INTEGRATED MOBILITY INNOVATION (IMI) GRANT

ARLINGTON RIDESHARE, AUTOMATION, AND PAYMENT INTEGRATION DEMONSTRATION (RAPID)

CITY OF ARLINGTON, TEXAS

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MAY MOBILITY, VIA TRANSPORTATION, AND THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

U.S. Department of Transportation

Federal Transit Administration

PROJECT SUMMARY

Automation Level(s): 4

Building on two prior automated vehicle pilots conducted in Arlington, this project will integrate five automated shuttles provided by May Mobility into Arlington's Via rideshare platform, which serves as Arlington's public transportation system. May Mobility used Polaris GEM shuttles for previous deployments, but for this pilot project in Arlington, the company is debuting a new platform based on the Lexus RX450h model. Of the five vehicles, four will be Lexus models, and one will be a modified wheelchair-accessible Polaris GEM model. The demonstration is expected to launch in March 2021, and will last one year.

PROJECT GOALS

- Increase access for seniors, students, and individuals with limited personal mobility
- Improve equity and accessibility to public transit
- Improve safety and efficiency
- Demonstrate automation on an existing public transportation system
- Demonstrate integrated ride booking and payment between modes
- Use public-private partnerships for demonstration, data sharing, and knowledge transfer

VEHICLE INFORMATION

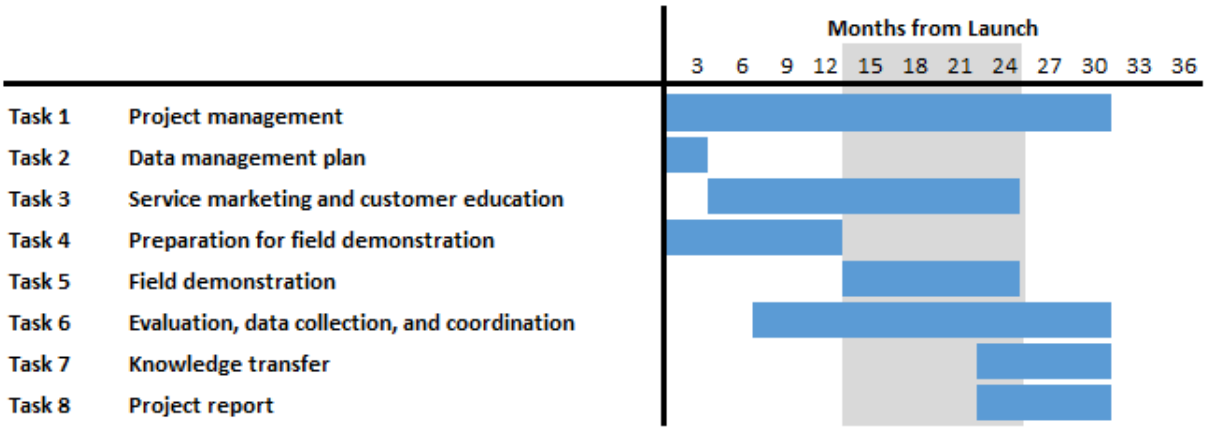
This project had anticipated using May Mobility's Polaris GEM shuttles; however, May Mobility announced that they would debut a new vehicle platform for this deployment. A new platform based on the Lexus RX450h model will be used for four of the vehicles. One additional vehicle will be a modified wheelchair-accessible Polaris GEM model.

DATA COLLECTION, MANAGEMENT, & SHARING

Internal data sharing and analysis of the service, including ridership statistics, geographic hotspots, safety metrics, AV performance, quality of service, financial performance, and rider satisfaction, on a regular basis will keep the deployment efficient, effective, and safe. Via and May Mobility will provide access to service data through standard reports accessible by team members and will configure custom reports to meet the needs of the project. The University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) will lead the creation of survey instruments to solicit assessment of the service by riders, as well as opinions of the service and AV technology in general by community members who may or may not have used the AV service. Interviews and focus groups will be used to gather more in-depth information about experiences with the service. UTA will also lead evaluation efforts of ridership data and will model near-term and long-term adoption rates to better understand how similar services may function.

PROJECT STATUS & SCHEDULE

The project is estimated to have a 27-month duration from June 2020 to August 2022.



BUDGET

FTA IMI Grant Funding	Non-Federal Cost Share	Total Amount
$1,698,558	$1,146,925	$2,845,483