



Charles D. Baker, Governor
Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant Governor
Stephanie Pollack, MassDOT Secretary & CEO



Application Round: FY16

Applicant Name: Millis COA.

Project Title: Eng. & Design <30-Ft bus

Project Number: BCG0003943

1. General information about this year's Community Transit Grant Program (CTGP) decisions

This year was the most competitive CTGP to date. Unlike previous years, this year the requested funding far surpassed the amount of funding available. MassDOT received a total of \$10.3 million for the entire program, while the total request was \$25 million. As such, we were only able to fund approximately 45% of the total requested amount.

Given this year's funding constraints, MassDOT and the multi-agency Review Committees had to make difficult decisions regarding funding allocations. Applications were evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Demonstration of need
- Collaboration and coordination
- Performance measurement for reporting

The Review Committee scored applications based on those three criteria to make their funding recommendations to MassDOT. This year there was a stronger emphasis on collaboration and coordination with community partners. In an effort to ensure that limited funds would be used in the most efficient way, MassDOT prioritized projects that proposed to serve the greatest service area and the largest number of people by demonstrating collaboration and coordination with partner organizations.

2. Why was my project not selected?

As stated above, MassDOT has a limited amount of funding available. In order to award as many vehicles as possible to as many agencies as possible, the Review Committee made the determination to prioritize state of good repair, over service expansion. Vehicle awards were made only to replace vehicles that were beyond their useful life cycle in both years and mileage.

Your application for a replacement vehicle was unsuccessful primarily because it had relatively low mileage –although it was beyond its useful life– but no documentation of major repairs was provided. Also, your application failed to demonstrate collaboration and coordination with neighboring organizations in the region. Your application noted that the Millis COA would join the Metropolitan Area Planning Council which was looking for ride-sharing opportunities among towns that border each other in your region. We encourage you to do that. We also encourage you to join the Neponset Valley Regional Coordinating Councils (RCC). This RCC works on providing coordinated transportation options in its catchment area. Contact information is given under Section 4.

3. Is there a decision appeal process?

There is no appeal process for decisions. The award decisions were made through an extensive and lengthy vetting process with multiple state agencies and regional planning organizations.

Due to the complicated nature of fund allocation based on federal requirements by UZA and by traditional and non-traditional projects, amending funding decisions would require reduction or cancellation of award to other applicants. There is currently no mechanism to revisit non-selected projects.

However, you will have an opportunity to reapply next year. There is funding available every year. Be sure to check the Transit Division Website ([here](#)) for up-to-date information on next year's application process.

4. What can I do next year to improve my application?

There are several ways to improve your agency's application for next year. Here are some you might want to consider:

- Building strong partnerships with other community transportation service providers in the region to better leverage your grant proposal within a larger transportation framework
- Joining MAPC

- **Joining the Neponset Valley Regional Coordinating Council (RCC).**
The RCC is part of a statewide initiative to increase and support community and paratransit transportation services. The Neponset Valley/Southwest Metro area covers the cities and towns of Canton, Dedham, Dover, Foxborough, Medfield, Millis, Milton, Needham, Norfolk, Norwood, Plainville, Randolph, Sharon, Sherborn, Stoughton, Walpole, Westwood and Wrentham. Please contact Rachel Fichtenbaum (617-847-3784) or at Rachel.Fichtenbaum@massmail.state.ma.us for more information about the Council and its meeting schedule. Also, check out the website below for past RCC meeting material.
<http://neponsetvalleytma.org/nvrcc.htm>
- Attending the Grant Application Training for the next funding cycle. This will go over funding priorities and strategies for assembling an application. Check the Transit Division website ([here](#)) for up-to-date information on next year's application process.
- We expect that future CTGP application cycles will be similarly competitive; therefore **we strongly encourage applicants to build partnerships with other community agencies for resource sharing.**