

1 MR. OSTASZEWSKI: Hi. My name is Jay
2 Ostaszewski. I am the coordinator of the Hudson
3 County TRANSCEND, which is the Department of
4 Transportation for seniors and disabled in Hudson
5 County. We are here today for a public meeting
6 which is required for funding for SCDRTAP, which is
7 the Senior Citizen and Disabled Residents
8 Transportation Assistance Program.

9 We are applying for a grant which will be
10 for \$1,880,842. That is approximately a \$400,000
11 increase from 2023. That 1.8 million is for 2024.
12 We are happy to see this large increase, and that
13 increase is due to funding provided by casino
14 revenue. The casino revenues and online gambling
15 has increased and has provided an increase for the
16 counties in New Jersey.

17 There were other funding sources that we
18 put towards our budget. Our proposed 2024 budget
19 will be approximately \$5 million. To offset that
20 fund -- that budget, we received money from Title
21 III, which will be estimated at \$255,000; from
22 Section 5310, which will be \$150,000; from the
23 Veterans, which will be \$15,000; and we will have
24 money that we carried over into 2024, from the
25 American Rescue Plan, which was approximately

1 \$127,000. That money all goes to basically
2 operations of the TRANSCEND, and any monies that is
3 left is paid by the County Commissioners and County
4 Exec's office.

5 I'm required to speak about goals that we
6 have for 2024, and we basically set up three of
7 them. One, we have started the group trips to
8 certain areas, such as three locations in Jersey
9 City, or into the City of Bayonne, where we're
10 starting go in on the hour and back on the half
11 hour. This has allowed us to group more people in
12 the vehicles so transportation is accessible to more
13 people.

14 Our second goal which we have to started
15 already is more group trips. We have reached out to
16 senior centers and to various outreach programs, and
17 have encouraged the seniors to go on shopping trips
18 or out for lunch, and this is starting to take off
19 already, and we plan to do it even more in 2024.

20 Our third one, once again, is to provide
21 more trips for our clients and to go to outside the
22 County on a possible five or ten-mile radius. We
23 have started to pick up a few more of these trips.
24 It's been, you know, welcome by all clients that
25 they are able to see some doctors outside of Hudson

1 County.

2 That's three goals that we'll be pushing
3 on, and we seem to be, you know, receptive already
4 from some of our clients who have started. At this
5 point, I would open up for some questions and
6 answers from those in attendance.

7 MS. HARRISON-GARCIA: Hi. Nicole
8 Harrison Garcia, Department of Health and Human
9 Services, Hudson County. Just a question. I have a
10 question about the American Rescue Plan. I have
11 listed at \$127,000, that will be carried over to the
12 2024. That's specifically carryover money. What
13 was the total amount that you received?

14 MR. OSTASZEWSKI: So it's 127,000.
15 It has to be spent by the September of 2024. We
16 anticipate because of how we looked at our budget,
17 this amount of 127,000, will be carried over in
18 full.

19 MS. HARRISON-GARCIA: What was the
20 total amount of the America Rescue Plan? That's
21 what we got?

22 MR. OSTASZEWSKI: Yes.

23 MS. HARRISON-GARCIA: And that added
24 to the Title III?

25 MR. OSTASZEWSKI: That will be coming

1 out in September, that Title III.

2 MS. HARRISON-GARCIA: Okay. When you
3 stated your "\$5 million budget," that's your total
4 budget?

5 MR. OSTASZEWSKI: Total budget
6 counting everything.

7 MS. HARRISON-GARCIA: Even your
8 revenue sources?

9 MR. OSTASZEWSKI: Correct.

10 MS. HARRISON-GARCIA: Now, you speak
11 about goals, making trips to Jersey City, Bayonne,
12 it's more like a shuttle now?

13 MR. OSTASZEWSKI: We're going in on
14 the hour, back on the half hour. So clients have
15 appointment at ten, 10:30, we'll kind of say, Hey,
16 we'll pick you up at ten o'clock. We'll pick you up
17 at eleven or 11:15. We'll say, Everyone's coming
18 back at eleven or 11:30.

19 So it's more a way to group more people
20 together because if you add this service, it is
21 going to start to maximize, and we're trying to get
22 back to over our preCOVID numbers.

23 MS. HARRISON-GARCIA: What is your
24 current ridership right now?

25 MR. OSTASZEWSKI: Ridership now is at

1 probably 90 percent of preCOVID.

2 MS. HARRISON-GARCIA: And I go back
3 to the third goal when you speak to more trips for
4 clients that travel outside of the County, five to
5 ten miles outside of the County border, is that just
6 for doctor's appointments, or is it any type of
7 locations?

8 MR. OSTASZEWSKI: We're trying to
9 keep it for the medical appointments.

10 MS. HARRISON-GARCIA: Just the
11 medical appointments?

12 MR. OSTASZEWSKI: Yes.

13 MS. HARRISON-GARCIA: And are you
14 going to be reporting in anything related to
15 electrification of the vehicles this year, or is
16 that going to be something you're going to report on
17 in the future meetings?

18 MR. OSTASZEWSKI: We will go over at
19 the CAC meeting.

20 MS. HARRISON-GARCIA: Are you having
21 those meetings at this time?

22 MR. OSTASZEWSKI: The CAC is set for
23 September. It's toward the end of September.

24 MS. HARRISON-GARCIA: Okay.

25 MR. OSTASZEWSKI: That may be

1 September 28th, if I'm not mistaken.

2 MS. HARRISON-GARCIA: Okay. Are you
3 going to read the budget onto record?

4 MR. OSTASZEWSKI: No, not yet because
5 that budget is not -- it's the 2024 budget, yes.
6 Not at this point. At the CAC meeting, we will
7 propose it.

8 MS. HARRISON-GARCIA: But then once
9 the budget completed, will that be submitted in your
10 application?

11 MR. OSTASZEWSKI: We'll have it done
12 in our application. Yes, it will.

13 MS. HARRISON-GARCIA: Okay. And the
14 date of your application this year is?

15 MR. OSTASZEWSKI: September 8th, I
16 believe.

17 MS. HARRISON-GARCIA: 2023?

18 MR. OSTASZEWSKI: September 8th,
19 2023.

20 MS. HARRISON-GARCIA: And just for
21 the record, all application are submitted to New
22 Jersey Transit?

23 MR. OSTASZEWSKI: That is correct.

24 MS. HARRISON-GARCIA: So all of this
25 funding that you receive, with the exception of

1 Veterans, Title III and American Rescue, comes
2 through the New Jersey Transit Corporation?

3 MR. OSTASZEWSKI: Correct.

4 MS. HARRISON-GARCIA: I don't have
5 any other questions.

6 MR. OSTASZEWSKI: That's a wrap for
7 our 2024 application for the SCDRTAP funding. Thank
8 you.

9 (Whereupon the proceeding is then
10 concluded at 11:11 a.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, SHARI CATHEY, CCR, RPR, License No. 30XI00234700, and Notary Public of the State of New Jersey, hereby certify that the proceedings herein are from the notes taken by me of Hudson County TRANSCEND Program Grant for 2022, held on Tuesday, August 29, 2023; and that this is a correct transcript of the same.



SHARI CATHEY, CCR, RPR
A NOTARY PUBLIC of the
State of New Jersey
I.D. No. 2283786
Commission Expires 2/4/27

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