

# AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



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## STAFF

Kaley Zeisel, Interim Director of Transfort & Parking Services  
Annabelle Phillips, Interim Compliance Manager of Transfort & Parking Services  
Heather N. Jarvis, Assistant City Attorney

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## SUBJECT

**Resolution 2023-103 Authorizing the Execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement Between the City of Fort Collins and the Colorado Department of Transportation for the FASTER Transit Program Grant for Fiscal Year 2023 to Fund Transfort’s FLEX Service.**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to receive and expend federal funds through the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) for Transfort’s commuter FLEX service. This agreement will result in the receipt of \$200,000 in grant funds through the Statewide Competitive Pool of the FASTER (Funding Advancement for Surface Transportation and Economic Recovery Act of 2009) Transit program for fiscal year (FY) 2023. Transfort will be required to match the \$200,000 in grant funds with a \$200,000 local match. Both the grant and local match were appropriated through the 2023 BFO (Budgeting for Outcomes) cycle and are accounted for in the approved 2023 Transfort budget. If approved, this agenda item will authorize the City Manager to execute an intergovernmental agreement for the FY 2023 FASTER funds from CDOT.

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## STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Resolution.

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## BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

FLEX is a Northern Colorado regional bus route serving stops between Fort Collins, Loveland, Berthoud, Longmont, and Boulder. (The name “FLEX” was coined from “Fort Collins-Longmont Express”). This service is operated by Transfort and is made possible through regional partnerships. Transfort's commuter FLEX regional routes contribute greatly to the transportation community in Northern Colorado, serving the residents of Fort Collins, Loveland, Longmont, Boulder and smaller population centers in between. FLEX service provides five trips each weekday between Fort Collins and Boulder, two in the morning and three in the afternoon/evening. Beginning in 2021 FLEX service was expanded to add an additional mid-day round trip on weekdays and weekend service to Boulder, with two morning trips and two evening trips on Saturday and Sunday. Ridership of FLEX regional routes has continued to increase since its initial launch in 2009. This demonstrates the demand for transit service between these communities in Northern Colorado.

CDOT has awarded the City a \$200,000 grant from the Statewide Competitive Pool of the FASTER Transit program for FY 2023. The grant funds and the local match will be dedicated to the operating expenses for

FLEX regional routes, including fuel, payroll costs, administrative and overhead outlays. This grant requires a 50% local match of \$200,000. The total project funds of \$400,000 will contribute to the overall annual operating costs of approximately \$2.1 million for FLEX. Transfort maintains intergovernmental agreements with each partner agency (Loveland, Berthoud, Longmont, City of Boulder, and Boulder County). The agencies' contributions are based on the ridership levels of each municipality and contribute to the annual operating costs. The \$200,000 local match contributes toward the City of Fort Collins's share of these annual operating costs. The award amount of \$200,000 and the local match of \$200,000 were appropriated in the 2023 Transfort budget. If adopted, the Resolution will assist in maintaining the exceptional service that the FLEX route provides to citizens and surrounding communities.

Council previously approved similar resolutions in 2021 (2021-040) for FY21 FASTER FLEX Operating grant funding and 2022 (2022-022) for FY22 FASTER FLEX Operating grant funding.

### **CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS**

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Through the 2023 BFO process for the local contribution to the grant, \$200,000 of Transfort general funds were previously appropriated for FLEX operations.

### **BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

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No board or commission recommendations are associated with this Resolution.

### **PUBLIC OUTREACH**

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No public outreach was conducted as part of this Resolution.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

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1. Resolution for Consideration
2. Exhibit A to Resolution
3. FLEX Route Map