Annual Report on the FAST Act Section 3006(b) Pilot Program for Innovative Coordinated Access and Mobility Fiscal Year 2017

Background
Section 3006(b) of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, Pub. L. 114-94, created the Pilot Program for Innovative Coordinated Access and Mobility (ICAM). In FY 2016, FTA published a Notice of Funding Opportunity announcing the availability of funding for “Rides to Wellness Demonstration and Innovative Coordinated Access and Mobility Grants” (R2W Demonstration Grants) to be funded using Section 3006(b) funds as well as 49 USC 5312 Public Transportation Innovation funds. FTA received 78 project proposals from 34 states, requesting a total of $28 million. In FY 2016, FTA selected 19 R2W Demonstration Grant projects—totaling $7,211,518—to assist in financing innovative projects for persons who are transportation disadvantaged.

Objectives
The primary purpose of these projects is to find and test promising, replicable public transportation health care access solutions that support the goals of increased access to care, development of coordination technology, and reduced health care costs. Rides to Wellness is a Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility (CCAM) initiative that works to build partnerships, stimulate investment, and drive change across the health and transportation sectors to ensure that transportation disadvantaged Americans can access non-emergency medical transportation to the health care services they need.

Findings and Conclusions
The 19 selected Rides to Wellness Demonstration projects in states across the US are experimenting with ways to overcome barriers to essential services.

Of the 19 R2W grants, 11 capital-only projects are funded under the FAST Act Section 3006(b) Pilot Program for Innovative Coordinated Access and Mobility Grants. This report presents these 11 projects. The 8 remaining projects, which include operating assistance as demonstrations, were funded through 49 U.S.C. 5312 (Section 5312) in the amount of $2,865,233. An annual report on Section 5312, FTA FY 2017 Public Transportation Innovation Research Projects, captures these 8 projects in the CCAM Rides to Wellness Initiative section and will be publicly available on FTA’s Reports and Publications webpage in 2018. Project implementation for all 19 awards began in the fall of 2017.
Benefits

Selected projects are diverse and pilot innovative concepts that will improve the coordination of non-emergency medical transportation and collect data to prove the value of linking transportation options with medical appointments. The projects will assess new technology innovations, pilot more efficient ways to schedule rides, and deploy real-world solutions for coordinating trips. They will also collect data for performance measures related to the following three goals: increased access to care, improved health outcomes, and reduced costs.