

DURHAM



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CITY OF MEDICINE

CITY OF DURHAM | NORTH CAROLINA

Date: February 7, 2017

To: Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager
Through: Keith Chadwell, Deputy City Manager
From: Terry Bellamy, Director of Transportation,
Subject: Last Mile Agreement between the City of Durham and the North Carolina Department of Transportation

Executive Summary

The City of Durham (Transportation Department) is seeking approval to execute the attached Last Mile Agreement with NCDOT. This agreement provides residents of Durham and other visitors who ride the train upon arrival to Durham the ability to use the City's bus system to complete respective journeys in Durham. Riders would be issued bus passes after disembarking the train system to ride any Go Durham bus, free of charge, to complete the trips and NCDOT would reimburse the City for the bus cost segment of the trip. This agreement covers the operating terms of the program.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Council authorize the City Manager to execute the Last Mile Agreement with NCDOT to provide residents of Durham and other visitors who ride the train upon arrival to Durham the ability to use the City's bus system to complete respective journeys in Durham.

Background

The City of Durham (Transportation Department) has been working cooperatively with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) to improve the travel experience of North Carolinians who ride the NC train system and use the GoDurham bus system to complete respective trips upon arrival in Durham. The Last Mile Agreement, initiated by NCDOT, would allow residents of Durham and other visitors who ride the train upon arrival to Durham the ability to use the City's bus system to complete respective journeys in Durham. Riders would be issued bus passes after disembarking the train system to ride any Go Durham bus, free of charge, to complete the trips and NCDOT would reimburse the City for the bus cost segment of the trip. This agreement covers the operating terms of the program.

Issues/Analysis

Many passengers who ride the Carolina train system begin and end their respective trips using the GoDurham bus system. Currently, individuals pay both modes separately. The train station is adjacent to the Durham bus station, making it easy for passengers to walk to and from the

bus station to the rail terminal. With NCDOT offering to cover the bus ride cost, the program provides great incentive for passengers who ride the train to consider using the bus to complete the trip. The program has the potential to boost ridership for both modes of travel. Further, this arrangement allows for a seamless system of travel between the two modes. Above all, this is a program is seamless and can be easily implemented.

Alternatives

1. The City Council may choose to authorize the City Manager to execute the attached Last Mile Agreement to enable train riders to use GoDurham to complete trips upon arrival in Durham. The program has the potential to boost ridership for both modes of travel and increase fare revenue for GoDurham, allowing for a seamless travel systems between the two modes.
2. The City Council may choose not authorize the City Manager to execute the attached Last Mile Agreement to enable train riders to use GoDurham to complete trips upon arrival in Durham. The City of Durham may miss the opportunity to boost ridership for both modes of transportation. Train riders would miss the opportunity to ride GoDurham free of charge when they arrive in Durham.

Financial Impact

NCDOT pays for all rides for passengers from the Last Mile Program; therefore, there is no adverse financial impact of this program to the City's transit system.

UBE Information

UBE participation is not an issue related to this Agreement.

Attachments:

Last Mile Agreement
Exhibit A: Rate Sheet