From:	Brumfield, Ryan M
Cc:	White, Julie A (NCDOT); Sudano, Stephanie; Gallas, Rebecca J; Vine-Hodge, John A; Chambers, Blair; Freeman, Myra S
Subject:	RE: Important Message Regarding COVID-19 Vaccination Trips
Date:	Thursday, January 21, 2021 1:48:10 PM
Attachments:	Vaccine rides expectations_vFinal2.pdf image001.png

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Good Afternoon,

Today DHHS announced a partnership with NCDOT to provide approximately $2.5 Million in Coronavirus Relief Funding to assist transit agencies with the cost of providing trips to vaccination sites. Here is a link to DHHS's press release: https://www.ncdhhs.gov/news/press-releases/ncdot-and-ncdhhs-announce-solution-help-fund-transit-rides-and-covid-19-vaccine. You may soon see local stories about this initiative, begin to hear from news outlets with questions, or start to see more demand for rides from residents.

Some news outlets have reported that this new funding will allow transit agencies to offer free rides to vaccination sites. We strongly encourage you to provide free service to vaccination sites to the greatest extent possible, but we understand it may be difficult to waive fares in all cases or turn fare collection on and off quickly as new vaccination providers are added. **In order to better gauge if this will be a problem for systems, please respond directly to me if you will not be able to offer free rides to vaccination sites or if it will be a challenge for your agency to make this adjustment quickly.**

We will be following up in the near future with specific funding amounts by system and detailed guidance. In the meantime, please refer to the attached two pager that was distributed yesterday and the details in the email below if you receive any questions. You may also follow up with your planner or with me directly with any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Ryan

Ryan Brumfield, PE
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From: Brumfield, Ryan M
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 9:59 AM
Cc: White, Julie A (NCDOT) <juliewhite@ncdot.gov>; Sudano, Stephanie <ssudano@ncdot.gov>; Gallas, Rebecca J <rjgallas@ncdot.gov>; Vine-Hodge, John A <javinehodge@ncdot.gov>; Chambers, Blair <tbchambers@ncdot.gov>; Freeman, Myra S <msfreeman1@ncdot.gov>
Subject: Important Message Regarding COVID-19 Vaccination Trips

Dear Transit Providers,

This email is to provide additional information and guidance regarding transportation to COVID-19 vaccination locations.

As mentioned in last week's communication from our office on this topic, the NC Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the NC Department of Transportation (DOT) are collaborating to make sure that no barriers, including lack of transportation, prevent someone from getting vaccinated. We want to make sure all North Carolina residents are eligible and prioritized for transportation to receive a COVID-19 vaccine or assist someone who is receiving a COVID-19 vaccine.

Towards that goal, DHHS and DOT will soon be distributing Coronavirus Relief Funds to transit agencies to provide access to and from COVID-19 vaccine sites for North Carolina residents. More information regarding this funding, including specific funding amounts and guidance, will be provided soon.

This week a statewide press release and press briefing will occur on this topic. In both, anyone who needs transportation to or from a vaccine site will be encouraged to reach out to their local transit agency.

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The attached document provides an overview and recommended best practices for both transit agencies and vaccination providers. It is being distributed today to both transit agencies and vaccination providers, and offers recommendations for transit agencies and vaccine providers to coordinate services, schedule and provide rides, track service delivery metrics, and generally work together to help North Carolinians with transportation barriers get the COVID-19 vaccine.

As a reminder – regarding funding:

- **Immediately available:** Per the FTA FAQs provided previously, CARES Act funding and traditional 5311 and 5307 funding can be utilized to support transportation to vaccination sites, including dedicated service and incidental use of transit vehicles related to this effort that may not meet the traditional definition of public transportation.

- **Forthcoming:** NCDOT IMD is working to finalize additional DHHS funding as soon as possible, then will distribute to transit agencies. IMD is also working to identify other potential funding sources which could further assist with operational and technology needs.

Please reach out to your assigned Planner or to me directly with any questions or needs. Thank you for all that you are doing to lead and support this critical effort!

Ryan

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