

Local Commuter Bus Assistance, Maryland Economic Development Assistance Authority, Department of Commerce
\$8.0 Million (T00F00.23)

Purpose: Recovery Now Funding

Funding is provided for the Maryland Economic Development Assistance Authority and Fund to assist entities that have lost State or local funding because of the COVID-19 pandemic: private commuter and shuttle bus operators, including entities that provide commuter and shuttle bus services contractually to government entities, and locally operated transit systems.

Program Highlights and Plans to Allocate Remaining Balance:

- The Department of Commerce (Commerce) sent grant agreements to the six eligible companies on March 22, 2021.
 - As of April 14, 2021, all six companies have returned their grant agreements and the companies are:
 - Atlantic Coast Charters (ACC);
 - Academy Express, LLC;
 - Eyre Bus Service ;
 - Dillion’s Bus Service;
 - Keller Transportation; and
 - Martz/Gold Line.

Distribution of Funds:

- Maryland Transportation Authority (MTA) and Commerce discussed the best way to distribute the funds, with MTA suggesting funds be distributed by reflecting how much each company provides to support 100 percent of the Commuter Bus Service to the State.
- The Department of Transportation contractors eligible for funding include:
 - Academy Express, LLC (24.25%) - \$1,940,000 (paid) - Zip Code - 21226;
 - ACC (8.98%) - \$718,400 (paid) - Zip Code - 21090;
 - Dillon’s Bus Service (24.57%) - \$1,965,600 (paid) - Zip Code - 21076;
 - Eyre Bus Service (1.57%) - \$125,600 (paid) - Zip Code - 21737;
 - Keller Transportation (17.64%) - \$1,411,200 (paid) - Zip Code - 20601; and
 - Martz/ Gold Line (22.99%) - \$1,839,200 (paid) - Zip Code - 20781.
- While locally operated transit systems were also eligible to receive the funds, through conversations with DLS staff, Commerce was made aware that the primary intent was for the funds to be provided to private commuter and shuttle bus operators that were impacted by reduction in service by the Maryland Transit Administration. With that in mind, and limited fund availability, the Department made a policy decision to first make the funds available to those companies, and the funds were fully claimed by those six companies.
- As of May 12, 2021, Commerce distributed \$8 million to all six companies.