

## **Staff Report**

TO: Mayor, and City Council Members

FROM: Elizabeth Gibbs, Community Services Director

**DATE** April 21, 2020

SUBJECT: Public Hearing: Fiscal Year 2020/21-2022/23 Short Range Transit

Plan – Final Draft

### **Background and Analysis:**

Each year the City of Beaumont is required to submit a Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP) to the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) for operational expenses and capital improvement projects (CIP) for the coming fiscal year and the next two ensuing years. Additionally, current and proposed service changes are discussed and outlined.

On March 3, 2020, City Council reviewed the first draft of the plan and made recommendations to staff. Shortly after that meeting, the City, like many other cities across the nation, was impacted by the coronavirus pandemic and immediately implemented significant service reductions to the existing public transit service. These reductions were based on the rapid decline of passengers, as well as the safeguards implemented to ensure driver safety.

The final draft SRTP included with this report is based on multiple recent conversations with RCTC staff members about anticipated funding levels for the next year. It is also City staff's recommendations for providing sustainable public transit services during an anticipated economic downturn resulting from the pandemic.

# **Proposed Short Range Transit Plan Highlights:**

### **Funding**

Staff proposes the following funding request, as outlined in Table 4 of the SRTP:

- Local Transportation Funds (LTF) \$2,776,096,
- Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) \$63,346,
- Farebox \$243,992,

- State of Good Repair (SGR) \$101,884, and
- State Transit Assistance (STA) \$2,220,000.

<u>Future Service Plans, Fare Changes, Marketing and Capital Improvement Planning</u> Staff recommends the following future service plans, fare changes, marketing and capital improvement planning:

- Implementation of a Free Fare promotion,
- Redevelopment of the Walmart Transportation Hub,
- Completion of the Comprehensive Operations Analysis (COA),
- Fare elasticity analysis as part of the COA,
- Construction of a compressed natural gas fueling station,
- Construction of a fleet maintenance and operations building, and
- Procurement of two electric vehicle shuttles.

#### **Summary**

Transit dependent residents of the San Gorgonio Pass area rely heavily on the public transit system and Beaumont Transit Services will continue to operate as efficiently and effectively as possible while providing the highest level of customer service.

## **Fiscal Impact:**

Transit Services are fully funded by various state funding mechanisms and grant resources. Revenues and expenditures are reported to RCTC monthly and monitored closely to ensure that the operations are in line with the adopted SRTP and do not exceed LTF and STA funding limits.

#### **Recommended Action:**

Hold a Public Hearing, and Adopt the plan with any recommended changes.

#### Attachments:

A. Draft – Fiscal Year 2020/21-2022/23 Short Range Transit Plan