

Item Title: Public Hearing and Approval of the FY 2022 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 2022 Community Transportation Program grant; and**
- 2. Approves the grant application to be submitted to North Carolina Department of Transportation, Public Transportation Division in the amount of \$752,376; and**
- 3. Authorizes the Chair to sign the Resolutions to Apply, Certifications and Assurances, and affix the signatures of local officials as required; and**
- 4. Instructs County staff to continue receiving public comments on this topic until November 17 at 2:00pm, and to place this item on the Consent agenda of the next Board meeting.**

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. To receive Community Transportation Program grant funds from the State, 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,

that is used to support services provided by GoWake Access. The FY 2022 grant will fund a portion of administrative costs and capital replacements in support of GoWake Access operations.

The Wake County Transportation Advisory Board reviewed and recommended this application for the Board of Commissioners approval and submission to NCDOT on October 7th, 2020.

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 requests \$752,376, inclusive of a local match. The funds will be budgeted as part of the FY 2022 budget process if awarded. The grant requires a \$150,475 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 2022 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:

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 80%</u>	<u>Local 20%</u>
\$226,645	\$56,662

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 80%</u>	<u>Local 20%</u>
\$375,256	\$93,814

The following table summarizes Community Transportation Program funds allocated to Wake County for the last four fiscal years and includes the FY 2022 grant request.

Administrative Funding remains the same, however capital funding fluctuates depending on the number of vehicles that are eligible for replacement (based on the useful life) during that grant year.

CTP Category	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022**
Administrative	\$283,307	\$283,307	\$283,307	\$283,307	\$283,307
Capital	\$614,000	\$503,200	\$812,500	\$620,064	\$469,070
Total	\$897,307	\$786,507	\$1,095,807	\$903,371	\$752,376

****requested funds**

The attached table displays ridership trends for the past three years:

Trip Categories	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Medicaid	145,175	157,849	137,116
Non-Medicaid	35,148	38,192	43,021
Total Trips	180,323	196,041	180,137

Program Details:

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.

Attachments:

1. Presentation
2. CTP Public Transportation Program Resolution
3. DBE Certification
4. Local Share Certification
5. Anticipated DBE
6. Title VI Wake County
7. Public Hearing Notice
8. Delegation of Authority