



City Council Report

Date: August 30, 2021
To: City Council
Through: Scott Butler, Deputy City Manager
From: Jodi Sorrell, Transit Services Director
Subject: Intergovernmental Agreement with the Regional Public Transportation Authority (RPTA) for citywide Fixed Route Bus, Dial-a-Ride and Ride Choice services for Fiscal Year 2021/22.
Citywide

Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this report is to review the proposed Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City of Mesa and Regional Public Transportation Authority (RPTA) for operation and administration of \$24,120,253 of 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 FY 2021/22 is \$2,279,590. Mesa's allocation of Public Transportation Funds (PTF) will fund \$5,362,141, Coronavirus Relief and Recovery Supplemental Appropriation Act (CRRSAA) will fund \$4,222,744 and the American Rescue Plan (ARP) will fund the remaining \$12,255,778.

Background

The City of Mesa contracts with Valley Metro to operate and administrator fixed-route bus, Paratransit Service, RideChoice and the ADA Platinum Pass services for Mesa residents. The City enters into a new master IGA with RPTA every five years. In the subsequent years, the IGA is amended to adjust the estimated annual costs to provide the services.

Fixed Route Bus Service

There are 19 bus routes that operate within the city of Mesa. These include 15 local fixed-routes, 4 express routes and a downtown circulator route. Over 80 percent of the bus routes are funded by PTF. The remaining routes are funded by City funds {00411603.1}

(General Fund).

Paratransit Service

Valley Metro Paratransit provides door-to-door transportation for the disabled who are unable to navigate fixed route bus service. The system 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).

During the in-person assessments for ADA certification, 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 PTF.

RideChoice

RideChoice is a mobility option seniors and persons with disabilities can take advantage of instead of using paratransit. This service offers participating residents more flexibility to go where they wish to go, which also helps to stabilize Mesa's costs for the paratransit service.

Discussion

In March, 2020 Congress passed the CARES Act. It included \$25B in much needed support for transit systems across the country to ensure service availability for transit dependent essential workers get to their jobs and residents get to medical appointments. Mesa will receive \$8,714,014 for fixed-route, paratransit and RideChoice services. This funding represents a General Fund savings of \$2,978,119 for Fiscal Year 2021/22.

	General Fund	PTF	CRRSAA	ARP
Fixed-Route Bus	\$2,279,590	\$2,285,551	\$3,707,777	\$11,139,292
Paratransit		\$2,220,584	\$514,967	\$1,116,486
RideChoice		\$856,006		
Reg. Bus				
Total	\$2,279,590	\$5,362,141	\$4,222,744	\$12,255,778

Fixed Route Bus Service

As outlined in Schedule A of the agreement, Valley Metro will apply \$2,285,551 of regional funding and \$11,639,749 in Federal stimulus funding toward the cost of fixed route service in Mesa. The funding will be applied to the following routes: Route 40 (Main Street), Route 45 (Broadway Road), Route 61 (Southern Avenue), 77 (Baseline Road), 96 (Dobson Road), 104, (Alma School 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) and Route 541 (Mesa Express).

The City of Mesa will contribute \$2,279,590 toward the cost of the remaining bus routes operated in the City. Federal stimulus funding in the amount of \$3,207,320 will subsidize the remaining operations and maintenance costs for locally funded bus routes. Schedule B outlines the City funding for Route 30 (University Drive), Route 45 (Broadway Road), Route 61 (one weekday trip on Southern Avenue), Route 120 (Mesa Drive), Route 128 (Stapley Drive), and the Mesa Downtown BUZZ.

Paratransit Service

The number of paratransit trips taken in Mesa has fallen substantially due to the Coronavirus. Due to the general nature of the trips, paratransit and RideChoice services will see post ridership return sooner than other transit services. In FY2020/21, the number of paratransit trips taken within Mesa was nearly 48,000. Mesa residents are projected to take approximately 82,800 paratransit trips during FY 2021/22. As identified in the attached agreement in Schedule C, there is no city contribution for paratransit service this year. The estimated cost for this service is paid for from \$2,220,584 in PTF funds and Federal stimulus funding of \$1,631,453.

RideChoice

Schedule D outlines the RideChoice funding sources. There is no City funding for RideChoice in FY2021/22. As RideChoice ridership rebounds from the Coronavirus, we are estimating the program to provide 64,800 trips this fiscal year. This is about a 30 percent increase over last year's ridership. Due to the lower ridership estimate, our estimated budget for RideChoice will be paid for by remaining PTF funds allocated for accessible transit. There will be no City contribution for RideChoice this year.

In FY2020/21, RideChoice provided approximately 50 percent of all accessible transit trips within the City.

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 2021/22 is \$24,120,253. The City funded portion of the total cost is \$2,279,590 which is budgeted in the FY 2021/22 City budget using General Funds.

Coordinated With

This Intergovernmental Agreement has coordinated with the City Attorney's Office and the Regional Public Transportation Authority.