

Item Title: Approval of the Federal Transit Administration Relief Funding and Appropriation of Funds to Wake County

Specific Action Requested:
That the Board of Commissioners:

- 1. Approves the execution of sub-recipient grant agreements between The City of Raleigh and Wake County**
- 2. Accepts and appropriates \$582,223 of Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Act Funds and \$2,704,671 of American Rescue Plan funds for a combined amount of \$3,286,894**

Item Summary:

Purpose: In accordance with the North Carolina Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act, the Board of Commissioners must approve all amendments that increase the budget for a fund.

Background: The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) continues to distribute remaining relief funds from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Act and the American Rescue Plan (ARPA). Wake County has been awarded an additional amount of roughly \$3.3 million through the two programs.

The City of Raleigh serves as the FTA primary recipient of FTA funds. The City will allocate the entire \$3.3 million to Wake County as a sub-recipient. Through the GoWake Access program, the County will use these funds to provide critical transportation services to elderly and disabled citizens of Wake County. The trips provided may include medical trips, recreational trips, and trips to essential locations such as pharmacies and grocery stores.

Board Goal: This action supports routine County operations.

Fiscal Impact: The grant will provide an additional \$3,286,894 in revenues and expenditures for the Grants and Donations Fund for operational, planning, and capital projects. There is no matching funds requirement.

Additional Information:

Like the CARES Act, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Act supplemental (CRRSA) funding will be provided at 100% federal share, with no local match required. Funding will support expenses eligible under the relevant program, although the Act directs recipients to prioritize payroll and operational needs.

The Routine operations consist of the following:

- Trips for the Elderly, Disabled, Rural, and Employment
- Transportation Scheduling Software enhancements
- New vendor startup costs

Service improvements consist of the following:

- Mobile Ticketing installations
- NE Smartride continuation for FY24
- Additional Planning projects to increase specialized Microtransit services in rural/underserved areas

American Rescue Plan (ARP) helps transit agencies with planning projects to increase ridership and reduce travel times in response to changes in travel patterns that occurred during the pandemic. The program also supports local efforts to increase the quality or frequency of transit service for low-income riders and those in disadvantaged communities who may need more options to get to jobs, school, and health care.

Wake County/GoWake Access will allocate funding to both support existing operations and make improvements to services.

A description of the funding allocation is outlined in the table below.

Funding Source	Use	Cost
CRRSA	Program Administration/Support	\$582,223
ARP	Operating Assistance (Trips, Rides, Supplies)	\$2,520,894
ARP	Capital (Mobile Ticketing, Vehicle Radios)	\$183,777
ARP	Sub-Total	\$2,704,671
All Funds	Total	\$3,286,894

Attachments:

1. American Rescue Plan Agreement
2. CRRSA Agreement
3. Budget Memo – Grants and Donations Fund