

**Request Item**

Program Name: Transit Solutions Older Adult Transportation Contract  
Expenditure Amount: \$52,00  
Funding Source: LEVY ASK  
Funding Change: \$52,000

Request Description: The need for an additional bus route of transportation (to transport 15 additional older adults) for the Fitchburg Senior Center began 3 years ago. While the need is currently specific to Fitchburg, transportation needs fluctuate around the county based upon increases and decreases in mobility. So, where the need is currently in Fitchburg, over the course of the next decade, the need for additional funding for older adult group rides will increase across the board.

Presently, however, the number of riders to the meal site at Fitchburg has increased since COVID, with the number of older adults doubling that use assisted group ride transportation funded in the Transit Solutions POS contract. This gap was funded using Older American Act directed Supportive Services (3B) ARPA funding since it was identified. The transportation need still exists. Without replacing these funds, 15 older adults per day will not have transportation to the Senior Center for meals or transportation to the site will exceed one hour, outside of the parameters for transporting older adults. While the current contract may reflect available funds due to under-utilization, the Request for Proposals Bid for transportation services will be evaluated in late September of this year. An increase in funding needed to meet existing need will likely exceed transportation funding for this service since the bids have not been secured for 5 years and prices have increased with respect to fuel, vehicle repairs and driver wages. Therefore, an additional \$52,000 is needed to ensure continues group ride transportation to seniors in the 2025 budget.