



City of Gainesville Agenda Item Report

File Number: 2023-215

Agenda Date: April 6, 2023

Department: Transportation

Title: 2023-215 Public Hearing and Resolution for the Regional Transit System (RTS) Program of Projects (POP) for Federal and State Fiscal Year 2023 (B)

Department: Transportation

Description: This is a request to accept comments at a Public Hearing on the Regional Transit System Program of Projects (POP) for Federal and State Fiscal Year 2023 and adopt a Resolution authorizing the filing of grant applications with the Federal Transit Administration and Florida Department of Transportation as listed in the POP.

Fiscal Note: The revenue for the Regional Transit System Program of Projects of \$31,757,800 is included in the Transportation Improvement Program approved by the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization.

Explanation: On an annual basis, the Regional Transit System (RTS) prepares a Program of Projects (POP) that forms the basis for grant applications submitted to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for funding. This is required to maintain eligibility for federal and state grants. The POP is the list of transit projects proposed to be funded from FTA Section 5307, 5310, 5311 and 5339 programs, and from FDOT state funds. These federal and state programs pay for a variety of eligible transit projects, which can include engineering and design, bus purchases, maintenance and operations, and implementing fixed route service improvements.

For the federal funding, each year Congress passes legislation which, when signed by the President, appropriates funds for the Department of Transportation and related federal agencies. The FTA's public transportation assistance program authorization is provided by federal transit law and Chapter 53 of Title 49, U.S. Code. The most recent authorization, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, was signed by President Biden on November 15, 2021, and reauthorizes surface transportation programs through Federal FY 2026. The Federal FY 2023 apportionment of federal funding represents funding

allocated for both formula and competitive FTA programs. RTS participation in opportunities tied to federal apportionments is not dependent on City fiscal year timelines or constraints, and applications for Federal FY2023 federal funds may fall outside of City fiscal cycles. This resolution requests authorization for RTS to participate in Federal FY2023 programs that may span multiple City fiscal years, depending on when those federal funding opportunities utilizing Federal FY2023 apportionments may become available. Some of the FTA funding is also distributed to FDOT, which in turn makes the federal funding available to transit agencies through either competitive or formula grants.

State FY23 funding is made available annually by FDOT, through state budgeting and appropriations processes. Through several different programs designed to support transit agencies, FDOT solicits applications roughly eighteen months prior to actual award. Project selections are based on fund availability, the value returned by transit agency proposals for service and ridership, and overall enhancement of Florida's transportation services.

The finalization of the POP process requires notice to the public to provide opportunity for comment and input. The POP was published in the Gainesville Sun on March 29, 2023 encouraging citizens to contact RTS with any questions or comments. Citizens may also provide comments at the public hearing during the City Commission meeting. RTS ensures that the final POP incorporates modifications based on input during the public comment opportunities.

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

Recommendation: The City Commission: 1) accept comments at a Public Hearing on the Regional Transit System Program of Projects for Federal and State FY 2023; and 2) adopt the Resolution authorizing the Regional Transit System to file grant applications with the Federal Transit Administration and Florida Department of Transportation as outlined in the Regional Transit System Program of Projects for Federal and State FY 2023.