

Form Name:
Submission Time:
Browser:
IP Address:
Unique ID:
Location:

2025 Section 5310 Application
April 24, 2025 12:35 pm
Chrome 135.0.0.0 / Windows
68.21.116.254
1337869704
42.3122, -88.4418

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	McHenry County Transportation Programs
Applicant's Legal Name	Scott Hennings
Contact Person	Scott Hennings
Address	16111 Nelson Road Woodstock, IL 60098
Telephone #	(815) 334-4985
Email	SAHennings@mchenrycountyil.gov
Applicant Fiscal Year Begins	December
Applicant Fiscal Year Ends	November
SAM #	47T96
Request Type (Check all that apply)	Operating Mobility Management Existing 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 #2 - Expand Service Areas and Hours (pg 74) Goal #4 - Coordinate Volunteer Driver Support Programs (pg 76) 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 Transit providers, local governments, and the private sector should work together to explore new ways to provide targeted, flexible and/or on-demand service in EDAs, low density areas, and for seniors and people with disabilities
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]):

MCRide is an existing program which provides coordinated dial-a-ride service to individuals with at least one disability that limits or prohibits their ability to drive, older adults who are 60 years and over, and members of the general public. Riders are served through a contract between the County of McHenry and Pace Suburban Bus. Pace contracts with First Transit for bus and mobility management/Call Center operations, as well as with taxi companies to supplement the bus fleet.

MCRide is a curb-to-curb, demand response service that operates seven days of the week, currently from 5:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Service is provided to all municipalities and townships within McHenry County and seven-point destinations outside of the County. There are no limitations on trip purpose.

In January 2023, MCRide hours of operation were expanded, with the service operating from 5:00 am to 11:00 pm every day of the week. Ideally, our program would continue to expand its hours of operation to 24 hours of a day according to the demand for such expansion. These improvements to the program are in accordance with both Goal #2, as specified within the Human Services Transportation Plan.

MCDOT has maintained a very successful relationship with several non-profit transportation services, most notably the Senior Care Volunteer Network (SCVN). In addition to sharing staff time and resources, MCDOT currently funds this program with direct support for this transportation program. By operating independently from the MCRide program, the SCVN can provide unique transportation options that best suit their clients individual transit needs. Most recently, MCDOT has partnered with the McHenry County Specialty Court (Drug Court, Mental Health Court, DUI Court) for client transportation services to reduce recidivism and to make the community safer while saving taxpayer resources. As more non-profits and subsequent transportation programs are created and identified by staff, we will continue to help share data, marketing materials, and refer residents to these new services, in hopes of pairing residents with the most appropriate transit option. These symbiotic relationships represent meeting the criteria within Goal #4 & Goal #7.

MCRide Connect is a rideshare access program that utilizes Uber and UZURV to complete subsidized trips to eligible users in the 6-county region. All users must have an active RTA Reduced Fare or Ride Free card and a McHenry County resident to be eligible. This program meets the criteria of providing programming in low density areas for seniors and people with a disability.

3. What entity is currently or will operate the service? Does your agency enter into agreements with service providers? (Operating Projects Only)

While McHenry County Division of Transportation provides in-person support, financial resources and administrative assistance for the program, Pace Suburban Bus operates the service by providing and ensuring the rolling stock, and contracts a third-party, First Transit, to provide staff to operate the service, and other operational assistance. This collaborative partnership has been in place since the inception of the program in 2010. The partnership between the two entities represents a strong community relationship to provide vital transit offerings to residents that rely on the service to travel freely within their communities.

In August 2024, MCDOT entered into an agreement with Pace for a rideshare access program. This program, MCRide Connect, subsidizes trips for eligible users, including seniors and individuals with a disability, with certain transportation network companies. MCDOT provides financial resources and administrative assistance and support.

4. How does this project improve access to other transportation services that go beyond the project's geographic boundary?

MCRide has full coverage within McHenry County, access to four different adjacent counties, with service connecting to several others transit services, including service up to the Wisconsin state border. There are seven points outside of McHenry County, at popular medical, recreational, and commercial locations to further expanding the efficiency of the program.

The MCRide service directly links to three Metra stations on two different lines, four Pace fixed routes, and eight other dial-a-ride services in adjacent counties outside of MCRide's coverage area.

MCRide Connect geographic boundaries expand to the six-county regions of Lake, DuPage, Cook, McHenry, Will and Kane.

5. How will seniors and individuals with disabilities be given priority on all project activities, if the service is not limited to those individuals?

MCRide Dial-a-Ride is not restricted to a certain demographic, regardless of age or disability. However, many policies within the MCRide program encourage transit dependent populations to utilize the MCRide service, including reduced fares and additional reservation considerations.

For all rides taken on the MCRide service, reservations are required to be made at least two hours in advance, when capacity allows. When reserving rides for Seniors (60+) and Individuals with Disabilities, rides can be reserved up to seven (7) days in advance. Reservations for the General Public can be made two (2) days in advance. This policy prioritizes finding space on MCRide buses for the most transit-dependent demographics within McHenry County.

MCRide Connect requires that eligible users have an active RTA Discounted Fare or Ride Free Card. Eligible seniors and residents with disabilities must register to MCRide Connect using their permit information, thereby ensuring that the program prioritizes these individuals.

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.

MCDOT continually educates on MCRide to individuals, agencies and special-interest organizations. Staff markets to potential program users and to social service agencies that work with targeted populations. Staff presents and tables with organizations and events, including the People in Need Forum, senior centers, transition programs, libraries, veterans groups, etc. Through the Public Transportation Advisory Committee (PTAC), staff educates human service agencies and local government, and they market to their own communities. The Public Transportation Advisory Committee is comprised of members from local communities, non-profits, and transit partners from the County that provide valuable input to enhance the public transportation network. MCDOT utilizes social media, mass e-mails/newsletters, and explain the system to new users and garner feedback. Brochures, Rider Guides and service area maps are regularly updated and distributed.

After English, Spanish is the most common language spoken in McHenry County. MCRide brochures are available in Spanish. The County has a Title VI program for Spanish-speaking clients.

All MCRide Connect marketing materials are available in English and Spanish. Transportation network companies utilized in the program, including Uber, offer users a multi-lingual platform, with the option to book trips with Spanish-speaking drivers.

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.

The McHenry County Public Transportation Advisory Committee (PTAC) meets quarterly to advance transit service coordination, improvement, and expansion in the County. MCRide and MCRide Connect are primary topics addressed at PTAC meetings. PTAC attendees represent: Senior Care Volunteer Network, Senior Services, Pioneer Center for Human Services, Services for the Blind & Visually Impaired, Center for Independent Living, Continuum of Care to End Homelessness, Bicycle Advocates, Pace, Metra, RTA, McHenry County College, McHenry County Department of Health, McHenry County Planning & Development, McHenry County Council of Mayors, Visit McHenry County, Mental Health Board, townships, and municipalities.

To further support human service agencies' transportation needs, Universal Fare Cards are sold to provide trips on MCRide without the need to transfer cash to clients. To date, over 35,000 fare cards have been sold to local non-profits and government agencies for use on MCRide. Some of the organizations that have purchased fare cards include the McHenry County Crisis Program, 22nd Circuit Court Specialty Courts, Home of the Sparrow, Turning Point, Pioneer Center, Salvation Army, Family Health Partnership, Good Samaritan Ministry, Epilepsy Foundation, McHenry County Probation/Court Services, and Harvard Senior Center.

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.

Each year, the McHenry County Division of Transportation administers a significant amount of federal funds for various transportation projects throughout the department. Some of these funding sources include, but are limited to, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ); Federal STP (STP-L, STP-C, STP-Bridge); Unified Work Program (UWP); and/or Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). The department has become well-versed in the administrative, public engagement, financial allocation, and/or the reporting requirements that come along with the Federal, State, and local funds granted to our department's projects. In addition, MCDOT has successfully administered the Section 5310 program funds for many years, as well as the JARC and New Freedom funds before that. MCDOT intends to hire a designated Mobility Manager who will manage the 5310 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.

MCDOT has recently transferred funds from our existing grant (S5310-2021-15) to hire a new staff member to assist with invoicing, reporting, fare card management, answering calls, and other program-related tasks. Approximately 50% of their responsibilities will be related to 5310 grant activities. The McHenry County Board approved the new full-time position as part of the FY2025 budget.

Description AreaSection 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 #1 Establish Mobility Management and Travel Training Networks
Description Projects 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.

Description Area

Number of partners

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).

As MCRide expanded its geographic coverage to the entirety of McHenry County in January 2021, there are no additional municipalities or townships to be included in the service area. MCRide expanded operating hours in January 2023, which have provided expanded transportation options for those working non-traditional working hours, off-peak medical appointments, and/or provide a viable option to prevent potential DUI's and the dangers they present. Staff has tracked ridership during the new hours of operation and has determined an increase in ridership in these new hours of operation.

MCRide Connect ridership is regularly reviewed, as the service extends outside of McHenry County's geographic region. Ridership is regularly reported to the county Transportation Committee, Public Transportation Committee. Staff has also provided a report to the RTA Citizens Advisory Board.

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)

28400

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

26700

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

27600

2026: Seniors 65 years of Age and Over (Projects Serving Seniors)	27600
2023: Individuals with Disabilities	49700
2024: Individuals with Disabilities	46700
Projected 2025: Individuals with Disabilities	48200
Projected 2026: Individuals with Disabilities	48200
2023: General Public	16300
2024: General Public	14700
Projected 2025: General Public	15500
Projected 2026: General Public	15500
2023 Total	94400
2024: Total	88100
Projected 2025: Total	91300
Projected 2026: Total	91300
Description Area	Provide the days and hours of operation
Existing operating hours (2024)	MCRide Dial-a-Ride: 5 AM - 11 PM; MCRide Connect: Every day, all hours
Projected expansion hours (2025)	MCRide Dial-a-Ride: 5 AM - 11 PM; MCRide Connect: Every day, all hours
Projected Expansion Hours (2026)	MCRide Dial-a-Ride: 5 AM - 11 PM; MCRide Connect: Every day, all hours
Description Area	Core service area: Specify municipal and county areas covered
Existing 2024	MCRide Dial-a-Ride: McHenry County plus 7 point destinations; MCRide Connect: 6-county region

Projected 2025	MCRide Dial-a-Ride: McHenry County plus 7 point destinations;
	MCRide Connect: 6-county region
Projected 2026	MCRide Dial-a-Ride: McHenry County plus 7 point destinations;
	MCRide Connect: 6-county region
Description Area	Special destination: Trips outside of core service area (if applicable)(Please list locations)
Description Area	Inter-county transfers or services

Description AreaSection 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.

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.

Staff have been instructed to direct riders over the age of 60 that cannot afford the MCRide service and/or need transportation outside of the program's hours of operation to the Senior Care Volunteer Network (SCVN). SCVN offers free transportation to Seniors (60+) in personal vehicles driven by other Seniors, all of which are volunteers. MCDOT provides annual financial resources to this program, as the department sees great value in offering different transportation options to residents. Staff monitors the number of residents that are referred to this service and request that SCVN monitor the number of riders that are referred to MCRide by their organization.

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 explored.If 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.

Description Area	Goal #8Establish Regional One Call / One Click ServiceDescription: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 #9Create an Accessibility Infrastructure DatabaseDescription:Projects that support this goal are planning projects to conduct data collection and or/ create a database.Potential Performance Measures:Completion of databasePercentage of regional inventoried / number of communities inventoriedUsage of database
Description Area	Capital Infrastructure ProjectsUndertake 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, orc) Provide alternatives to public transportation that assist seniors and individuals with disabilities with transportation.Potential Performance Measures:Number of riders impactedNumber of stations or bus stop facilities improvedDollars spent on improvements

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%	1210000
Operating Year 1 Local 50%	1210000
Operating Year 2 Federal 50%	1210000
Operating Year 2 Local 50%	1210000
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%	60000
Mobility Year 1 Local 20%	15000
Mobility Year 2 Federal 80%	60000
Mobility Year 2 Local 20%	15000

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

MCRide Dial-a-Ride budget was developed based on McHenry County's appropriated amount, which totals to approximately \$2.5 million. The County's MCRide budget is calculated based on historical ridership data and cost per trip, in addition to projected ridership. 5310-eligible rides make up approximately 80-85% of the total program rides.

McHenry County has appropriated \$420,000 for the MCRide Connect program. Staff is requesting a 50% federal share of operating expenses. MCRide Connect trips are provided to seniors and individuals with a disability.

Mobility management expenses were calculated on an 80/20 federal and local match. Budget is based on County salary grade for the described position.

MCRide Federal Request: \$1,000,000 per year

MCRide Connect Federal Request: \$210,000 per year

Mobility Management Federal Request: \$60,000 per year

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 & Certifying Authority & Title VI Plan Certification (New Applicants Only) & EEO Certification Single Agency Audit Certification & Traditional Project Certification Eligibility-Units of Local Government (New Applicants Only) Private Non-Profit Organizations-Certification Eligibility & Approved Board Resolution (authorizing application submittal and name of authorized official)
File	https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/17913739440
Please provide an explanation for any certificates that are not completed and uploaded with the application	Authorized official expected to sign forms in May, when resolution is passed through County Board on May 20. Forms will be submitted shortly after. Resolution and Title VI Plan included in packet.