



**Committee:** Directly to Council  
**Committee Review:** N/A  
**Staff:** Glenn Orlin, Senior Analyst  
**Purpose:** To receive testimony/final action - vote expected  
**Keywords:** #taxi

AGENDA ITEM #9  
June 28, 2022  
**Public Hearing/Action**

## SUBJECT

Supplemental Appropriation to the FY22 Operating Budget, Montgomery County Government, Department of Transportation, Transportation Services Improvement Fund (TSIF), \$772,329

## EXPECTED ATTENDEES

(See staff report)

## COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Transportation and Environment Committee did not meet on this issue, so it does not have a recommendation. Council staff recommends approving all but \$30,000 of the Executive's request. Council staff notes that only \$120,000 of the \$150,000 that had been appropriated for fuel reimbursements will likely be spent by the end of June.

## SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

This supplemental appropriation would pay for spending that was already needed due to increasing demand by taxicab operators and Montgomery County residents for TSIF activities, including: reimbursements for the purchase or retrofit of wheelchair accessible taxicab vehicles (WAVs); reimbursing drivers of accessible taxicab vehicles who successfully transport passengers requiring wheelchair service; the guaranteed fare of \$10 to taxicab drivers for both accessible and non-accessible Call-n-Ride trips that meter under \$10; taxicab licensee reimbursements for annual Passenger Vehicle License (PVL) renewal and transfer fees; and, limited insurance reimbursements for accessible taxicabs.

### This report contains:

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Staff report   | © A-B |
| Transmittal letter from Executive with draft resolution  | © 1-3 |
| Budgeted and actual spending, by category                | © 4   |
| Racial Equity Impact Assessment                          | © 5-7 |
| Draft resolution reflecting Council staff recommendation | © 8-9 |

**Alternative format requests for people with disabilities.** If you need assistance accessing this report you may [submit alternative format requests](#) to the ADA Compliance Manager. The ADA Compliance Manager can also be reached at 240-777-6197 (TTY 240-777-6196) or at [adacompliance@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:adacompliance@montgomerycountymd.gov)

**MEMORANDUM**

June 23, 2022

TO: County Council

FROM: Glenn Orlin, Senior Analyst

SUBJECT: Supplemental Appropriation to the FY22 Operating Budget, Montgomery County Government, Department of Transportation, Transportation Services Improvement Fund (TSIF), \$772,329<sup>1</sup>

PURPOSE: Public Hearing and Action

**Expected Participants:**

- Christopher Conklin, Director, Department of Transportation (DOT)
- Emil Wolanin, Deputy Director, DOT
- Dan Hibbert, Chief, DOT Division of Transit Services (DTS)
- Brady Goldsmith, Chief, Management Services, DOT
- Sam Oji, Chief, Enhanced Mobility and Customer Relations Section, DOT/DTS
- Kevin Sanders, Chief of Management Services, DOT/DTS
- Gary Nalven, Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

This supplemental appropriation would pay for spending that was already needed due to increasing demand by taxicab operators and Montgomery County residents for TSIF activities, including: reimbursements for the purchase or retrofit of wheelchair accessible taxicab vehicles (WAVs); reimbursing drivers of accessible taxicab vehicles who successfully transport passengers requiring wheelchair service; the guaranteed fare of \$10 to taxicab drivers for both accessible and non-accessible Call-n-Ride trips that meter under \$10; taxicab licensee reimbursements for annual Passenger Vehicle License (PVL) renewal and transfer fees; and, limited insurance reimbursements for accessible taxicabs. The Executive's transmittal is on ©1 and a draft adoption resolution is on ©2-3.

The chart on ©4 shows the amount budgeted for each type of TSIF expenditure, the amount now projected to be spent for each type, and the additional funding needed to cover what was not budgeted. There was a higher than anticipated expenditure for the purchase or retrofit of WAVs: 16 in FY22. The costs for items #2, 4 and 5—reimbursing drivers of accessible taxicab vehicles who successfully transport passengers requiring wheelchair service, taxicab licensee

---

<sup>1</sup> Key word: #taxi

reimbursements for annual Passenger Vehicle License (PVL) renewal and transfer fees, and limited insurance reimbursements for accessible taxicabs—was paid out by the general Mass Transit Fund, and so the amounts shown in the chart are needed from the TSIF to make the Mass Transit Fund whole.

The fuel reimbursements to drivers for higher gasoline prices have totaled \$52,800 to date. This reflects payments of \$300 for each of 176 drivers who put in claims for March and April. A slightly higher number is expected to claim the \$300 maximum for May and June. Thus, a conservative estimate of the expenditure for this line item is \$120,000, not the full \$150,000 that the Council had appropriated.

The Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice (ORESJ) performed a Racial Equity Impact Assessment of this appropriation request (©5-7). In summary ORESJ states that the appropriation “is likely to advance some aspects of racial equity and social justice related to transportation equity in the County, but further investments in the quality, safety, and reliability of services are necessary to realize the full the impact of increasing the supply of wheelchair accessible vehicles.”

**Council staff recommends appropriating \$742,329, or \$30,000 less than the Executive’s recommendation.** A revised adoption resolution is on ©8-9.

F:\ORLIN\FY21\t&e\FY22opbudget\second TSIF supplemental\220628cc.docx




OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich  
*County Executive*

MEMORANDUM

June 3, 2022

TO: Gabe Albornoz, President  
Montgomery County Council

FROM: Marc Elrich, County Executive 

SUBJECT: Supplemental Appropriation #22-92 to the FY22 Operating Budget  
Montgomery County Government  
Department of Transportation  
Taxicab Accessibility  
Transportation Services Improvement Fund, \$772,329

I am recommending a Supplemental Appropriation to the FY22 Operating Budget of the Department of Transportation in the amount of \$772,329. The Appropriation will fund Transportation Services Improvement Fund activities that increase the availability of accessible taxis for people with disabilities, older adults, and people with limited income.

This increase is needed due to a high demand by taxicab operators and Montgomery County residents for Transportation Services Improvement Fund (TSIF) activities. The following TSIF activities that comply with Transportation Enhancements Section, Section 53.801.01.11, of Montgomery County Executive Regulation 11-19 will be funded. These activities include reimbursement for the purchase or retrofit of a wheelchair accessible taxicab vehicles; reimbursing drivers of accessible taxicab vehicles who successfully transport passengers requiring wheelchair service; guaranteed fare of ten dollars to taxicab drivers for both accessible and non-accessible Call-n-Ride trips that meter under ten dollars; taxicab licensee reimbursement for annual Passenger Vehicle License (PVL) renewal and transfer fees; and limited insurance reimbursement for accessible taxicabs.

I recommend that the County Council approve this Supplemental Appropriation in the amount of \$772,329 and specify the source of funds as Transportation Services Improvement Fund.

I appreciate your prompt consideration of this action.

Enclosure: Supplemental Appropriation #22-92

cc: Christopher R. Conklin, Director, Department of Transportation  
Jennifer R. Bryant, Director, Office of Management and Budget  
Tiffany Ward, Director, Office of Racial Equity & Social Justice

Resolution No: \_\_\_\_\_  
Introduced: \_\_\_\_\_  
Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY COUNCIL  
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

---

By: Council President at the Request of the County Executive

---

SUBJECT: Supplemental Appropriation #22-92 to the FY22 Operating Budget  
Montgomery County Government  
Department of Transportation  
Taxicab Accessibility  
Transportation Services Improvement Fund, \$772,329

Background

1. Section 307 of the Montgomery County Charter provides that any supplemental appropriation shall be recommended by the County Executive who shall specify the source of funds to finance it. The Council shall hold a public hearing on each proposed supplemental appropriation after at least one week's notice. A supplemental appropriation that would comply with, avail the County of, or put into effect a grant or a Federal, State or County law or regulation, or one that is approved after January 1 of any fiscal year, requires an affirmative vote of five Councilmembers. A supplemental appropriation for any other purpose that is approved before January 1 of any fiscal year requires an affirmative vote of six Councilmembers. The Council may, in a single action, approve more than one supplemental appropriation. The Executive may disapprove or reduce a supplemental appropriation, and the Council may reapprove the appropriation, as if it were an item in the annual budget.
2. The County Executive has requested the following FY22 Operating Budget appropriation increases for the Department of Transportation:

| <u>Personnel<br/>Services</u> | <u>Operating<br/>Expenses</u> | <u>Capital<br/>Outlay</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Source<br/>of Funds</u>                  |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|---|
| \$0                           | \$772,329                     | \$0                       | \$0          | Transportation Services<br>Improvement Fund |

3. This increase is needed due to increasing demand by taxicab operators and Montgomery County residents for Transportation Services Improvement Fund (TSIF) activities. The following TSIF activities that are in compliance with Transportation Enhancements Section, Section 53.801.01.11, of Montgomery County Executive Regulation 11-19 will be funded: reimbursement for the purchase or retrofit of a wheelchair accessible taxicab vehicle; reimbursing drivers of accessible taxicab vehicles who successfully transport passengers requiring wheelchair service, guaranteed fare of ten dollars to taxicab drivers for both accessible and non-accessible Call-n-Ride trips that meter under ten dollars; taxicab licensee reimbursement for annual Passenger Vehicle License (PVL) renewal and transfer fees; and, limited insurance reimbursement for accessible taxicabs.
4. The County Executive recommends a supplemental appropriation to the FY22 Operating Budget in the amount of \$772,329 and specifies that the source of funds will be the Transportation Services Improvement Fund.
5. Notice of public hearing was given, and a public hearing was held.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland, approves the following action:

A supplemental appropriation to the FY22 Operating Budget of the Department of Transportation is approved as follows:

| <u>Personnel<br/>Services</u> | <u>Operating<br/>Expenses</u> | <u>Capital<br/>Outlay</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Source<br/>of Funds</u>                  |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|---|
| \$0                           | \$772,329                     | \$0                       | \$0          | Transportation Services<br>Improvement Fund |

This is a correct copy of Council action.

---

Judy Rupp  
Clerk of the Council

Transportation Services Improvement Fund Supplemental Appropriation Summary

| <b>Category</b>   | <b>FY22 Budget</b>  | <b>FY22 Actual</b>    | <b>FY22 Year End Projection</b> | <b>General Supplemental Appropriation Distribution</b> |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Purchase/Retrofit Wheelchair accessible taxicab vehicle   | \$319,912.00        | \$589,244.48          | \$589,244.48                    | \$269,332.48   |
| Driver reimbursement of accessible taxicabs who transport passengers requiring wheelchair services                    | \$0.00              | \$423,937.20          | \$427,520.57                    | \$427,520.57   |
| Fuel Supplemental Disbursement (Resolution #19-1241)  | \$150,000.00        | \$52,800.00           | \$150,000.00                    | \$0.00   |
| Call n Ride trips guaranteed fare   | \$0.00              | \$54,104.95           | \$68,675.95                     | \$68,675.95  |
| Taxicab license reimbursement for annual Passenger Vehicle License renewal and transfer fees; Insurance reimbursement | \$0.00              | \$6,800.00            | \$6,800.00                      | \$6,800.00   |
| <b>Subtotal</b>   | <b>\$469,912.00</b> | <b>\$1,126,886.63</b> | <b>\$1,242,241.00</b>           | <b>\$772,329.00</b>                                    |



## OFFICE OF RACIAL EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Marc Elrich  
County Executive


Tiffany Ward  
Director

### MEMORANDUM

June 23, 2022

To: Jennifer Bryant, Director  
Office of Management and Budget

cc: Gabe Albornoz, President  
County Council

From: Tiffany Ward, Director  
Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice 

Re: Racial Equity Impact Assessment (REIA) for Supplemental Appropriation (SA) #22-92  
FY22 Operating Budget, Department of Transportation, Taxicab Accessibility,  
Transportation Services Improvement Fund

- I. **FINDING:** The Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice (ORESJ) finds that Supplemental Appropriation #22-92 Taxicab Accessibility Transportation Services Improvement Fund is likely to advance some aspects of racial equity and social justice related to transportation equity in the County, but further investments in the quality, safety, and reliability of services are necessary to realize the full the impact of increasing the supply of wheelchair accessible vehicles.
- II. **BACKGROUND:** The purpose of Supplemental Appropriation 22-92 is to fund activities under the Transportation Services Improvement Fund (TSIF) to address reported increased demand for accessible transportation services in the County. Activities include reimbursement for the purchase or retrofit of a wheelchair accessible taxicab vehicles; reimbursing drivers of accessible taxicab vehicles who successfully transport passengers requiring wheelchair service; guaranteed fare of ten dollars to taxicab drivers for both accessible and non-accessible Call-n-Ride trips that meter under ten dollars; taxicab licensee reimbursement for annual Passenger



Racial Equity Impact Assessment (REIA) for Supplemental Appropriation (SA) #22-92 FY22  
Operating Budget, Department of Transportation, Taxicab Accessibility, Transportation Services  
Improvement Fund

June 23, 2022

Page 2 of 3

Vehicle License (PVL) renewal and transfer fees; and limited insurance reimbursement for accessible taxicabs.

In April 2022, ORESJ conducted a racial equity impact assessment (REIA) of Supplemental Appropriation #22-82. In that REIA, ORESJ outlined the racial disparities and other inequities shaping the need for accessible transportation options as well as policy incentives to support taxicab operators in their delivery of those services. While the context of that REIA was most closely related to the cost of fuel and its impacts on operators, the REIA described the structural inequities that make accessible transportation critical for individuals with disabilities, low-income, and elderly people. Therefore, ORESJ recommends those considering the racial equity impacts of SA #22-92 do so by first reviewing the REIA of Supplemental Appropriation #22-82<sup>1</sup>.

In addition to our assessment of SA #22-82, ORESJ reviewed Code of Montgomery County Regulation 53.801.01 governing the use of Transportation Service Improvement Funds<sup>2</sup> as well as information provided about passenger feedback and demand for wheelchair accessible rides.

In its research, ORESJ found that this supplemental appropriation is the continuation of ongoing efforts in the County to expand access to wheelchair accessible rides, specifically with a goal of making 100% of operator fleets wheelchair accessible by 2025<sup>3</sup>. There are a number of commissions and boards that monitor and advise on progress towards this goal as well regional efforts to increase the percentage of wheelchair accessible vehicles in jurisdictions' fleets. This supplemental appropriation will address cost barriers reported by taxicab operators, which will contribute to increasing the supply of wheelchair accessible vehicles in the County.

As with other areas of transportation equity, the mere presence or quantity of transportation options does not translate into equitable access or experience for all residents. There are therefore ongoing efforts in the County to understand whether current and future supply meets the quality, safety, and reliability needs of riders—from trip booking to drop off. From October to November 2021, the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Transportation, and the Taxicab Services Commission administered

---

<sup>1</sup> Available here: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ore/Resources/Files/22-82.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> ARTICLE VIII. TRANSPORTATION SERVICES IMPROVEMENT FUND REQUIREMENTS, SEC. 53-801 — REGULATIONS COMCOR 53.801.01 Transportation Services Improvement Fund. Available at: [https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/montgomerycounty/latest/montgomeryco\\_md\\_comcor/0-0-0-88544](https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/montgomerycounty/latest/montgomeryco_md_comcor/0-0-0-88544)

<sup>3</sup> Luz Lazo. The Washington Post. "Montgomery aims to make all taxicabs wheelchair accessible by 2025". July 24, 2015. Available at: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/dr-gridlock/wp/2015/07/24/montgomery-aims-to-make-all-taxicabs-wheelchair-accessible-by-2025/>

Racial Equity Impact Assessment (REIA) for Supplemental Appropriation (SA) #22-92 FY22  
Operating Budget, Department of Transportation, Taxicab Accessibility, Transportation Services  
Improvement Fund

June 23, 2022

Page 3 of 3

a survey of residents 65 and above and residents with disabilities about their experiences using the County's taxicab services. The use of a survey tool like this and ongoing community engagement approaches are consistently recommended as practices for expanding transportation equity, particularly in the distribution of benefits and burdens, analyzing access to opportunity, and achieving fair governance<sup>4</sup>. In fact, in a review of six tested tools for advancing equity in transportation conducted by Center for Neighborhood Technology and Community Science, all six tools included the role of qualitative data in understanding how communities of color and low-income communities have been most harmed by past transportation decisions<sup>5</sup>. Complementing the expertise of staff with lived experience and deep community relationships with ongoing public engagement efforts is therefore critical. Based on the scope of this REIA, it also appears to be a strength of the program under which this supplemental appropriation is situated.

Responses to the survey shed light on wheelchair and accessible taxicab services as a critical piece of transportation infrastructure in the County, with more than 70% of respondents reporting either current or previous use of the taxicab service. Survey responses also raised concerns about the safety and customer service training of taxicab drivers and dispatchers, particularly given the client population; unpredictable wait times; and inconsistent standards for reporting or addressing complaints. While addressing each area of concern is beyond the scope of this supplemental appropriation, the resolution and improvement of these issues will invariably have an impact on whether efforts to increase the supply of wheelchair accessible vehicles helps to advance racial equity and social justice in the County.

cc: Ken Hartman, Director, Office of Strategic Partnership, Office of the County Executive  
Chris Conklin, Director, Department of Transportation

---

<sup>4</sup> Edward W. De Barbieri. "Community Engagement and Transportation Equity". Fordham Urban Law Journal. Volume 44. Number 4 Colloquium – Getting There From Here: An Exploration of Regionalism and Transportation in the United States. Article 6. 2017. Available at: <https://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2706&context=ulj>

<sup>5</sup> Center for Neighborhood Technology and Community Science. Tools for Equitable Mobility Practices. Guide. December 2021. Available at: <https://search.issuelab.org/resource/tools-for-equitable-mobility.html>

Resolution No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Introduced: \_\_\_\_\_  
Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

**COUNTY COUNCIL  
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

---

Lead Sponsor: Council President at the Request of the County Executive

---

**SUBJECT:** Supplemental Appropriation #22-92 to the FY22 Operating Budget  
Montgomery County Government  
Department of Transportation  
Taxicab Accessibility  
Transportation Services Improvement Fund, \$772,329

**Background**

1. Section 307 of the Montgomery County Charter provides that any supplemental appropriation shall be recommended by the County Executive who shall specify the source of funds to finance it. The Council shall hold a public hearing on each proposed supplemental appropriation after at least one week's notice. A supplemental appropriation that would comply with, avail the County of, or put into effect a grant or a Federal, State or County law or regulation, or one that is approved after January 1 of any fiscal year, requires an affirmative vote of five Councilmembers. A supplemental appropriation for any other purpose that is approved before January 1 of any fiscal year requires an affirmative vote of six Councilmembers. The Council may, in a single action, approve more than one supplemental appropriation. The Executive may disapprove or reduce a supplemental appropriation, and the Council may reapprove the appropriation, as if it were an item in the annual budget.
2. The County Executive has requested the following FY22 Operating Budget appropriation increases for the Department of Transportation:

| <u>Personnel<br/>Services</u> | <u>Operating<br/>Expenses</u> | <u>Capital<br/>Outlay</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Source<br/>of Funds</u>                  |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|---|
| \$0                           | \$772,329                     | \$0                       | \$772,329    | Transportation Services<br>Improvement Fund |

3. This increase is needed due to increasing demand by taxicab operators and Montgomery County residents for Transportation Services Improvement Fund (TSIF) activities. The following TSIF activities that are in compliance with Transportation Enhancements Section, Section 53.801.01.11, of Montgomery County Executive Regulation 11-19 will be funded: reimbursement for the purchase or retrofit of a wheelchair accessible taxicab vehicle; reimbursing drivers of accessible taxicab vehicles who successfully transport passengers requiring wheelchair service, guaranteed fare of ten dollars to taxicab drivers for both accessible and non-accessible Call-n-Ride trips that meter under ten dollars; taxicab licensee reimbursement for annual Passenger Vehicle License (PVL) renewal and transfer fees; and, limited insurance reimbursement for accessible taxicabs.
4. The County Executive recommends a supplemental appropriation to the FY22 Operating Budget in the amount of \$772,329 and specifies that the source of funds will be the Transportation Services Improvement Fund.
5. Notice of public hearing was given, and a public hearing was held on June 28, 2022.

**Action**

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland, approves the following action:

A supplemental appropriation to the FY22 Operating Budget of the Department of Transportation is approved as follows, reflecting \$30,000 less associated with the fuel reimbursement charge:

| <u>Personnel<br/>Services</u> | <u>Operating<br/>Expenses</u> | <u>Capital<br/>Outlay</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Source<br/>of Funds</u>                  |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|---|
| \$0                           | \$742,329                     | \$0                       | \$742,329    | Transportation Services<br>Improvement Fund |

This is a correct copy of Council action.

---

Judy Rupp  
Clerk of the Council