



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

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

**DATE:** January 22, 2013

**TITLE:** Resolution approving GRANT APPLICATIONS - South Florida Regional  
Transportation Authority Job Access and Reverse Commute Program and  
New Freedom Program, including match requirements.

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**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the City Commission approve a resolution authorizing the application for and the receipt of grant dollars from the Federal Transit Administration's Job Access and Reverse Commute Program (JARC) and New Freedom (NF) programs through the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA) to replace seven (7) trolleys and for two (2) years of operational costs and mobility management for the trolley service, including required "soft" and cash match requirements.

**Background**

The City is requesting: (1) a JARC capital grant in the amount of \$1,886,500 plus a 20% City "soft" match of \$471,625 from the State's Toll Revenue Credits program, (2) JARC grant operating funds of \$1,166,911 with an equal match from the Downtown Fort Lauderdale Transportation Association (TMA), total for a two year period, (3) New Freedom grant operating funds and mobility management for \$218,351 with an equal match from the TMA, total for two years. The City is applying for the State Toll Credits match.

JARC capital funds will be used to replace the seven (7) oldest TMA trolleys and integrate an automated fare box system and ridership counting technology consistent with other regional transit systems such as Tri-Rail and Palm Tran. The grant request will include two (2) years of operational costs including management, operations, and maintenance of the trolleys on the Downtown, Galt, Beach/Convention Connection, Las Olas, and planned "Uptown" routes. The trolley service provides job access to area businesses and services as well as links to other transit modes.

The New Freedom (NF) grant funds will be used for operating costs for the "Neighborhood Link" (formerly the Fort Lauderdale Housing Authority route) and the Northwest Circulator for two years. The grant request also includes a mobility management consultant for the entire trolley system, to create and manage routes

with designated stops to serve low-income, disabled, and veteran riders by providing transportation to jobs and social services in the area and connect to other transit modes. The mobility consultant will provide public outreach, education, coordination, and planning services for the entire TMA trolley system to maximize the effectiveness of the trolley system in terms of meeting the needs of the community and coordinating long term plans for the TMA.

The South Florida Regional Transportation Authority announced the availability of grant funds on October 16, 2012 under the Federal Transportation Authority's MAP21 program. The grant application deadline is February 1, 2013. The project proposals will be ranked in April 2013 by SFRTA and the Federal Transit Authority will make final determinations later in 2013, dates not yet available. SFRTA will administer this grant and the Downtown Fort Lauderdale Transportation Management Association (DTFLTMA) will manage and operate the routes. The City will be a sub-recipient of the grant.

Grant funds are available for services that were not operational on August 10, 2005. The JARC program is intended to provide funding for job access and reverse commute services which provide transit for low income individuals or improve access to employment, job training, and support activities for welfare recipients and eligible low-income individuals. New Freedom is intended to encourage services and facility improvements to address the transportation needs of persons with disabilities beyond the ADA requirements.

It is anticipated the grant agreement(s) will be received by December 2013. Grant funding will provide support for up to two years from the date of execution. Staff is prepared to meet these deadlines.

The City will advance the cost of purchasing the trolleys along with reimbursing the Transportation Management Association for operational and administrative costs. The City will then be reimbursed from the grant funds.

**Resource Impact**

No current fiscal impact to the City. If successful, appropriate revenues and expenditures will be included in the FY14 budget.

**Attachment:**

Exhibit 1 Resolution

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