

Item Title: Approval of the Rural Operating Assistance Program (ROAP) Grant Request

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners approves a Rural Operating Assistance Program grant application to be submitted to the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) in the amount of \$669,227.

Item Summary:

Purpose: The Board of Commissioners must approve the ROAP grant application before it can be submitted to NCDOT.

Background: The Rural Assistance Operating program (ROAP) is a state-funded public transportation program administered by the NCDOT. County governments or regional public transportation authorities are the only eligible applicants for ROAP funds. The NCDOT has allocated Wake County \$669,227 to provide transportation services to the citizens of Wake County. In order to receive this allocation, a grant application must be approved by the Board and submitted.

These funds will allow GoWake Access to continue to provide approximately 30,000 plus trips in Wake County. These funds, paired with other Wake Transit funding, support on-demand service for the disabled, elderly, and those without transportation in rural areas as in accordance with in the Wake Transit Plan. The Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan, a subset of the Wake Bus Plan, has provided additional recommendations for Human Services and rural transportation services that are currently being implemented.

Board Goal: This action complements initiatives in the Social and Economic Vitality goal area.

Fiscal Impact: The FY 2020 revenue and expenditures related to this effort are estimated to be \$669,227. The grant requires an \$11,485 match from County dollars. The County will satisfy the match requirements by using funds already budgeted in the FY 2020 Wake County Human Services GoWake Access program. The grant funding can be accommodated through the current year budget of the Human Services GoWake Access program.

Additional Information:

ROAP includes the following funding project categories:

Elderly and Disabled Transportation Program (EDTAP): A grant to provide operating assistance for the transportation of the state's elderly and disabled citizens.

Employment (EMP): A grant to help County Economic Services clients that have transitioned off Work First or Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) in the previous 12 months. Funds can also be used by the members of the general public to travel to work, and employment related services.

Rural General Public (RGP): A grant to provide transportation services for individuals from the County who do not have a human service agency or organization that will pay for transportation service. The passenger's origin or destination must be in a rural area.

Program	FY 2020 ROAP Funds	FY 2020 Local Match*	FY 2020 Total
EDTAP	320,869	-	320,869
EMP	233,502	-	233,502
RGP	114,855	11,485	126,340
Total	\$669,227	\$11,485	\$680,711

GoWake Access provided 38,192 non-Medicaid transportation trips funded FY 2019. The Wake County Transportation Advisory Board met and recommended this application for the Board of Commissioners approval and submission to the North Carolina Department of Transportation, Public Transportation Division.

Attachments:

1. FY20 ROAP Application
2. FY20 County ROAP Certified Statement
3. FY20 ROAP Agency Sub-Allocations