



## Commission Meeting

September 19, 2023

### Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant Application Submission

---

<b>Department:</b>	Office of the Administrator and Augusta Transit
<b>Presenter:</b>	Daniel Evans
<b>Caption:</b>	Motion to <b>approve</b> submission of Neighborhood Access and Equity (NAE) grant application for the <i>Reconnect, Rejuvenate and Recharge the Broad Street Transfer Facility</i> planning grant project and grant the Mayor authority to execute the necessary forms required for submission. ( <b>Approved by Administrative Services Committee September 12, 2023</b> )
<b>Background:</b>	<p>Augusta Transit's Broad Street Transfer Facility (BSTF), originally constructed in 1991, is currently more than 30 years old and its physical condition can be rated Marginal (2) or Poor (1) according to the Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) Transit Economic Requirements Model (TERM) rating scale. Ever increasing maintenance and repair costs, as well as dynamic and competing civic priorities have resulted in an aged, obsolete, energy inefficient, and dysfunctional bus terminus.</p> <p>The three (3) pillars of this project aim to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Reconnect – mitigate accessibility, mobility and operational barriers strengthening BSTF community linkages to employment, shopping, education and recreational opportunities.</li><li>2) Rejuvenate – modernize and repurpose BSTF thereby reestablishing transit use as inclusive, viable, attractive and environmentally sustainable.</li><li>3) Recharge – activate BSTF as a multimodal transportation hub which accommodates diverse mobility options, clean energy and community resources.</li></ol> <p>Addressing current and compounding deficiencies as BSTF ages, Transit is requesting \$1,700,000 through the Neighborhood Access and Equity (NAE) program. Grant funds will permit Transit to engage a consultant team to redesign, integrate and assess the feasibility of transforming the BSTF into a facility that will reconnect, rejuvenate and recharge an aging bus terminus into a flagship intermodal, accessible, user-friendly and clean energy supporting community asset.</p>
<b>Analysis:</b>	Over the years BSTF has succumbed to its location in a noncentral, depressed physical environment and distressed community. In its current

location adjacent to an active at-grade rail track, passing freight trains create an instant and random barrier that blocks pedestrian and vehicular access, impedes on time bus performance, erases timely transfer connections and jeopardizes schedule adherence for subsequent operating hours throughout the network. Impacted transit users have missed connections, appointments or have lost out on employment opportunities, thus adding to the frustration of being dependent on transit when alternative mobility options are limited.

Submission of this Planning Grant application will enable Augusta Transit to pursue services to establish a comprehensive plan to:

1. Redesign of the Broad Street Transfer Facility (BSTF).
2. Repurpose BSTF as an accessible, inclusive and sustainable community asset.
3. Assess barriers and the connectivity of BSTF in its current position.
4. Integrate BSTF with bike/pedestrian path connectivity with the Riverwatch Parkway, Sibley Mill Mixed Use Development and Augusta Canal.
5. Identify, assess and rank alternative locations for an intermodal facility preferably in close proximity to downtown Augusta.

<b>Financial Impact:</b>	The NAE Grant application does not require Match from Augusta, as this program allows for a 100% Federal Cost share of the proposed planning project due to its location in a disadvantaged and underserved community.
<b>Alternatives:</b>	Do not approve submission of Neighborhood Access and Equity grant application for the <i>Reconnect, Rejuvenate and Recharge the Broad Street Transfer Facility</i> planning grant project to improve the quality of life for residents and visitors to Augusta, Georgia through improved access to transit.
<b>Recommendation:</b>	Approve submission of Neighborhood Access and Equity grant application for the <i>Reconnect, Rejuvenate and Recharge the Broad Street Transfer Facility</i> planning grant project to improve the quality of life for residents and visitors to Augusta, Georgia through improved access to transit.
<b>Funds are available in the following accounts:</b>	N/A
<b><u>REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:</u></b>	N/A