



City Council Report

Date: August 25, 2014
To: City Council
Through: Karolyn Kent, Deputy City Manager
From: Jodi Sorrell, Transit Services Director
Subject: Amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Regional Public Transportation Authority (RPTA) for citywide Fixed Route Bus, Dial-a-Ride, Ride Choice and ADA Platinum Pass services for Fiscal Year 14/15.
Citywide

Strategic Initiatives



Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this report is to review the proposed amendment between the City of Mesa and Valley Metro for operations, maintenance and administration of \$15,436,565 of regionally and locally funded transit services operated within the City of Mesa. Staff recommends City Council adoption of the attached resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute the amendment with the RPTA. Total cost to the City for the transit services included in the Agreement for FY14/15 is \$4,636,261. The balance, \$10,800,304 will be paid for from Mesa's share of Public Transportation Funds (PTF).

Background

The City of Mesa contracts with Valley Metro to operate and administrator fixed-route bus, Dial-a-Ride, RideChoice and the ADA Platinum Pass services for Mesa residents. Each year an amendment is made to adjust for annual cost changes to the original agreement.

Fixed Route Bus

There are 21 bus routes that operate within the City of Mesa. These include 14 local fixed-routes, 4 express routes, 2 LINK routes and a downtown circulator route. Mesa's bus system is funded by two different funding sources –Public Transportation Funds (PTF) and City funds (General Fund). The City also applies for Local Transit Assistance Funds (LTAF) to help offset the General Fund contribution.

East Valley Dial-a-Ride

Dial-a-Ride provides door-to-door transportation for the disabled who are unable to navigate fixed route bus service. The system also fulfills the City's obligation to provide paratransit service within ¾-mile of fixed route bus service for persons who qualify under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The cities of Mesa, Chandler, Gilbert, Scottsdale and Tempe have been providing Dial-a-Ride service to residents in the East Valley under the umbrella name of East Valley Dial-a-Ride (EVDAR). Due to the regional nature of this service, the RPTA administers the EVDAR contract.

RideChoice

The RideChoice program offers a mobility option for seniors and persons with disabilities. In addition, the RideChoice program offers participating residents more flexibility to go where they wish to go, which also helps to stabilize Mesa's costs for the Dial-a-Ride program. Participants use a reloadable card where they can purchase up to \$100.00 in value for \$30.00 each month.

Platinum Pass

During the in-person assessments for Dial-a-Ride, qualifying individuals are offered the option of receiving an ADA Bus and Rail Pass. This program is intended to reduce ADA operational costs by encouraging ADA certified passengers to use fixed route buses and light rail service in-lieu of more traditional ADA paratransit services whenever possible. Fares associated with participation in this program are paid for by RPTA on behalf of the City and are eligible for reimbursement by Public Transportation Funds (PTF).

Discussion

Fixed Route Bus service

The total contracted expense for fixed-route transit service through RPTA during FY 14/15 is \$11,657,516.

As outlined in Schedule A of the agreement, Valley Metro will apply \$8,016,382 of regional funding (Proposition 400) toward the cost of fixed route service in Mesa. The funding will be applied to the following routes: Route 30 (University Drive), Route 40 (Main Street), Route 45 (Broadway Road), Route 61 (Southern Avenue), 96 (Dobson Road), 108 (Elliot Road), 112 (Country Club Drive), Route 136 (Gilbert Road), Route 156 (Williams Field Road), Route 184 (Power Road), Route 531 (Mesa/Gilbert Express), Route 533 (East Mesa Express), Route 535 (Northeast Mesa/Downtown Express), Route 541 (Mesa Express), Arizona Avenue/Country Club Road LINK and Main Street LINK.

The City of Mesa will contribute \$3,641,134 toward the cost of the remaining bus routes operated in the City. Schedule B outlines the City funding for Route 30 (University Drive), Route 45 (Broadway Road), Route 61 (one weekday trip on Southern Avenue), Route 77 (Baseline Road), Route 104 (Alma School Road), Route 120 (Mesa Drive), Route 128 (Stapley Drive), and the Mesa Downtown BUZZ.

Dial-a-Ride

In FY 14/15, it is estimated Mesa residents will take 116,176 trips on Dial-a-Ride. As identified in the attached agreement in Schedule C, the total cost of ADA Dial-a-Ride service in Mesa for FY 14/15 is \$3,258,938 Proposition 400 contributes \$2,761,422 to fund this service. The balance, \$497,516, is the responsibility of the City.

Ride Choice

Valley Metro combined the Coupons for Cabs and reoccurring medical trip voucher programs into the RideChoice Card program in FY 13/14. Schedule D outlines the City's contribution to this program for FY 14/15 as \$497,611.

ADA Platinum Pass

As outlined in Schedule D, the City of Mesa's estimated allocation of Proposition 400 funds to be used to support the ADA Platinum Pass Program for FY 14/15 is \$22,500.

Alternatives

The City Council could choose not to authorize the City Manager to execute Agreement with the RPTA. Not executing this agreement would discontinue the provision of fixed-route, Dial-a-Ride and RideChoice services in the City.

Fiscal Impact

The total cost for RPTA provided transit, administrative, marketing and customer service activities during FY 2014/15 is \$15,436,565. The City funded portion of the total cost is \$4,636,261 which is budgeted in the FY 2014/15 City budget using General Funds.

Coordinated With

The RPTA has reviewed and agrees with the terms of the agreement. The City Attorney has also reviewed and concurs with the agreement as to form.