



# STAFF REPORT

**MEETING DATE:** November 8, 2022

**TITLE:**

Consider action to approve Resolution No. R-2022-109 of the City Council of the City of Bastrop, Texas, approving a contract with Electric Cab North America to provide transportation services in the amount not to exceed one hundred and seventeen thousand, nine hundred and ten dollars (\$117,910); attached in Exhibit B; authorizing the City Manager to execute all necessary documents; providing for a repealing clause; and establishing an effective date.

**STAFF REPRESENTATIVE:**

Submitted by: Rebecca Gleason, Assistant City Manager

**BACKGROUND/HISTORY:**

Since December of 2019, Bastrop collaborated with the Lone Star Clean Fuels Alliance and E-Cabs of North America to provide a cost-free and emissions-free micro-transit ride service using GEM low-speed battery electric vehicles. The US Department of Energy funded this two-year pilot project to explore how well these low-speed EV's could meet a rural community's first- and last-mile transit needs. The program has gone well with e-cabs now averaging over 1,000 riders per month. Since the City of Bastrop lacks access to ride-share apps such as Uber or Lyft, E-Cabs are able to service our tourists and community with rides within our area. That grant program ends on November 30, 2022.

Due to the incredible growth in usage of our E-Cabs, City Council appropriated funding for the continuation of services during our busiest times. Beginning on **December 1, 2022 and extending through November 30, 2023**, Electric Cab North America will be providing free rides to locals and visitors alike on the following schedule:

- Year-round Service
  - Thursday 3:00pm – 9:00pm
  - Friday 2:00pm – 10:00pm
  - Saturday 2:00pm – 10:00pm
  - Sunday 10:00am – 6:00pm

This ensures that there will be **no gap in services for our community or visitors** although the change in schedule will need to be communicated through our website, social media channels, newsletters as well as to our visitors with the help of Visit Bastrop and our hotels.

Electric Cabs has included on their Scope sheet the cost of additional services if Council would want to review adding them in the future as we are now tracking ridership through the quarterly report. Our free E-Cabs allow those who do not drive access to run their everyday errands or attend appointments, allow residents to frequent downtown without taking up a parking spot, could reduce incidents of drinking and driving in our community, and allow our visitors to explore our Downtown easily and safely with no cost.

Since the inception of the program in December of 2020, ridership has steadily grown throughout our community. Currently, E-Cabs provides services to an average of 250 riders per week with between 5-10 of them being first time riders. We are hoping to continue to grow that number to make E-Cabs a cornerstone of the Bastrop experience.

E-Cabs can also be contracted individually for special events. This could include providing shuttle services for the City of Bastrop from parking lots to our largest events or providing privately contracted shuttle services to visitor groups brought in by Visit Bastrop. We are working on a system to ensure the scheduling and execution of that is part of the Bastrop hospitality experience.

**FUNDING SOURCE:**

The funding for this project will not exceed \$117,910 from one-time HOT Funds.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Assistant City Manager for Community Engagement to approve Resolution No. R-2022-109 of the City Council of the City of Bastrop, Texas, approving a contract with Electric Cab North America to provide transportation services in the amount not to exceed one hundred and seventeen thousand, nine hundred and ten dollars (\$117,910); attached in Exhibit B; authorizing the City Manager to execute all necessary documents; providing for a repealing clause; and establishing an effective date.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Resolution No. R-2022-109
- Professional Services Contract with Electric Cab North America

