Response to Questions on the FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan

Request By: Supervisor Cook

Question: What options exist for continuing FASTRAN services in FY 2010 with increased fees?

Response: The FASTRAN specific reductions in the FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan are focused in four specific agencies, the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB), the Area Agency on Aging (AAA), the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), and the Department of Community and Recreation Services (CRS). As each of these agencies are responsible for paying their share of the overall FASTRAN system expenditures, the recovery of these expenditures through fee implementation would be handled at the individual agency level. Fee options can be pursued, and in many cases have been considered as part of the FY 2010 budget process, either through service specific fees or through broad overall program membership-type fees. Affordability would be a concern with either type but would most be impacted by service specific fees, as focusing fees solely on recovering transportation costs would require substantial fee increases and/or fee implementation.

It should be noted that there are some instances where fee implementation is severely limited. For instance, the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB), by state and/or federal law, cannot charge a separate fee or co-payment for transportation services provided to any Medicaid-covered individuals. These individuals are the current riders proposed to be transferred off of FASTRAN. When the County agrees to become a Medicaid transportation services provider (through its FASTRAN services), the County is required to accept the rate negotiated with the Medicaid vendor (Logisticare) as payment in full for the Medicaid individuals served. Therefore, the central issue is the contract negotiations with Logisticare regarding their reimbursement rate to the County as increasing fees charged to these individual riders (which accounts for more than half of the total CSB-FASTRAN service population) is not possible.