

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	FY27 Sec. 5307 Application for Renovation and Expansion of the METRA Transfer Center
AGENDA SUMMARY:	Approval is requested to submit a grant application and, if awarded, accept funding from the Federal Transit Administration’s Title 49 U.S.C. Section 5307 Formula Grant Program for Capital Assistance in an amount up to \$5,254,230, or as otherwise awarded, and amend the Transportation Fund by the amount of the grant award. Funding will be used for the construction, renovation, and expansion of METRA’s Transfer Center (located at 814 Linwood Blvd).
INITIATED BY:	Department of Transportation/METRA

Recommendations: Approval is requested to submit a grant application and, if awarded, accept funding from the Federal Transit Administration’s Title 49 U.S.C. Section 5307 Formula Grant Program for Capital Assistance in an amount up to \$5,254,230, or as otherwise awarded, and amend the Transportation Fund by the amount of the grant award. Funding will be used for the construction, renovation, and expansion of METRA’s Transfer Center (located at 814 Linwood Blvd).

Background: The City has applied for federally funded transit capital and planning grants since 1972. FTA Section 5307 is an annual formula grant that requires a 20% local match. Local match funding is budgeted and available in the Transportation Fund. METRA will utilize funding to renovate and expand the METRA Transfer Center. The current Transfer Center building, constructed in 1998, is nearing 30 years in service. As originally built, the Transfer Center building is approximately 3,200 sq. ft. METRA’s Operations Division (with 56 employees total) utilizes this space in addition to hundreds of customers per day who use the Transfer Center to access METRA’s 10 bus routes and paratransit service.

The Transfer Center is the central hub for public transit in Columbus, Georgia. The facility serves as the primary transfer point for METRA’s 10 fixed routes and “Dial-A-Ride” paratransit services. METRA intends to use available Sec. 5307 formula funding to:

- 1.) Modernize the Transfer Center campus to meet current and future operational needs.
- 2.) Renovate and expand the existing facility, adding additional square footage. The total square footage of the current building is approximately 3,200 sq. ft. It currently houses: 1 customer lobby, 2 customer restrooms (1 toilet and 2 urinals for the men’s restroom and 2 toilets for the women’s restroom), 2 employee restrooms (1 toilet, 2 urinals for the men’s restroom and 2 toilets for women’s restroom), 1 dispatch office, 3 staff offices, 1 utilities/janitor closet, and 1 employee breakroom.

The existing size is too small for METRA’s current needs, with cramped spaces and inadequate restroom facilities for the number of customers and employees who use the building on a daily basis.

- 3.) Improve energy efficiency through upgrades to utilities and ecological design strategies.
- 4.) Ensure compliance with all current local, state, and federal codes. Ensure compliance with current ADA and safety standards.
- 5.) Support METRA’s long-term vision for a safe, efficient, and community-oriented transit hub.

Analysis: Funding is projected to be:

FY 2027 Title 49 U.S.C. Section 5307 Grant Program

FY27 Grant	City (20%) - TSLPOST	FTA (80%)	Total (100%)
5307 Capital & Planning	\$1,313,558	\$5,254,230	\$6,567,788

METRA will utilize two available FTA Section 5307 formula funding years. METRA will use the federal apportionments available for years 2023 and 2024. The funds for 2023 are \$3,225,604 (\$2,580,483 FTA + \$645,121 Local). The funds for 2024 are \$3,342,184 (\$2,673,747 FTA + \$668,437 Local). The total amount is \$6,567,788 (\$5,254,230 FTA + \$1,313,558 Local). The required local match will come from available TSPLOST funding. Under FTA’s Sec. 5307 formula grant program, renovation and construction of transit facilities is an allowable capital project.

Financial Considerations: FTA Section 5307 is an annual formula grant that requires a 20% local match. METRA will utilize two available FTA Section 5307 formula funding years. METRA will use the federal apportionments available for years 2023 and 2024. The funds for 2023 are \$3,225,604 (\$2,580,483 FTA + \$645,121 Local). The funds for 2024 are \$3,342,184 (\$2,673,747 FTA + \$668,437 Local). The total amount is \$6,567,788 (\$5,254,230 FTA + \$1,313,558 Local). The required local match will come from available TSPLOST funding. The required local match funding for FY27 Sec. 5307 is budgeted and available in the Transportation Fund.

Legal Considerations: The intent to apply for a Federal Transit Grant (FTA) grant, along with a listing of the program of projects, must be advertised in a local newspaper. A resolution from Council must be submitted with the application to FTA, authorizing the grant application and authorizing the City to enter into a contract with the Federal Transit Administration. The resolution must identify the source of the required local matching funds.

Recommendation/Action: Approval is requested to submit a grant application and, if awarded, accept funding from the Federal Transit Administration’s Title 49 U.S.C. Section 5307 Formula Grant Program for Capital Assistance in an amount up to \$5,254,230, or as otherwise awarded, and amend the Transportation Fund by the amount of the grant award. Funding will be used for the construction, renovation, and expansion of METRA’s Transfer Center (located at 814 Linwood Blvd).

A RESOLUTION

NO. _____

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING METRA TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION AND, IF AWARDED, ACCEPT FUNDS FROM THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION'S TITLE 49 U.S.C. SECTION 5307 FORMULA GRANT PROGRAM FOR CAPITAL AND PLANNING ASSISTANCE IN AN AMOUNT UP TO \$5,254,230, OR AS OTHERWISE AWARDED, AND AMEND THE TRANSPORTATION FUND BY THE AMOUNT OF THE GRANT AWARD.

WHEREAS, under Title 49 U.S.C. Section 5307, the Secretary of the Department of Transportation of the United States (USDOT) is authorized to make grants for mass transit planning and capital improvement; and,

WHEREAS, the Columbus Department of Transportation/METRA is the designated recipient of these transit funds; and,

WHEREAS, the City owns and operates the Columbus Department of Transportation/METRA, the public transit operator in Columbus, Georgia; and,

WHEREAS, the City may apply to FTA for an assistance contract covering up to eighty percent (80%) of the eligible planning and capital improvement expenses; and,

WHEREAS, such contracts will impose certain obligations upon the City, including the provision of the local share of project costs; and,

WHEREAS, the local match for these projects will be funded with Transportation Investment Act (TIA) funds; and,

WHEREAS, construction is an allowable cost under this program; and,

WHEREAS, METRA seeks to combine two available apportionment years, 2023 and 2024, in order to fund the renovation and construction of METRA's Transfer Center; and,

WHEREAS, the FY 2027 share for this construction project is:

FY 2027 Title 49 U.S.C. Section 5307 Grant Program

FY27 Grant	City (20%) - TSLPOST	FTA (80%)	Total (100%)
5307 Capital & Planning	\$1,313,558	\$5,254,230	\$6,567,788

WHEREAS, in connection with the filing of an application for assistance under the Title 49 U.S.C. Section 5307, USDOT requires, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, that the applicant give an assurance that they will comply with Title VI and all USDOT requirements thereunder; and,

WHEREAS, it is the goal of the City to utilize disadvantaged business enterprises (DBEs), pursuant to 49 C.F.R. Part 26, as amended by the USDOT Interim Final Rule issued October 3, 2025, and the DBE IFR FAQs issued December 1, 2025.

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

(1)

That METRA is authorized to apply on behalf of the City for FY 2027 Title 49 U.S.C. Section 5307 capital and planning financial assistance and for FY 2027 Title 49 U.S.C. Section 5339 capital assistance.

(2)

That METRA is authorized to execute contracts in accordance with FY 2027 expenses and on behalf of the City with FTA, and for the purpose of receiving FTA funds, should the applications be approved.

(3)

That the City gives assurance that, should such a contract be executed, it is the intent of the Council to commit its local share of capital, planning, and operating costs under the FY 2027 Program of Projects.

(4)

That METRA is authorized to execute (or to delegate to the Department of Transportation/METRA) and file with such application any assurance or other documents required by USDOT or FTA in connection with the application, including any assurance concerning the purpose of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

(5)

That the Department of Transportation/METRA is authorized to furnish such additional information as may be required in connection with the application, and to requisition federal or state funds to reimburse the City for eligible expenses under any resulting grant contract.

(6)

That the DBE Coordinator, as the DBE Liaison Officer for the City, is authorized to establish and administer DBE policies in connection with the project's procurement needs.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia held on the _____ day of _____ 2026 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said Council.

Councilor Allen voting _____.
Councilor Anker voting _____.
Councilor Chambers voting _____.
Councilor Cogle voting _____.
Councilor Crabb voting _____.
Councilor Davis voting _____.
Councilor Garrett voting _____.
Councilor Hickey voting _____.
Councilor Huff voting _____.
Councilor Tucker voting _____.

Lindsey G. Mclemore, Clerk of Council

B.H. "Skip" Henderson III, Mayor