on Saturdays during the hours of 7 am - 1 pm, we would see an increase in ridership due to the fact that we would be available to provide transportation for more hours in a week.

Description Area

Number of individuals to be served by your project annually

Description Area

Annual Ridership(All projects)

2023: Seniors 65 years of Age and Over (Projects Serving Seniors)

2342

2024: Seniors 65 years of Age and Over (Projects Serving Seniors)

2316

2025: Seniors 65 years of Age and Over (Projects Serving Seniors)

2334

2026: Seniors 65 years of Age and Over (Projects Serving Seniors)

2360

2023: Individuals with Disabilities 6050

2024: Individuals with Disabilities 6730

Projected 2025: Individuals with Disabilities	7548
Projected 2026: Individuals with Disabilities	8100
2023: General Public	7638
2024: General Public	8483
Projected 2025: General Public	6163
Projected 2026: General Public	6200
2023 Total	16030
2024: Total	17529
Projected 2025: Total	16045
Projected 2026: Total	16660
Description Area	Provide the days and hours of operation
Existing operating hours (2024)	Monday - Friday from 6 am - 6 pm
Projected expansion hours (2025)	Monday - Friday from 5 am - 7 pm
Projected Expansion Hours (2026)	Monday - Friday from 5 am - 7 pm Saturday from 7 am - 1 pm
Number of projected new riders with expanded hours	240
Description Area	Core service area: Specify municipal and county areas covered
Existing 2024	All of Grundy County and destinations to portions of Will County
Projected 2025	All of Grundy County and destinations to portions of Will County
Projected 2026	All of Grundy County and destinations to portions of Will County
Description Area	Special destination: Trips outside of core service area (if applicable)(Please list locations)
Existing 2024	Portions of Will County
Projected 2025	Portions of Will County
Projected 2026	Portions of Will County

Description Area	Inter-county transfers or services
List of Partners	KAT (Kendall County Transit) - Linked trips when needed
	NCAT (North Central Area Transit) - Linked trips when needed
Interagency Agreement	None
	None
County(s)	Kendall
	LaSalle

Description Area

Section 2(Cont'd): Goals

Description Area

Goal #3Coordinate Fare Media and Implement Capped Fares for Certain TripsDescription:Projects that support this goal are largely policy changes related to operating projects.Potential Performance Measures:Longer distance trips are more affordable.Number of agencies that accept the common fare media.New funding sources identified to support the reduction in fare revenue for longer-distance trips that are provided for a capped fare rate.

Please explain how you will collect and report on identified performance measures for this project and identify any additional performance measures that will be used.

N/A

Description Area

Goal #4Coordinate Volunteer Driver Support ProgramsDescription:Projects that support this goal are new or existing operating projects.Potential Performance Measures:Trip calls are converted from undeliverable turndowns (outside area or hours) to be filled by a volunteer.Stability of or growth of screened and trained volunteer driver pool.Volunteer hours of service.

Please explain how you will collect and report on identified performance measures for this project and identify any additional performance measures that will be used.

N/A

Description Area

Goal #7Explore Collaboration / Consolidation of Similar ServicesDescription:Projects that support this goal are planning projects or activities carried out by a mobility manager.Potential Performance Measures:Feasibility of collaboration among human service agencies is exploredIf determined to be more cost effective, agency transportation program administration functions will be consolidated.If determined to be more cost effective while preserving quality of service, vehicles will be purchased by a single lead agency and all trips will be scheduled and dispatched from a central office.Cost savings achieved through collaboration.Quality of service is maintained or improved after collaboration.Agencies secure funding to replace or partially replace ongoing Section 5310 program awards.

Please explain how you will collect and report on identified performance measures for this project and identify any additional performance measures that will be used.

GTS will use a part-time Mobility Manager to explore services in Grundy County that currently provide services for seniors and disabled. They will also develop ways to coordinate services to be more cost effective while maintaining the quality of service. Performance measures will be determined by agencies contacted and throughout service goals and plans developed.

Description Area

Goal #8 Establish Regional One Call / One Click
Service Description: Projects that support this goal are planning projects to conduct feasibility studies or capital funding to implement software. Potential Performance Measures: Total usage and frequency of usage by customers. Accuracy of transportation information. Types of trips planned. Customer satisfaction

Description Area

Goal #9 Create an Accessibility Infrastructure
Database Description: Projects that support this goal are planning projects to conduct data collection and or/ create a database. Potential Performance Measures: Completion of database. Percentage of regional inventoried / number of communities inventoried. Usage of database

Please explain how you will collect and report on identified performance measures for this project and identify any additional performance measures that will be used.

N/A

Description Area

Capital Infrastructure Projects Undertake a new Section 5310 related capital infrastructure project. Description: Projects that support this goal are capital projects that: a) Exceed the minimum ADA requirements, b) Improve access to fixed-route service and decrease reliance by individuals with disabilities on ADA-complementary paratransit service, or c) Provide alternatives to public transportation that assist seniors and individuals with disabilities with transportation. Potential Performance Measures: Number of riders impacted. Number of stations or bus stop facilities improved. Dollars spent on improvements

Please explain how you will collect and report on identified performance measures for this project and identify any additional performance measures that will be used.

N/A

For CTA, Metra, and Pace Applications Only - Please describe how you will incorporate regional rider needs and interagency collaboration into your proposed project. For example, digital signage showing information for all agency services at locations with interagency transfers.

N/A

Description Area	Section 3: Budget requestIf a funding source is not applicable respond with "0."
Description Area	Operating expense year 1 request
Description Area	Operating expense year 2 request
Operating Year 1 Federal 50%	60000
Operating Year 1 Local 50%	60000
Operating Year 2 Federal 50%	65000
Operating Year 2 Local 50%	65000
Description Area	Capital expense year 1 request(Infrastructure improvements computer software/hardware, cameras, tracking or routing software, etc.)
Description Area	Capital expense year 2 request(Infrastructure improvements computer software/hardware, cameras, tracking or routing software, etc.)
Capital Year 1 Federal 80%	0
Capital Year 1 Local 20%	0
Capital Year 1 Federal 80%	0
Capital Year 2 Local 20% Match	0
Description Area	Mobility management expense year 1 request
Description Area	Mobility management expense year 2 request
Mobility Year 1 Federal 80%	49600
Mobility Year 1 Local 20%	12400
Mobility Year 2 Federal 80%	52560
Mobility Year 2 Local 20%	13140

Provide the detailed methodology used to develop the above budgets. (applies to all applicants).

Budget methodology was based on historical RTA grant award announcements in relation to local match (as revenue) and further compared to GTS program operational expenses. 5310 funds will help to underwrite GTS' overall operating costs, these budget numbers correlate to our overall transportation program expenses that are supported through additional funding sources such as 5311, State of Illinois Downstate Operating Assistance (DOAP), Title III B, and local contributions. The budget allocation was calculated from the percentage trips in the eligible area. The percentage of trips in the eligible area was then used to calculate the price per ride.

Description Area	Certifications & Board Resolutions
Description Area	Please download and fill out the forms listed below. You can download the PDF versions of the listed forms here. Local Share Certification &nbsp; Certifying Authority &nbsp; Title VI Plan Certification (New Applicants Only) &nbsp; EEO Certification Single Agency Audit Certification &nbsp; Traditional Project Certification Eligibility-Units of Local Government (New Applicants Only) Private Non-Profit Organizations-Certification Eligibility &nbsp; Approved Board Resolution (authorizing application submittal and name of authorized official)
File	https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/17912937968
Please provide an explanation for any certificates that are not completed and uploaded with the application	Resolution is expected to be signed at the June 10th Grundy County Board Meeting. Due to the holiday the Transit Department's oversight committee meeting in April was cancelled. The Resolution must go to the oversight committee first and then forwarded on to the full board meeting for approval.