



City of Gainesville Agenda Report

File #: 2022-724

Agenda Date: December 1, 2022

Department: Transportation & Mobility

Title: Resolution for 49 U.S. Code Chapter 53, Section 5310 Grant Applications 2022-724 (B)

Description: This item is a request for the City Commission to adopt a Resolution required in support of the Regional Transit System (RTS) application for a Florida Department of Transportation 49 U.S. Code Chapter 53, Section 5310 grant for “Free Fare for Seniors,” and for capital assistance to purchase a replacement van, and requesting authorization for the City Manager or designee to execute related Public Transportation Grant Agreement(s) with the Florida Department of Transportation, and directing the City’s Budget Office to include the FDOT award(s) in a Budget Amendment resolution to be scheduled as needed to comply with FDOT capital award requirements.

Explanation: The City of Gainesville’s Transportation Department Regional Transit System (RTS) is requesting to submit two applications to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for operating as well as capital assistance.

The City of Gainesville recently partnered with Alachua County on a pilot project offering free fares for 18-and-under and 65-and-over passengers. In addition, federal funds have been made available through the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) via FDOT 49 U.S. Code Chapter 53, Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities grant program; RTS will be submitting an application for assistance with Section 5310 funds for a “Free Fare for Seniors” grant. This application, if successful, is anticipated to enable extension of the City-County pilot program through supplementing funds for a portion of the senior citizen ridership in the City-County pilot. RTS will also submit an application requesting Section 5310 funding to support purchase of a replacement cutaway van that will be used to provide transportation services for the elderly and handicapped.

The 5310 grant program is administered by FDOT, providing assistance throughout the state with federal funding to support specific, identified prioritized transportation needs. Grant applications are due December 16, 2022, and FDOT requires that applying agencies’ adopted resolutions are included with the submitted federal grant application packages. If funded, the grants will provide operating assistance to supplement the City-

County pilot program, and also much-needed capital assistance to help purchase a replacement van. RTS is requesting that the City Commission pass the Resolution to complete the application packages.

FDOT's capital assistance grant requirements stipulate that recipients procure and encumber the funds for the vehicle within 30 days of award. Should RTS receive a capital award, a budget amendment will be required within this compressed time span, in order to release RTS's capital reserves and allowing RTS to encumber the local share for the grant. This budget amendment may fall outside of routine City budget amendment schedules.

Strategic Connection:

Goal 1: Equitable Community

Goal 2: More Sustainable Community

Goal 3: A great Place to Live and Experience

Goal 4: Resilient Local Economy

Goal 5: Best in Class Neighbor Services

Fiscal Note: Funds are allocated in the Department of Transportation and Mobility, RTS FY23 budget to provide the required matches, if either grant is awarded. RTS anticipates requesting approximately \$89,500 for the capital assistance grant application, and will use its capital replacement funds for the required 10% match. For the City-County service grant application, RTS will request \$200,000; the 50% match for the grant is allocated in the FY23 RTS budget through contributions from the City and County for the Age Based Fare Free Pilot Project.

Recommendation:

The City Commission 1) adopt a Resolution required in support of the Regional Transit System (RTS) application for a Florida Department of Transportation 49 U.S. Code Chapter 53, Section 5310 grant for "Free Fare for Seniors," and for capital assistance to purchase a replacement van; 2) authorize the City Manager or designee to execute related Public Transportation Grant Agreement(s) with the Florida Department of Transportation, subject to approval as to form and legality by the City Attorney.