

## Application

<b>PART I: Funding Request</b>	
<b>Name of Applicant Organization:</b>	Mecklenburg County: Mecklenburg Transportation System
<b>Mailing Address:</b>	3205 Freedom Drive, Charlotte, NC 28208
<b>Name and Title of Person Authorized to Submit the Grant Application:</b>	Gina Merrell, Grant Development Administrator
<b>Address, Phone Number and E-Mail Address for Authorized Person:</b>	3205 Freedom Drive, Charlotte, NC 28208; gina.merrell@mecklenburgcountync.gov; 980-355-4067
<b>Project Name:</b>	MTS Feasibility Study
<b>Project Description:</b>	<p>Request for funding to conduct a feasibility study to determine if a potential integration of microtransit services into existing transit operations would provide a benefit to the community. This study would be a comprehensive evaluation of the service model that would include the following components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Public and stakeholder engagement and surveys</li> <li>- Capital needs analysis</li> <li>- Potential sustainable funding sources</li> <li>- Recommendations for service options including but not limited to assisting with Veteran's services and food insecurity</li> <li>- Map of current Microtransit services being provided in the region and any potential partnering opportunities</li> <li>- Guidance for any recommended integration of services</li> </ul>

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<b>PART II: Project Narrative</b> <i>(use supplemental pages as needed)</i>	
<b>Project Needs:</b>	<p>Microtransit has been shown to provide convenient and accessible transportation options to vulnerable populations that have a variety of mobility needs. Mecklenburg Transportation System (MTS) provides transportation services to adults over 65 and those living with disabilities throughout Mecklenburg County. Currently, the services are delivered with larger vehicles based on a system that is routed through phone calls. Microtransit could provide an on-demand transit system that could meet the unique needs of existing and new clients.</p>
<b>Goals and Objective:</b>	<p>Goal: Determine if integrating Microtransit into the existing MTS system would be an enhancement to the services provided to the community, cost-beneficial to the County, and an effective way to increase ridership.</p> <p>Objective: Engage with customers, stakeholders, and the public to determine if Microtransit would be a viable program choice and how rebranding could potentially benefit MTS services.</p> <p>Objective: Research potential opportunities for Microtransit to become a cost-effective and efficient model to address mobility management issues, food insecurity, and other community transportation issues.</p>
<b>Implementation Plans:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Upon approval of funding, the County will begin the Request for Proposal (RFP) process to find a qualified consultant or firm to conduct the feasibility study. The RFP process would be expected to take up to 8 weeks for proposals to be submitted and reviewed. (Approximately May, 2025)</li> <li>- Upon the conclusion of the RFP, a contract will be developed with the highest scored proposal. (Approximately July, 2025)</li> <li>- Feasibility study would begin in August 2025</li> <li>- Final report would be due October 31, 2025</li> <li>- MTS staff would attend trainings and conferences throughout FY2026 to learn more about Microtransit and how it could work in Mecklenburg County</li> </ul>