Seasonal Mobility Program

1.3.1 Purpose of Funding Source

The purpose of the Seasonal Mobility Program is to provide supplemental public transportation services during peak tourist seasons and other eligible special events. Funding may support the operation of shuttles, trolleys, trams, and, when necessary, buses to accommodate increased transportation demand during these periods.

Seasonal Mobility services are intended to provide convenient and reliable connections between designated parking areas, visitor destinations, event venues, and established trolley or tram stops. By providing transportation to and from these locations, the program will improve access to attractions and events while helping to alleviate increased traffic congestion and parking demand associated with tourism and special events.

Grant funds may be used to support eligible operating expenses associated with the direct provision of transportation services, contracted transportation services, or a combination of both. The program is intended to:

- Enhance mobility for residents and visitors;
- Improve access to community events, attractions, and destinations;
- Support local businesses and tourism-related activities;
- Provide safe, reliable, and efficient transportation options during peak periods.

1.3.2 Notes on Eligible Projects

Seasonal Mobility funds must be used directly for eligible public transportation projects and may not be used to supplant or offset existing local funding requirements. Funding is limited to eligible **operating expenses**.

The lead agency will serve as the applicant and recipient of Seasonal Mobility funds and will be responsible for coordinating the project and submitting reimbursement requests to NCDOT IMD.
Projects must involve coordination between **at least two participating entities**, which may include cities, towns, counties, transit systems, public universities, or community colleges. At least one participating agency, including the lead/applicant agency, must be an **NCDOT IMD transportation grantee**.

Proposed services should demonstrate a clear need for supplemental transportation during a defined peak season or special event period. Routes and service plans should be designed to enhance mobility for residents and visitors, improve access to destinations and events, support local businesses and attractions, and provide a safe and efficient transportation option during periods of increased community activity.

Services must be open to the public and cannot charge premium fares. ***Charter services are not eligible.***

Funding Amount and Period of Performance

Seasonal Mobility funding is limited to a maximum of **$130,000 per year for each participating grantee** within the coordinated project. The period of performance for Seasonal Mobility grants will be **January 1 through December 31** of each grant year.

The anticipated state and local funding shares are:

Grant Year	State Funding Percentage	Local Match
2027	100%	0%
2028	85%	15%
2029	70%	30%

1.3.3 Priority of Grant Award

NCDOT IMD may award funding at an amount below the maximum allowable level based on the quality, scope, demonstrated need, and number of applications received. This flexibility allows NCDOT IMD to maximize available funding while supporting projects that advance the goals and objectives of the Seasonal Mobility Program.

Please Note: The FY 2028 Seasonal Mobility/ConCPT Program is expected to be highly competitive. Applicants should understand that funding priority will be given to applications that demonstrate:

- Comprehensive project planning;
- A clearly defined and feasible service plan;
- Strong coordination among participating agencies;
- A well-documented transportation need;
- A high level of project readiness and development; and
- A clear and measurable impact on transportation services and community mobility, as well as the community as a whole.

Applicants are expected to thoroughly evaluate and develop their proposed projects before applying. Applications should clearly identify the proposed service, participating agencies, service area, transportation need, operating plan, anticipated outcomes, and proposed use of grant funds.

Applications that are incomplete, insufficiently developed, or do not provide a clearly defined and feasible project plan may be less competitive for available funding**.**

1.3.4 Applicant Requirements

Minimum Number of Partners	2
Maximum Number of Partners	N/A
Maximum funding per partner	$130,000
Funding Split	2027 – 100% State 2028 – 85% State / 15% Local 2029 - 70% State / 30% Local
Funding Use	Operating Only
Due Date	TBD
Application Type	Competitive
Submission Requirements	**1. Budget in EBS** **2. Written application submitted in EBS** **3. Memorandum of Understanding between participating agencies** **4. 2028 and after – resolution approving local match**