

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	Grant Applications for Capital and Planning Assistance - METRA
AGENDA SUMMARY:	Approval is requested 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 \$1,967,352, or as otherwise awarded, and amend the Transportation Fund by the amount of the grant award. Approval is also requested to submit a grant application and if awarded, accept funds from the Federal Transit Administration’s Title 49 U.S.C. Section 5339 Formula Grant Program for Capital Assistance in an amount up to \$261,750 or as otherwise awarded, and amend the Transportation Fund by the amount of the grant award.
INITIATED BY:	Department of Transportation/METRA

Recommendations: Approval is requested 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 \$1,967,352, or as otherwise awarded, and amend the Transportation Fund by the amount of the grant award. Approval is also requested to submit a grant application and if awarded, accept funds from the Federal Transit Administration’s Title 49 U.S.C. Section 5339 Formula Grant Program for Capital Assistance in an amount up to \$261,750 or as otherwise awarded, and amend the Transportation Fund by the amount of the grant award.

Background: The City has applied for federally-funded transit capital and planning grants since 1972. FTA Section 5307 and Section 5339 are annual formula grants that require a 20% local match. Local match funding for FY25 5307 and 5339 is budgeted and available in the Transportation Fund. METRA utilizes this funding to meet annual capital and planning commitments in order to benefit public transit in Columbus.

Analysis: Funding is projected to be:

FY 2025 Title 49 U.S.C. Section 5307 and 5339 Formula Grant Program

FY25 Grant	City (20%)	FTA (80%)	Total (100%)
5307 Capital & Planning	\$491,838	\$1,967,352	\$2,459,190
5339 Capital	\$65,437	\$261,750	\$327,187

Financial Considerations: If the City does not apply for the grant funding requested, then Columbus would turn down a total of \$2,229,102 in federal funds to support public transportation in our community. FTA Section 5307 and Section 5339 are annual formula grants that require a 20% local match. The required local match funding for FY25 Sec. 5307 and Sec. 5339 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 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 \$1,967,352, or as otherwise awarded, and amend the Transportation Fund by the amount of the grant award. Approval is also requested to submit a grant application and if awarded, accept funds from the Federal Transit Administration's Title 49 U.S.C. Section 5339 Formula Grant Program for Capital Assistance in an amount up to \$261,750 or as otherwise awarded, and amend the Transportation Fund by the amount of the grant award.

A RESOLUTION

NO. _____

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER 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 \$1,967,352, OR AS OTHERWISE AWARDED, AND AMEND THE TRANSPORTATION FUND BY THE AMOUNT OF THE GRANT AWARD. THE CITY MANAGER IS ALSO AUTHORIZED TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION AND IF AWARDED, ACCEPT FUNDS FROM THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION’S TITLE 49 U.S.C. SECTION 5339 FORMULA GRANT PROGRAM FOR CAPITAL ASSISTANCE IN AN AMOUNT UP TO \$261,750 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 and Section 5339, 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 the 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, the FY 2025 shares for these programs are projected to be:

FY 2025 Title 49 U.S.C. Section 5307 Formula Grant Program

FY25 Grant	City (20%)	FTA (80%)	Total (100%)
5307 Capital & Planning	\$491,838	\$1,967,352	\$2,459,190
5339 Capital	\$65,437	\$261,750	\$327,187

WHEREAS, in connection with the filing of an application for assistance under the Title 49 U.S.C. Section 5307 and Section 5339, USDOT requires, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, that the applicant gives 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 disadvantage businesses enterprises (DBEs) to the greatest extent practical in City procurements under this project, and to establish opportunities to compete in City procurements for supplies, equipment, construction, consultant, or other services.

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

(1)

That City Manager is authorized to apply on behalf of the City for FY2025 Title 49 U.S.C. Section 5307 capital and planning financial assistance and for FY2025 Title 49 U.S.C. Section 5339 capital assistance; and,

(2)

That the City Manager is authorized to execute contracts in accordance with FY2025 expenses and on behalf of the City with FTA and for the purpose of receiving FTA funds should the applications be approved; and,

(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 FY2025 Program of Projects; and,

(4)

That the City Manager 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; and,

(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; and

(6)

That the DBE Coordinator, as the DBE Affirmative Action Liaison Officer for the City, is authorized to establish and administer DBE policies in connection with the projects procurement needs.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA HERBY RESOLVES:

That the City Manager is hereby authorized to approve the 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 and Title 49 U.S.C. Section 5339 Formula Grant Program for Capital Assistance.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia held on the 12th day of March 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

B.H. "Skip" Henderson III, Mayor