

Item Title: Public Hearing and Approval of the FY 2021 Community Transportation Program Administrative and Capital Grant Application

Specific Action Requested:
That the Board of Commissioners:

- 1. Holds the required public hearing on the FY 2021 Community Transportation Program grant;**
- 2. Approves the grant application to be submitted to North Carolina Department of Transportation, Public Transportation Division in the amount of \$1,331,307; and,**
- 3. Authorizes the Chair to sign the Resolutions to Apply, Certifications and Assurances, and affix the signatures of local officials as required.**

Item Summary:

Purpose: Some grant programs require the Board of Commissioners to hold public hearings to allow citizen input on services and approve funding plans. Community Transportation Program grant funds from the State are integral to the GoWake Access Medicaid Transportation program's operation. To receive these funds, a public hearing must be held to allow members of the community the opportunity to comment on transportation needs and the grant application. A signed Resolution to apply for the funds along with Certifications and Assurances are also grant requirements.

Background: GoWake Access Transportation is the only Medicaid transportation and demand response, para-transit program providing mandated and non-mandated services to vulnerable populations across Wake County. GoWake Access provides a subsidized, door to door transportation service throughout Wake County at a maximum customer cost of \$4.00 per trip. This shared-ride service provides more than 180,000 trips annually. It allows residents with limited or no transportation options to be able to access basic accommodations such as medical services, employment, and groceries.

The Community Transportation Program is an ongoing grant program through the North Carolina Department of Transportation, Public Transportation Division that is used to support services provided by GoWake Access. The FY2021 grant will fund a portion of administrative costs and capital replacements in support GoWake Access operations.

These funds, paired with other State, Federal and Wake Transit

funding, support on-demand service for the disabled, elderly, and those without transportation in rural areas in accordance with the Wake Transit Plan.

The Wake County Transportation Advisory Board reviewed and recommended this application for the Board of Commissioners approval and submission to NCDOT on September 9, 2019.

Board Goal: This action supports numerous Board Goals, but specifically supports GS5.3: “Expand opportunities and implement strategies to address affordability of transit services and the needs in vulnerable communities and rural areas” and SEV2.3: “Increase mobility equity by ensuring residents have access to affordable transportation options.”

Fiscal Impact: This grant application will provide an additional \$1,331,307 which is inclusive of a local match. The funds will be budgeted as part of the FY 2021 budget process if awarded. The grant requires a \$147,296 cash match from County dollars. The County will satisfy the match requirement by budgeting sponsor agency funds in Human Services Transportation Fund as part of the FY 2021 budget process. Sponsor Agency Revenue comes from Medicaid, WorkFirst, Child Welfare, Arc of Triangle and Resources for Seniors. This revenue is separate from Town contributions and fare box revenue.

Additional Information:

Program Details

The Federal Transit Administration, on the behalf of the Secretary of Transportation, apportions appropriated 5311 funds annually to the Governor of each state for public transportation projects in non-urbanized areas. The Governor of North Carolina, in accordance with the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964, as amended, designated the NC Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Public Transportation Division as the agency to receive and administer federal and state public transportation funds. The NCDOT (G.S. 136-44.20) is the recipient of all Section 5311 funds and the Community Transportation Program applicant is the sub-recipient. The purpose of Section 5311 assistance is the provision of public transportation services and maximum feasible coordination with other rural transportation services.

The Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan (CHSTP), a subset of the Wake Bus Plan, provided additional recommendations for Human Services and Rural transportation services. As there is significant trip demand over available funds, this plan includes creating a 5-year strategic plan to identify Wake County’s non-Medicaid human service and rural transportation needs; identifying transportation options; and developing strategies and recommendations that are coordinated and complimentary to the Wake Transit Bus Plan. NCDOT Community Transportation Program Grant funding is a piece of this funding to leverage Wake Transit funds to provide trips to meet this unmet demand.

Financial Details

The administrative portion of this grant assists in funding salaries, supplies and professional services. Wake County/GoWake Access is requesting continuation funding for the three program positions and other administrative costs such as marketing, supplies, vehicle insurance, employee development, and training. The breakdown of costs is as follows:

<u>State 85%</u>	<u>Local 15%</u>
\$240,810	\$42,497

The capital portion of this grant provides funding for life-cycle vehicle replacements. There are 52 State funded vans in the County fleet. The capital grant application requests the replacement of sixteen eligible, lift-equipped vans that have exceeded useful life. The breakdown of costs is as follows:

<u>State 90%</u>	<u>Local 10%</u>
\$943,200	\$104,800

The following table summarizes Community Transportation Program funds allocated to Wake County for the last four fiscal years and includes the FY 2021 grant request.

CTP Category	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021***
Administrative	\$283,307	\$283,307	\$283,307	\$283,307	\$283,307
Capital	\$354,000	\$614,000	\$503,200	\$812,500	\$1,048,000
Total	\$637,307	\$897,307	\$786,507	\$1,095,807	\$1,331,307

Attachments:

1. Presentation
2. CTP-A Grant Resolution
3. CTP-C Resolution
4. DBE-A Certification Wake County
5. DBE-C Certification Wake County
6. Local Share Certification-A Wake County
7. Local Share Certification-C Wake County
8. Anticipated DBE-A Wake County
9. Anticipated DBE-C Wake County
10. Title VI Wake County-A
11. Title VI Wake County-C
12. Public Hearing Notice
13. Delegation of Authority