



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

May 16, 2025

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

Re: Acceptance of NYSDOT Section 5310 award of four new vehicles for Senior Services

Dear Honorable Members:

The attached resolution requests authorization for the Department of Senior Services to acquire, through the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), four new mini-buses, to replace aging vehicles in the Department's Going Places fleet. NYSDOT awarded the Department \$253,987.20 of 2023 Federal 5310 Enhanced Mobility funds to cover 80% of the cost of the mini-buses, which NYSDOT will purchase for the Department through a NY State Office of General Services purchasing contract.

Due to the recent freeze on Federal funds, the passage of this resolution does not guarantee its execution. I have directed the Office of Budget and Management to closely monitor and place holds on certain Federal contracts so that no significant cost is accrued by Erie County while the freeze by the Trump administration is resolved.

Should your Honorable Body require any further information, I encourage you to contact Commissioner Randall Hoak in the Department of Senior Services. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mark C. Poloncarz", is written over a blue circular stamp that partially overlaps the signature.

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/mrc

Enclosure

cc: Randall Hoak, Commissioner, Department of Senior Services

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Senior Services
Re: Acceptance of NYSDOT Section 5310 award of four new vehicles for
Senior Services
Date: May 16, 2025

SUMMARY

Approve the attached resolution to allow the Department of Senior Services to contract with the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) to accept \$253,987.20 of federal funds to cover 80% of the cost of four new replacement mini-buses which NYSDOT will purchase for the Department's Going Places fleet. The Department has funds available in its 163CSE2526 grant to cover the \$69,846 local share of the purchase price.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No additional County share is needed. The Department's 163CSE2526 grant's Motor Vehicle account (#561440) has appropriations available to cover the \$69,846 County cost for the 20% share (plus a 10% contingency fee to cover possible cost increases) of the purchase of the four vehicles.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Going Places transportation program provides older adults, who have no other means of transportation, with rides to medical appointments, grocery shopping, and senior centers for congregate meals. The Department of Senior Services performs the central dispatch function for the program, which is a partnership with Erie County municipalities and subcontracted transportation service providers.

Erie County's aging population is growing and projects to be over 300,000 residents above the age of 60 by 2030. The need for transportation services is also expected to grow and these grant funds will assist in meeting this need.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

NYSDOT periodically awards these federal transportation monies through a competitive application process to governmental and not-for-profit entities operating transportation programs for either elderly and/or disabled individuals. This is the fifth time, since 2015, that the Department of Senior Services has applied for and received these grant monies.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

The Department of Senior Services would not be able to acquire these mini-buses for the benefit of seniors in Erie County.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Department of Senior Services will take steps to execute the contract with NYSDOT and acquire the four new mini-buses.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF SENIOR SERVICES

RE: Acceptance of NYSDOT Section 5310 award of four new vehicles for Senior Services

WHEREAS, the Department of Senior Services Going Places Transportation Program provides older adults, who have no other means of transportation, with rides to medical appointments, grocery shopping, and senior centers for congregate meals, along with performing the central dispatch function for vehicles operated by partner Erie County municipalities and subcontracted transportation service providers; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Senior Services applied in the Spring of 2024 to the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) for Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities federal grant funding for the operation of the Going Places Transportation Program; and

WHEREAS, NYSDOT recently awarded the Department of Senior Services \$253,987.20 of Federal Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility funds for the purchase of four replacement mini-buses for the Department's fleet; and

WHEREAS, NYSDOT will retain the \$253,987.20 awarded for the vehicles and use the monies to purchase the four mini-buses through a NY State Office of General Services purchasing contract; and

WHEREAS, NYSDOT requires upon contract execution, a check payable to the NYSDOT for \$69,846, which represents the required 20% local share of the vehicles plus a 10% contingency amount to cover possible price increases; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Legislature hereby authorizes the County Executive or Deputy County Executive to contract with the NYSDOT to accept the Federal Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility funds for the purchase of the four mini-buses; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given to acquire the four mini-buses and upon passage of this resolution to pay the NYSDOT the 20% local share plus the 10% contingency for possible cost changes by issuing a check for the required \$69,846; and be it further

RESOLVED, sufficient funding exists within the Department of Senior Services Grant Fund (Fund 281, Funds Center 1632010) 163CSE2526 Account 561440 - Motor Vehicle's to fund the \$69,846 local share of the vehicles.

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the County Executive's Office, Division of Budget and Management, and the Department Senior Services.