



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

**FROM:** Lee Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager

**DATE:** March 19, 2013

**TITLE:** A Motion approving a Grant Application for Shuttle Service in the "Uptown"  
Area in the amount of \$360,000 with no local match required

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**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the City Commission approve a motion authorizing the proper City officials to submit a grant application for the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) state discretionary Transit Corridor program for a two year pilot program to provide shuttle service in the "Uptown" area.

**Background**

The City is proposing to request a grant of up to \$360,000 for two years. Matching funds are not required within the two-year period. The Transit Corridor grant may be provided at 100% due to the route connecting to Tri-Rail stations, which deems the route as regionally accessible.

The grant funds will be used to start up and operate two shuttle service routes in the Uptown area around the junction of Powerline Road and Cypress Creek Road and from Cypress Creek Road to Commercial Boulevard. The two shuttle service routes are tentatively planned to operate 25 hours a week from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m helping to reduce traffic congestion and the total vehicle trips for the area.

The two-year new service pilot is intended to test the need and use of shuttle service in the area, determine whether local businesses find enough value to sustain the route funding, and verify congestion reduction in the area. We anticipate using existing Tri-Rail shuttle vehicles, so no capital investment is required for this pilot.

Transportation and Mobility staff is currently planning the program and working with FDOT's Commuter Services, who will survey area stakeholders to assist with planning the route to maximize usage. The routes will also connect with the Cypress Creek Tri-rail station to offer more transit choices. The deadline to apply for grant funds is March 31, 2013.

The grant request will include two years of operating costs, including management, operations, and maintenance of the route vehicles. Additional planning is needed to determine whether the Downtown Fort Lauderdale Transportation Management Association (TMA) will be contracted to operate the route or if Tri-Rail will operate the route as an extension of their current service.

Grant funds are available under the Transit Corridor Program for services not currently existing that will enhance use of public transportation systems. The project proposal will be ranked by the FDOT. This application request is to be included in the FDOT work plan for State fiscal year (SFY) 2014. These grant dollars are eligible as a match to leverage any Federal grant the City may receive to support these services.

It is anticipated the grant agreement will be received in December 2013, during State fiscal year 2014. Grant funding will provide support for two years from the date of execution. Staff is prepared to meet these deadlines. The City will reimburse the route operator for the operation and administrative costs and then be reimbursed from grant funds.

### **Resource Impact**

If the Transit Corridor grant application is successful, there is no fiscal impact during the two-year service period. After two years of the routes being in service under the Transit Corridor program, and if the route is deemed successful, the route could have an annual fiscal impact of up to \$180,000 unless a third year of grant funding is obtained. The Transit Corridor program requires that the project operate for a minimum of three years. However, if the routes are deemed unsuccessful, then the City can request a variance from FDOT to cease or modify the route service.

Related CAMs:  
None

Attachments:  
None

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