Tasks for Transit (TFT) FAQ

**Q. Who are the various stakeholders involved in the Tasks for Transit system?**

A. There are many stakeholders.

**Tasks for Transit Inc (TFT)** - A non-profit corporation, founded in March 2015. TFT is the group that runs the TFT System for the greater Worcester area. TFT's primary mission is to provide free WRTA bus day passes to the areas' economically disadvantaged individuals. TFT is the group that buys the day passes in bulk from the WRTA

**Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA)** - The organization that provides bus service for Worcester and many of the communities in the greater Worcester area. WRTA day passes are one form of transit fare used when riding in the buses. A day pass is only good for one day. The date is stamped on the pass when presented to the driver upon boarding.

**Recipients** -Any individual that ultimately receives a free individual WRTA day pass for their personal use.

**Partner Charities** - TFT works through other charities to fulfill the TFT mission. TFT carefully selects a few of the many charities in the Worcester area to dispense individual day passes. They become the partner charities of TFT. TFT provides each partner charity with sets (typically 10 per month) of WRTA bus day passes to be dispensed. The partner charities tend to be those likely to have daily contact with the city's economically disadvantaged. An example would be one of the city's neighborhood centers. TFT also provides a free volunteer management service for smaller charities that would like an accounting of their volunteer's donation of time, i.e., hours, but can't afford such a service.

**Volunteers** - An individual who generously donates time to help to improve the community, with no expectation of compensation. When TFT mentions volunteers, it is usually referring to the volunteers that work for other Worcester non-profits, not TFT itself. TFT has its own volunteers (we actually are an all volunteer organization}, but that is not the point. It is the partner charities' volunteers that we monitor and reward (an optional service TFT provides to its partners.)

**Donors**- Individuals and organizations that donate to TFT money or items of value.

**Q. Can any Non-Profit organization participate in Task for Transit?**

A. In principal yes, but in the short run, TFT will limit the number of its partner charities, aka nonprofits, until TFT raises sufficient funds to sustain a larger group of Non-Profits. For the same reason, TFT will prefer to deal with smaller organizations with less volunteers. Eventually, TFT intends to remove all of these limits and deal with the full breath of greater Worcester's charities.

TFT is also evaluating whether the type of non-profit should also be limited to charities, to the exclusion of religious organizations, educational institutions, and foundations. No decisions about this have been made.

**Q. What is a Partner Charity?**

A. Partner Charities are existing charities (nonprofits) in the greater Worcester area that TFT has specifically chosen to dispense individual free day passes. TFT gives each dispensing organization a limited number of WRTA bus day passes, e.g., 10, each month. Typically these are charities working directly with persons in need, which in most cases are people with very little income. TFT's Partner Charities are servicing these types of people on a daily basis and can recognize those who would benefit from a free day pass on a day-to-day basis. TFT's Partner Charities are on the front line of those serving the economic disadvantaged.

**Q. How do the "Partner Charities" decide who receives a free day pass?**

A. There are no formal guidelines. Each dispensing organization is free to chose each day pass recipient without TFT's involvement. The only TFT guideline is that it dispenses them to those who are in need. Typically this will be different each time since personal situations are constantly changing and a need is therefore temporary.

**Q. Who is paying for these so called "free" day passes?**

A. TFT pays for cost of the free day passes, which it buys in bulk at a substantial discount from the WRTA. The funds to do this constitute a major part of the TFT annual budget, and are raised through donations, both traditional and on-line, grants, events, and other methods. Ultimately the amount of funds we raise determines how fast TFT can scale up its operations. Donations of any size are appreciated.

**Q. Is my donation to TFT tax deductible?**

A. Absolutely. Tasks for Transit Inc is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, incorporated in Massachusetts.

**Q. What does a participating charity get if it opts to allow TFT to record the hours contributed by its volunteers?**

A. Each participating charity gets an annual report that details all of that charity's recorded volunteer hours. These reports, or more specifically the data about the hours, serve as evidence of the charity acceptance in the greater Worcester area. That information is valuable and is used in grant applications and other fund raising efforts.

**Q. Can you give me an example of a recipient?**

A. An economically disadvantaged woman attended a monthly clinic held at one of Worcester's neighborhood centers. The clinic was free, but the physician wanted the woman to get a certain type of "scan" that would require her to go across the city. The neighborhood center was one of TFT's partner charities and was able to give a free day pass to the woman so she could get the scan and get home afterward.