



Public Services Committee Meeting

Meeting Date: March 26, 2024 : 1:00 PM

Motion to approve the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 Grant for FY 2025-2027

- Department:** Planning and Development
- Presenter:** Carla Delaney or Department Designee
- Caption:** Motion to approve submittal of the funding proposal for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Disabled Persons to the Georgia Department of Human Services and Lower Savannah Council of Governments
- Background:** The Federal Transit Administration provides federal funds to the State of Georgia for coordinated human services transportation for elderly and disabled persons. The Augusta Planning and Development Department (APDD) as the Augusta Regional Transportation Study (ARTS) - Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) serving the urbanized area of Augusta Richmond County, Georgia and Aiken Co., South Carolina. The Lower Savannah Council of Government (LSCOG) is the direct recipient of these funds and operates Best Friends Express public transit service in Aiken Co. SC. This transit service will serve persons age 60+ and those with disabilities
- Analysis:** Without approval of this item, the Augusta Planning Development Department cannot proceed with submitting the funding proposal to receive federal and state funds designated to the ARTS MPO area by the FTA and State of Georgia. This will increase public transit services to the elderly and disabled persons in Richmond County and support implementation strategies for Augusta Age-Friendly Program.
- Financial Impact:** The State of Georgia will provide the state matching funds through the Department of Human Services and the Lower Savannah Council of Governments. The New Grant Proposal was approved by the Administrator's Office on March 22, 2024. There is no financial commitment needed by Augusta Richmond County. Year 1: \$14,204 Year 2: \$52,260 Year 3: \$77,536.
- Alternatives:** Forfeiture of the funds and the Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Disabled Persons to the Georgia Department of Human Services and Lower Savannah Council of Governments for FY 2025-2027. Persons age 60+ and those with disabilities will lose a vital transportation resource.
- Recommendation:** Approve submittal of funding proposal to the GA Dept. of Human Services and Lower Savannah Council of Governments to receive designated federal and state funds on behalf of the Augusta Regional Transportation Study (ARTS) – Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

Funds are available in the following accounts:

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REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:

N/A