



2008 TransNet Mini-Grant Fact Sheet

“Specialized transportation services for seniors focusing on innovative and cost-effective approaches to providing improved senior transportation.”

– TransNet Extension Ordinance

SANDAG

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2008 TransNet Extension

Senior Transportation Mini-Grant Program

The recent extension of the *TransNet* ½ cent transportation sales tax for San Diego County includes a mini-grant program for specialized transportation services for seniors. *TransNet* designates 3.25 percent of the total 16.5% in annual *TransNet* transit operating and capital funding for the senior mini-grant program. This will yield approximately \$1.0 million when the program begins in 2008.

Background

The mini-grant program grew out of recommendations from SANDAG's Senior Access Task Force. The Task Force, composed of Chairman Jack Feller,



Oceanside Councilmember, Poway Councilmember Bob Emery, and Coronado Councilmember Phil Monroe, reviewed the need for senior transportation programs and proposed actions to address the identified needs. In March 2004, the SANDAG Transportation Committee adopted the Task Force recommendations to pursue short, mid, and long-term programs to improve senior transportation services in the region, as described below:

- Short-Term program consists of two parts: (a) an educational component on existing services and (b) technical assistance to pilot transportation programs initiated by nonprofit agencies and local jurisdictions.
- Mid-Term program to develop an Action Plan to analyze needs for seniors' transportation in the region, identify gaps and deficiencies, and develop more comprehensive programs to meet the needs.
- Long-Term program to using *TransNet* program funds to continue the discounted monthly pass for seniors and establishing a mini-grant program to fund supplemental seniors' transportation services throughout the region.

Work completed to date

At this point, staff has completed the short-term program; developing a Senior Transportation Fact Sheet as a part of the educational component and dedicating staff time to monitor and offer technical assistance to the three pilot transportation projects.

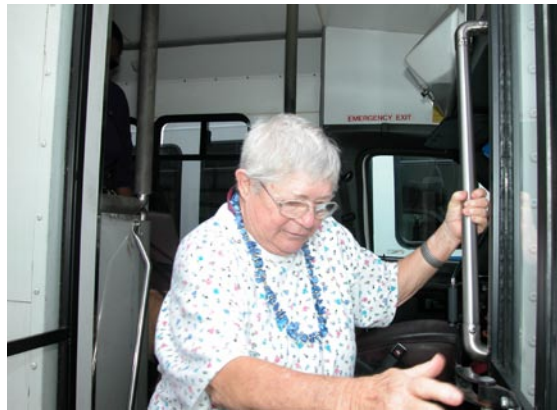


A report was produced regarding the merits of these service concepts and was presented at the December 10, 2004 Transportation Committee meeting.

The *TransNet* Extension ordinance states that the mini-grant program funds “shall be used to provide specialized transportation services for seniors focusing on innovative and cost-effective approaches to providing improved senior transportation, including, but not limited to, shared group services, special shuttle services using volunteer forces, and brokerage of multi-jurisdictional transportation services”.

Next Steps

In FY 2006, staff will initiate the Mid-Term Program Action Plan, which will include development of criteria, specifications, and processes for implementing the mini-grant program and awarding funds. *TransNet* funding for the mini-grant program will be available in FY 2009. Funds will be awarded through a competitive grant process. As a regional agency, SANDAG will consider transportation services that address the transportation needs of seniors in all parts of the region for distribution of mini-grant funds.



For more information about *TransNet* programs visit www.sandag.org.

