

Item Title: GoWake Access Paratransit Facility

Specific Action Requested:
That the Board of Commissioners:

- 1. Approves an interlocal agreement for the development of the City of Raleigh Paratransit Facility and authorizes the County Manager to execute the agreement subject to terms and conditions acceptable to the County Attorney; and**
- 2. Authorizes the allocation of \$1,000,000 of Wake County's Federal 5339 Funds for the development of the paratransit facility.**

Item Summary:

Purpose: The Board of Commissioners must approve agreements with local governments

Background: Paratransit services are complementary services provided by both GoRaleigh and GoWake to individuals with disabilities. Wake County shares the City of Raleigh's paratransit facility located at 1430 South Blount for the operation and maintenance of the 70 fleet vehicles for GoWake Access. The City of Raleigh's Engineering Services Department conducted a facility condition analysis and concluded that the current paratransit facility has reached its useful life.

On February 18, 2019, the Board authorized the County's 5339 Federal Transit Administration sub-allocation from the City of Raleigh for federal fiscal years 2018 – 2022 to be used towards a proposed shared facility with the City for a new Demand Response Operations and Maintenance Facility.

Recently, the City acquired a site at 4401 Poole Road and intends to construct a new replacement GoRaleigh/GoWake Access Transit Facility, which would accommodate the administrative staff and operational services for the growing paratransit service. This new facility will better serve on-demand and rural customers, as well as move towards recommendations outlined in the Wake Transit Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan.

Construction is expected to start in July 2027, and the expected completion date is July 2030. When construction is complete, GoWake Access will move the fleet, current vendor, and the GoWake Access Administrative staff to the new City of Raleigh facility for operation and maintenance.

Strategic Plan: This action supports Foundations for Service Goal 3: By 2029, 10% more residents will agree that Wake County provides high-quality, fair, and equitable services.

Fiscal Impact: To authorize the City of Raleigh to use the County's 5339 Federal Transit Administration sub-allocation of \$1,000,000 for the construction of the new City of Raleigh Paratransit Facility.

Additional Information:

The new paratransit facility will allow for GoRaleigh Access and GoWake Access to easily reach the communities they serve, while operating service, maintaining the vehicle fleet, and performing eligibility assessments for customers all in one location.

GoRaleigh Access and GoWake Access are affordable transportation options providing mobility to Wake County's most vulnerable seniors, people with disabilities and isolated rural residents. According to the AAA, the cost of car ownership in the US averages over 12K per year. The transit services provided by these systems are in many cases the single lifeline for these vulnerable communities to reach medical, food and employment opportunities.

Vulnerable populations need engaged and active lifestyles to stay mentally and physically healthy. The provision of transportation services through fixed routes or paratransit modes greatly enhances one's activity, mental awareness and overall wellbeing. This is especially true for the populations directly served by the GoWake and GoRaleigh Access transit systems.

Through a memorandum of understanding between the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, Wake County, the City of Raleigh, GoTriangle, and the Town of Cary, Wake County receives approximately \$200,000 a year as a subrecipient of a portion of the City of Raleigh's 5339 federal formula funds. To reach the goal of a new shared paratransit facility, the City of Raleigh intends to allocate its Federal Section 5339 Formula Funds for this project. The City of Raleigh will be allocating approximately \$1,125,000 annually in Section 5339 funds in Federal Fiscal Years 2020 through 2022 for a total of \$3.4 million. To secure the full funding needed by FFY2022, the City of Raleigh has requested that Wake County also allocate its Federal Section 5339 allocation for federal fiscal years 2018 through 2022, for a total of approximately \$1 million to this critical infrastructure project. The remaining funding for the facility, which has a total cost of \$62,543,754, has been secured through a Federal Grant and Wake Transit funding.

Attachments:

None.