

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	METRA's 2023 Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP)
AGENDA SUMMARY:	Approval is requested for the 2023 Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) and authorization is requested for the Transportation Director to approve, submit, and implement this Safety Plan on behalf of the City and in compliance with federal requirements.
INITIATED BY:	Department of Transportation/METRA

Recommendations: The approval of the draft 2023 Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) is recommended. Authorization for the Transportation Director to approve, submit and implement this Safety Plan on behalf of the City and in compliance with federal requirements is also recommended.

Background: The Department of Transportation/METRA is a recipient of FTA Chapter 5307 funds. The FTA promulgated new requirements in its final rule 49 C.F.R. Part 673 that recipients of FTA Chapter 5307 funds must develop and implement a Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) based on Safety Management Systems (SMS) principles and methods by July of 2020. In response, a Safety Plan was developed by the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), and the Department of Transportation/METRA on behalf of the City to comply with the new requirements in FTA Part 673. The plan has been amended in 2023, incorporating applicable PTASP requirements in 49 U.S.C. § 5329(d) and in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Analysis: By approving and authorizing the 2023 Safety Plan's implementation, the City will be compliant with the new federal requirements.

Financial Considerations: A full-time position at METRA, the Chief Safety Officer, was created in 2021 in compliance with applicable federal regulations. The position is budget neutral. METRA's Transit Compliance Officer is serving in as interim Chief Safety Officer.

Legal Considerations: The City Attorney has reviewed and approved this Safety Plan as to form.

Recommendation/Action: Approval by Council is requested to authorize the Transportation Director to approve, submit, and implement this Safety Plan for 2023 on behalf of the City.

A RESOLUTION

NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL AND SUBMITAL OF A PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AGENCY SAFETY PLAN (PTASP) ON BEHALF OF THE CITY.

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation/METRA is a recipient of FTA Chapter 5307 funds; and,

WHEREAS, the FTA promulgated in its final rule 49 C.F.R. Part 673 that recipients of FTA Chapter 5307 funds must develop and implement a Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) based on Safety Management Systems (SMS) principles and methods; and,

WHEREAS, the plan was developed by the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and the Department of Transportation /METRA and complies with FTA Part 673 requirements and,

WHEREAS, the plan was amended, incorporating applicable PTASP requirements in 49 U.S.C. § 5329(d) and in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, AS FOLLOWS:

The Columbus City Council has reviewed and approved this Safety Plan and authorizes the Transportation Director to approve, submit and implement this Safety Plan on behalf of the City and in compliance with federal requirements.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia held on the _____ day of _____ March 2023 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of ten members of said Council.

Councilor Allen voting	_____.
Councilor Barnes voting	_____.
Councilor Cogle voting	_____.
Councilor Crabb voting	_____.
Councilor Davis voting	_____.
Councilor Garrett voting	_____.
Councilor House voting	_____.
Councilor Huff voting	_____.
Councilor Thomas voting	_____.
Councilor Tucker voting	_____.

Sandra T. Davis, Clerk of Council

B.H. "Skip" Henderson, Mayor