

Item Title: Accept and Appropriate 2nd Distribution CARES Act Grant Funds from the North Carolina Department of Transportation to Human Services GoWake Access

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners accepts and appropriates an additional \$590,447 of revenues and expenditures into the Human Services Transportation Fund from the NC Department of Transportation to continue operating services in rural communities.

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 CARES Act provides emergency assistance and health care response for individuals, families and businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and provides emergency appropriations to support Executive Branch agency operations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The State of North Carolina received funding under the CARES Act and is making an automatic second distribution of grants to rural and small urban public transportation systems, to assist with operating expenses, capital support, and other expenses to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19. The first distribution of \$283,306 was made on October 5, 2020. The second distribution makes up for a State reduction of \$670,000 on July 6, 2020 to the ROAP program (trips for Elderly/Disabled, Rural, Employment).

These funds will allow GoWake Access to enforce the Center for Disease Control recommendations for COVID-19 safety protocols as outlined by the Community Transportation Association of America. GoWake Access will make purchases outlined under eligible activities for reimbursement, such as personal protective equipment supplies (for passengers and drivers), driver compartment barriers, vehicle/transit facility cleaning and disinfecting, and other eligible operating costs.

Board Goal: Social and Economic Vitality Objective 4: Promote efforts to support seniors aging in place; and Growth and Sustainability Objective 5: Guide the implementation of the Wake County Transit Plan to reduce congestion and promote multi-modal options.

Fiscal Impact: The allocation will provide an additional \$590,447 of revenues in the Human Services Transportation Fund to offset increased expenses as a result of COVID-19. There is no matching funds requirement.

Additional Information:

GoWake Access intends to allocate the CARES Act grant funds as follows, to ensure continued operating services in rural communities and prevent, prepare, and respond due to the COVID-19 public health emergency:

Budget Category	Amount
Salaries and Wages-Temp	\$50,000
Protective Equipment / Cleaning Supplies	\$130,000
Associated Capital Maintenance	\$100,000
Vehicle Cleaning Supplies	\$50,000
Other eligible reimbursable operating costs	\$260,447
Total	\$590,447

CARES Act funding is an automatic second distribution from NCDOT. It will be provided at a 100% federal share with no local match required. There is no limit on the percentage of funding that can be used for operating purposes. Expenses are eligible retroactively to January 20, 2020 through June 30, 2021. After the first CARES allocation and the \$670,000 reduction of the ROAP Funds for FY21, GoWake and other transit systems across the state determined that they did not have enough funds to adequately operate their transportation programs. As a result, NCDOT approved this second distribution based on the total of federal and state funding for operations typically awarded to each system. NCDOT will use the data collected on reported operational costs and revenue losses from this 2nd distribution to help inform the third needs-based distribution of funding. Transit systems are encouraged to spend funds expeditiously to respond to local needs.

BOC Meeting	Funding Source	Funding Purpose	Award
7/6/2020 Approved	FTA City of Raleigh CARES Actares (5307)	COVID-19 funds for transportation of elderly and disabled citizens	\$3,347,971
7/6/2020-Approved	NCDOT ROAP	State reduction to trips for Elderly/Disabled, Rural, Employment	-\$670,000
10/5/2020 Approved	NCDOT CARES Act (5311) Distribution 1	COVID-19 funds for transportation of citizens in rural areas	\$283,306
11/16/2020 Proposed	NCDOT CARES Act (5311) Distribution 2	COVID-10 funds for transportation of citizens in rural areas	\$590,447

Attachments:

1. FY 2021 CARES Act NCDOT Notice of Award
2. Budget Memo