

**Columbus Consolidated Government  
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Councilors
<b>AGENDA SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Premium Dial-A-Ride service by METRA</b>
<b>AGENDA SUMMARY:</b>	Approval is requested to authorize the implementation of a Premium Dial-A-Ride service by METRA as recommended by Nelson\Nygaard Consulting Associates, Inc. and to begin service on a date to be determined by METRA once additional staffing has been hired and trained.
<b>INITIATED BY:</b>	<b>Department of Transportation/METRA</b>

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**Recommendation:** Approval is requested to authorize the implementation of a Premium Dial-A-Ride service by METRA as recommended by Nelson\Nygaard Consulting Associates, Inc. and to begin service on a date to be determined by METRA once additional staffing has been hired and trained.

**Background:** With the goal of providing a Premium Dial-A-Ride service an additional 3/4 of a mile to meet the 1.5-mile extension as voted by Council on August 22, 2023, Nelson\Nygaard Consulting Associates, Inc. was hired to conduct a comprehensive study determining the policies and other resources needed to implement such an expansion in a manner that is compliant with federal regulations.

**Analysis:** Nelson\Nygaard Consulting Associates, Inc. has recommended in their final report the following policies to ensure METRA continues to meet its obligations under the ADA while providing a Premium Dial-A-Ride Service:

- Any trip within either a pickup or a drop-off located outside the ADA service area (0.75 mile of METRA bus routes) is a premium trip.
- Eligible riders may request a premium trip no more than one day prior to travel.
- METRA will accommodate premium trip requests based on space available. This may mean offering times more than one hour before or after the requested time, placing the request on a waiting list, or denying the trip request altogether.
- Premium fares will be the same as for Dial-A-Ride ADA service.
- Premium service policies are subject to further changes based on capacity and demand.

The Premium Dial-A-Ride service proposed will extend an additional 3/4 of a mile and include the Department of Drivers Services in Midland and the Robert S. Poydasheff VA Clinic on River Rd.

**Financial Considerations:** \$270,200 is the recommended FY24 start-up cost for service, not including the cost of additional buses. This request is included as an FY24 Mid-Year Budget Adjustment.

**Legal Considerations:** The City Attorney will review all agreements prior to obtaining the City Manager's signature.

**Recommendations/Actions:** Approval is recommended to authorize the implementation of a Premium Dial-A-Ride service by METRA as recommended by Nelson\Nygaard Consulting Associates, Inc. and to begin service on a date to be determined by METRA once additional staffing has been hired and trained.

## **A RESOLUTION**

**NO.**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A PREMIUM DIAL-A-RIDE SERVICE BY METRA AS RECOMMENDED BY NELSON\NYGAARD CONSULTING ASSOCIATES, INC. AND TO BEGIN SERVICE ON A DATE TO BE DETERMINED BY METRA ONCE ADDITIONAL STAFFING HAS BEEN HIRED AND TRAINED.**

**WHEREAS**, the Premium Dial-A-Ride service proposed will extend an additional 3/4 of a mile and include the Department of Drivers Services in Midland and the Robert S. Poydasheff VA Clinic on River Rd; and,

**WHEREAS**, METRA currently operates a federally required ADA Paratransit service that extends 3/4 of a mile around METRA's fixed route bus services in compliance with federal requirements of the US Department of Transportation and the Federal Transit Administration; and,

**WHEREAS**, with the goal of providing a Premium Dial-A-Ride service an additional 3/4 of a mile to meet the 1.5-mile extension as voted by Council on August 22, 2023, Nelson\Nygaard Consulting Associates, Inc. was hired to conduct a comprehensive study determining the policies and other resources needed to implement such an expansion in a manner that is compliant with federal regulations; and,

**WHEREAS**, Nelson\Nygaard Consulting Associates, Inc. has recommended the following policies to ensure METRA continues to meet its obligations under the ADA:

- Any trip within either a pickup or a drop-off located outside the ADA service area (0.75 mile of METRA bus routes) is a premium trip.
- Eligible riders may request a premium trip no more than one day prior to travel.
- METRA will accommodate premium trip requests based on space available. This may mean offering times more than one hour before or after the requested time, placing the request on a waiting list, or denying the trip request altogether.
- Premium fares will be the same as for Dial-A-Ride ADA service.
- Premium service policies are subject to further changes based on capacity and demand.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

That METRA is hereby authorized to implement a Premium Dial-A-Ride service as recommended by Nelson\Nygaard Consulting Associates, Inc. and to begin service on a date to be determined by METRA once additional staffing has been hired and trained.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of February 2024 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of ten members of said Council.

Councilor Allen voting \_\_\_\_\_.  
Councilor Barnes voting \_\_\_\_\_.  
Councilor Begly voting \_\_\_\_\_.  
Councilor Cogle voting \_\_\_\_\_.  
Councilor Crabb voting \_\_\_\_\_.  
Councilor Davis voting \_\_\_\_\_.  
Councilor Garrett voting \_\_\_\_\_.  
Councilor Huff voting \_\_\_\_\_.  
Councilor Thomas voting \_\_\_\_\_.  
Councilor Tucker voting \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sandra T. Davis, Clerk of Council

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B.H. "Skip" Henderson, III, Mayor