



Date: October 22, 2019

To: Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager
Through: Keith Chadwell, Deputy City Manager
From: Bill Judge, Interim Director, Department of Transportation
Subject: Grant Project Ordinance for Durham County Transit Plan

Executive Summary

The purpose of this item is for City Council to adopt the City of Durham/Durham Chapel-Hill Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO) Grant Project Ordinance (GPO) with GoTriangle in the amount of \$750,000 for the development of the Durham County Transit Plan.

The DCHC MPO is the western Triangle’s transportation planning organization for which the City of Durham serves as the Lead Planning Agency. The DCHC MPO Board is comprised of elected local officials including members of the Durham City Council. This GPO represents funding from the Durham County share of the Triangle Transit Tax District in the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget. The purpose of these funds is to reimburse the DCHC MPO for expenses related to the Durham County Transit Plan development as programmed in the FY20 Durham County Transit Workplan.

Recommendation

To adopt the City of Durham and GoTriangle FY 20 Grant to Develop the Durham County Transit Plan – Grant Project Ordinance in the amount of \$750,000 for the development of the Durham County Transit Plan.

Background

The Triangle Tax District FY20 Workplan for Durham County includes \$750,000 for the development of the Durham County Transit Plan. The public outreach process for this plan has been coordinated with the development of the Durham Comprehensive Plan and the Engage Durham community engagement effort. This grant will provide funds for expenses related to the development of the Durham Transit Plan including consultant expenses, and additional public outreach and engagement as needed. The DCHC MPO will serve as project manager for this plan development effort. Other member organizations of the Durham Transit Team tasked with developing the plan include the City of Durham Department of Transportation, Durham City-County Planning Department, GoTriangle, and the Triangle J Council of Governments.

Issues and Analysis

In June, 2011, the original Durham County Bus and Rail Investment Plan was adopted by the Durham County Commissioners, and the Boards of the DCHC MPO and GoTriangle. In November, 2011, Durham County voters approved the plan and a half cent sales tax to support its implementation. The current version of the Durham County Transit Plan includes, as a major element, the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit project which was discontinued in March, 2019. The \$750,000 provided through the Triangle Tax District FY20 Workplan will fund the development of the new Durham County Transit Plan. GoTriangle is the administrator of the

Triangle Tax District and its Board approved the FY20 Workplan containing this funding. A letter from GoTriangle acknowledging the availability of these funds is attached.

Alternatives

City Council could choose to adopt the GPO and the Durham County Transit Plan can be developed.

City Council could choose not to adopt the GPO and there would not be funding available to complete the Durham County Transit Plan.

Financial Impact

This grant provides \$750,000 from the Durham County share of the Triangle Transit Tax District for expenses related to the Durham County Transit Plan development as programmed in the Triangle Tax District FY20 Workplan for Durham County. No local match is required.

Equal Business Opportunity Summary

Due to the nature of this agreement, this item was not reviewed for compliance with the Ordinance to Promote Equal Business Opportunities in City Contracts.

Attachments

- A. Grant Project Ordinance
- B. Award Letter – DCHC MPO Transit Plan Funds Commitment.