



# The Shepherd's Center of Greater Winston-Salem

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September 20, 2016

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FAITH  
IN ACTION



Senator Richard Burr  
2000 W First Street Suite 508  
Winston Salem, NC 27104

Dear Senator Burr,

On behalf of the Shepherd's Center and those we serve, I want to bring a concern to your attention that will affect thousands of older adults in Forsyth County in the coming month.

As background, the Federal Transportation Administration allocated **\$336,402** in FTA Section 5310 funding to the Winston-Salem Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for FFY 2015. This funding is essential for transportation for older adults and persons with disabilities.

After a local application process administered by the Winston-Salem Department of Transportation and subsequent recommendations, the Winston-Salem Transportation Advisory Committee and the MPO awarded funds in April 2015 to local providers including our agency.

Following approval, the grant information for the award was entered into the FTA Trams System in late 2015 and then again in early 2016. The input was delayed due to conversion from the Team to Trams System used by the FTA. To date no movement has occurred at the Federal level to approve these grants for our MPO. The WS DOT has been informed that review is pending but being held up by other grants under review at the FTA.

The delay at the Federal FTA level in approving the grants entered into their system means that the City of Winston-Salem cannot release contracts to the providers to offer critical transportation services including needed dialysis, cancer treatments and adult day care.

Without a contract for FFY15, our agency will be forced to reduce or eliminate services by October 2016 if we do not have assurance of timely reimbursement going forward. This will leave the over **1,200** individuals we currently serve – and the **6,400** one-way trips provided annually – in jeopardy of not receiving critical medical care afforded through our transportation program.

I urge your office to contact the Federal Transportation Administration and ask them to expeditiously approve the FFY15 FTA Section 5310 grants for the Winston-Salem MPO so that these vital services can continue.

Sincerely,

*Samuel Matthews*

Samuel C. Matthews  
Executive Director

*Promoting and Supporting Successful Aging*

*The Shepherd's Center of Greater Winston-Salem is an interfaith ministry that promotes and supports successful aging by providing direct services, volunteer opportunities and enrichment programs for older adults*