



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of September 26, 2009**

DATE: August 20, 2009

SUBJECT: Accept and manage a regional \$3,150,000 FY 2007 Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) Subway Tunnel Response & Rescue grant from the National Capital Region (NCR) Senior Policy Group and Chief Administrative Officers.

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

Accept and manage the regional FY 2007 UASI Subway Tunnel Response & Rescue grant from the National Capital Region (NCR) Senior Policy Group and Chief Administrative Officers (794.91261).

ISSUE: There are no issues associated with this regional grant.

SUMMARY: The grant provides funding to develop a comprehensive exercise program to evaluate all local, state, and federal agencies' response to a subway incident and to initiate and oversee the manufacture of Emergency Tunnel Carts. The goal is that all agencies responsible for response and/or recovery of a subway incident will be properly trained and outfitted for an optimal outcome.

BACKGROUND: The FY 2006 UASI grant provided a standardized training package for all agencies with Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) responsibilities, a cache of supplies needed by responders in the tunnels, and a prototype battery-operated emergency tunnel cart to facilitate ingress and egress from an incident site. The FY 2007 UASI grant is follow-on to the FY 2006 grant.

DISCUSSION: Mass transit systems pose easy and high profile targets for terrorist groups. This has been demonstrated in Moscow, London, Madrid, and India. Improper handling of these incidents further enhances the terrorist agenda by denying the public access to a very important component of the local infrastructure.

This UASI grant is part of a multi-year plan to enhance the region's first responders' abilities to respond effectively to an incident involving the WMATA rail system. This initiative addresses specific NCR weaknesses identified in the national priorities and serves to increase the priority capabilities of a WMD/Hazardous Materials Response and Decontamination.

County Manager: _____

County Attorney: _____

Staff: James Schwartz, Fire Department

This grant provides funding for the procurement of 26 motorized emergency tunnel carts for the region. These carts will be strategically positioned within the system to enable a cart to be placed in service by the initial responders. This will allow for rapid access to remote locations to begin reconciliation operations, as well as to allow responders quick egress if the situation becomes untenable.

This grant also provides funding for three functional exercises to be conducted to allow all jurisdictions to participate. The exercises will simulate the bombings in London in July, 2007. The exercises will involve fire, rescue, EMS, and law enforcement. All three exercises will be captured on video. The videos will be used to develop tabletop exercises for the area emergency managers as well as regional transportation managers. An After Action Report will be developed to include all exercises as well as a segment on best practices that showcases what the region has done to enhance subway responses using UASI funds.

FISCAL IMPACT: All expenses associated with the purchase of the motorized carts and the exercises will be paid for with grant funds. Any on-going maintenance costs for the motorized carts will be paid for by WMATA.