



## ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item  
Meeting of October 18, 2008**

**DATE:** October 2, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Authorize Execution of Arlington County Commuter Services Program Grant Contracts and Appropriate Grant Funds

**C. M. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Approve the attached two Project Agreements between the County Board and Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Rail and Public Transportation in the amounts of \$1,097,000 and \$1,171,000, and authorize the County Manager to execute the Agreements and other required documents for use of Commonwealth Transportation Funds FY 2009, subject to approval of such Agreements and documents as to form by the County Attorney.
2. Approve the attached Project Agreement between the County Board and Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Rail and Public Transportation, in the form attached hereto, and other required documents for use of Federal Highway Administration Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Funds FY 2007 CM-5401(657), subject to approval of such agreement and documents as to form by the County Attorney, and accept any funds awarded.
3. Approve the attached Project Agreement between the County Board and Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Rail and Public Transportation, in the form attached hereto, and other required documents for use of Federal Highway Administration Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Funds FY 2008 CM-5401(657), subject to approval of such agreement and documents as to form by the County Attorney, and accept any funds awarded.
4. Appropriate \$1,086,000 in grant revenues (\$175,000 for 101.346000.41150; \$100,000 for 101.346001.41150; \$296,000 for 101.346002.41150; \$515,000 for 101.346004.41150) to the FY 2009 Commuter Services Program, Transportation Planning (101.456000.41150).

**ISSUES:** Additional State and Federal funds cannot be accepted and appropriated for specified activities until these recommendations are approved.

**SUMMARY:** The Arlington County Commuter Services (“ACCS”) program is funded primarily using State and Federal transportation funds. Each year, ACCS staff submits grant applications to fund various projects and programs that influence people to increase use of

County Manager: \_\_\_\_\_

County Attorney: \_\_\_\_\_

Staff: Paul E. Culver, Dept. of Environmental Services – Transportation Division

transportation options such as transit, walking, bicycling, car/vanpooling, carsharing, and telecommuting. The Project Agreements recommended for execution have been approved by the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (“DRPT”) and funds on-going operational/marketing expenses and two special County projects:

- Rebuilding Commuterpage.com websites, and
- Technical Assistance for monitoring and evaluation of ACCS program.

**BACKGROUND:** On an annual basis, grant applications for the ACCS program are considered by the County Board in January or February, at which time resolutions are adopted authorizing application to the State for grant funding. The fiscal year (“FY”) 2009 applications were filed and DRPT approved the Commonwealth Transportation funding in the amount of \$1,171,000 on July 1, 2008. The FY 2007 and 2008 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (“CMAQ”) grant applications were considered by the County Board at its September 17, 2005 and September 16, 2006 meetings, respectively. The applications were filed; however, the grants were delayed by DRPT and the Virginia Department of Transportation until September 23, 2008.

**DISCUSSION:** Attached are four grant agreements that need approval for execution to help fund ACCS. The “Project Agreement for Use of Commonwealth Transportation Funds Fiscal Year 2009” for \$1,171,000 funds two special projects and other on-going program expenses. This Agreement has three funding elements: Transportation Efficiency Improvement Fund (“TEIF”) Rideshare Assistance, Technical Assistance, and TEIF Other. The TEIF Rideshare Assistance is an annual funding source for on-going operational and marketing expenses of ACCS. This fiscal year’s award is \$700,000 and requires a 20-percent local match of \$175,000. Technical Assistance is another funding source, which was approved for additional research needed to complete an evaluation of ACCS programs to quantify their transportation and air-quality impacts. A total of \$175,000 was awarded and requires a 50-percent local match of \$175,000. The TEIF Other funds rebuilding the CommuterPage.com websites. A total of \$296,000 was awarded and requires a 20-percent local match of \$74,000.

The other three grant agreements for approval are the “Agreement for the use of Federal Highway Administration Congestion Mitigation Air Quality – Fiscal Year 2007” for \$1,988,000, the “Agreement for the use of Federal Highway Administration Congestion Mitigation Air Quality – Fiscal Year 2008” for \$2,400,000, and the “Project Agreement for Use of Commonwealth Transportation Funds Fiscal Year 2009” for \$1,097,000. These grant funds are used to fund the majority of the on-going operational and marketing expenses of ACCS.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The total grant funds awarded to Arlington County Commuter Services (ACCS) for the grants discussed in this board report is \$6,656,000 (see table on following page), of which \$5,570,000 has already been approved by the County Board.

| <b>FY</b> | <b>Grant</b> | <b>County Board<br/>Approved ACCS<br/>Spending</b> | <b>Awarded<br/>by State</b> | <b>Difference</b> |
|-----------|--------------|--|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 2007      | CMAQ         | \$2,485,000  | \$2,485,000                 | \$0               |
| 2008      | CMAQ         | \$2,485,000  | \$3,000,000                 | \$515,000         |
| 2009      | Rideshare    | \$600,000  | \$700,000                   | \$100,000         |
| 2009      | TEIF         | \$0  | \$296,000                   | \$296,000         |
| 2009      | Tech Asst    | <u>\$0</u>   | <u>\$175,000</u>            | <u>\$175,000</u>  |
|           |              | \$5,570,000  | \$6,656,000                 | \$1,086,000       |

For FY 2009, it is recommended that the County Board appropriate an additional \$1,086,000 in State transportation grant monies to fund TEIF Rideshare Assistance, Technical Assistance (Research), and TEIF (Website Rebuild) projects. Execution of the FY 2007 & FY 2008 CMAQ grants will also initiate reimbursement with the State for prior year expenses.