



## ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item  
Meeting of September 17, 2011**

**DATE:** August 26, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Authorization to enter into a Transit Security Grant Program Agreement between the County Board and the Department of Homeland Security and the Transportation Security Administration for the Arlington Transit (ART) Program Federal Funds and Appropriation of Such Funds.

**C. M. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Authorize the Transit Security Grant Program Agreement between the County Board and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), and other required documents, for use of FFY 2011 Federal Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP) Funds, subject to approval of such Agreement and documents as to form by the County Attorney, and accept any funds awarded.
2. Authorize the County Manager or her designee to execute the grant agreement between DHS and Arlington County.
3. Appropriate \$235,522 in grant revenues (101.374900) to the Department of Environmental Services (101.438200.41103) for the ART program.

**ISSUES:** County Board authorization is needed to enter into a grant agreement and accept federal grant funds. No issues have been identified.

**SUMMARY:** The County has been awarded federal grant funds to develop a System Security Plan (SSP), Emergency Response Plan (ERP), and System Safety Program Plan (SSPP) for ART.

**BACKGROUND:** Since its inception in 1998, ART has become an essential transportation provider for residents and visitors of Arlington County and service levels have grown. This investment will allow ART to continue the progress it has made by increasing its security awareness, developing emergency preparation procedures, and protecting riders and the integrity of its expanding transit system.

DHS notified the County of its intent to award the above referenced grant funds on August 24, 2011. The Grant Agreement will not be available in final form until mid-September 2011 for

County Manager:

County Attorney:

Staff: Ramon Paez, DES Transportation

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review by the County Attorney. DHS requires execution of the grant agreement prior to the end of the 2011 federal fiscal year on September 30, 2011.

**DISCUSSION:** The purpose of this grant award is to fund the implementation of the recommended actions provided in the Baseline Assessments and Security Enhancement (BASE) review of the ART system conducted by TSA's Surface Transportation Security Inspection Program (STIP) in October 2010. This BASE Review identified actions for continued progress regarding ART's security awareness program. These actions include creating a System Security Plan (SSP), Emergency Response Plan (ERP), and System Safety Program Plan (SSPP) for ART. These actions are standard protocol recommended by TSA for providers of state and local public transportation services.

The SSP will establish goals and objectives for a security program that will include security and emergency operations procedures for ART. The ERP will contain policies and procedures for responding to emergency events and include a Continuity of Operations Plan and Business Recovery Plan. Finally, the SSPP will contain or reference documents describing the process ART will use to develop an approved, coordinated schedule for all emergency management program activities, including local/regional emergency planning and participation in exercises and drills.

These plans provide the County with an opportunity to enhance the ART system by strengthening its security awareness and contributing to the welfare and safety of the public. Development and implementation of these plans will direct resources in the proper direction and allow County staff to continue to focus countermeasures on programs that can reduce risks and mitigate the outcomes of an incident. Additionally, these plans will provide documented plans, procedures, and protocols for the management of security incidents by ART and coordinate response to security events with public safety agencies.

Future TSGP federal fiscal grants will be requested to implement training activities associated with the plans such as:

- employee security and incident response training
- emergency management program activities such as participation in emergency field preparedness exercises
- emergency exercises to include local law enforcement, firefighters and emergency management staff

In addition, ART anticipates requesting future TSGP funding for capital purchases and implementing capital projects, as identified in the plans, to further strengthen the ART system and make it safer for commuters and the general public.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** FY 2012 ART operating expenses will increase by \$235,522, which is completely offset by the federal grant revenue. There are no local match requirements for this grant.