



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING

#15-0078

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Lee R. Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: March 17, 2015

TITLE: First Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement with the Downtown Fort
Lauderdale Transportation Management Association for Community Bus
Services

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute the First Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with the Downtown Fort Lauderdale Transportation Management Association (TMA) for Community Bus services (Exhibit 1)

Background

The City Commission authorized the City Manager to execute the ILA between the City of Fort Lauderdale and the TMA to operate the City's community bus service at the October 7, 2014 City Commission meeting. The eight routes currently operated by the TMA are the Airport Link, Beach Link, Downtown Link, Galt Link, Las Olas Link, Neighborhood Link, and Tri-Rail/NW Community Link, and Riverwalk Water Trolley as illustrated in Exhibit 2, attached. This proposed amendment to the ILA adds the operation of the Uptown Link route, which has been operated by the City and the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA) since March 17, 2014.

The Uptown Link is a mid-day bus service that circulates from the Cypress Creek Tri-Rail station with the goal to create a link for commuters, students, employees, and visitors in the Uptown Fort Lauderdale area to the Cypress Creek Tri-Rail station and surrounding restaurants, shops, educational campuses, the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport, and other destinations. The SFRTA has provided the operation of the service in this inaugural year; however, the City has determined that, in order to increase ridership, it is in the best interest to have the TMA Sun Trolley provide this service. This change will allow the branding of the Sun Trolley to be leveraged, as well as cross-marketing activities through the TMA. Per the terms of the agreement, the City sent a termination letter to the SFRTA on March 1, 2015.

Funding for this route has been provided by an \$181,773 Transit Corridor grant from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), which the City Commission accepted at its November 19, 2013 meeting and a second year of funding was approved on December 2, 2014. Per grant requirements, ridership on the route has been tracked

and if the required grant objectives are met, the service will be eligible for up to three more years of grant funding. Ridership on the route has been low in its initial stages, which is to be expected due to it being a new route. For the first five months of Fiscal Year (FY) 15, the route has averaged 459 passengers per month at 2.2 passengers per hour (PPH), which is a significant increase over the 323 passengers and 1.5 PPH in FY14. Per FDOT, the minimum ridership marks for a new service are to reach 3.5 PPH after one year and 5.0 PPH after 18 months which is the industry minimum. The rate of increase on the ridership is lower than expected at this time but is expected to grow with the route being operated under the TMA.

During the time of the grant, both the City and the Envision Uptown Fort Lauderdale Group will work to establish increased marketing and funding sources to sustain the service beyond the grant period. There is zero net cost to the City for this service as 100% of the cost is reimbursable by the FDOT grant.

The TMA Executive Board at its January 28, 2015 meeting approved the TMA transitioning to running the operation of the Uptown Link.

Resource Impact

There is no net fiscal impact to the City with this action. An existing purchase order with a balance of \$175,723 to Keolis will be cancelled and reissued to the TMA.

Strategic Connections:

This item is a *Press Play Fort Lauderdale Strategic Plan 2018* initiative, included within the **Infrastructure Cylinder of Excellence**, specifically advancing:

- **Goal 1:** Be a pedestrian friendly, multi-modal City.
- **Objective 1:** Improve transportation options and reduce congestion by working with agency partners.

Initiative 1: Strategically route and expand the Sun Trolley as an overall complement to upcoming major transportation projects.

Initiative 6: Partner with agencies and businesses to increase commuter car-pooling and to incentivize and encourage mass transit use.

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan: We Are Connected*.

Attachments:

Exhibit 1 – City/TMA ILA Amendment 1

Exhibit 2 – TMA Routes and Timetable

Exhibit 3 – City/TMA ILA Agreement

Exhibit 4 -- Resolution

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