

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



STAFF

Annabelle Phillips, Assistant Director, Transfort
Monica Martinez, Manager, Finance

SUBJECT

Second Reading of Ordinance No. 045, 2025, Making Supplemental Appropriation and Authorizing Transfer of Appropriation Related to FASTER Transit Program Funding for the FLEX Regional Route Operating Costs.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Ordinance, unanimously adopted on First Reading on March 18, 2025, supports operating expenses for Transfort's commuter FLEX Regional Routes by:

- 1) Appropriating \$300,000 in unanticipated grant revenue awarded to Transfort by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) through its Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) Funding Advancements for Surface Transportation and Economic Recovery Act of 2009 (FASTER) Transit Grant Program; and
- 2) Transferring \$300,000 of previously appropriated Transfort operational funds to meet the local match requirement for the FY24 FASTER grant.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Ordinance on Second Reading.

FIRST READING BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

Transfort's commuter FLEX Regional Routes contribute greatly to the transportation community in Northern Colorado, serving the citizens of Fort Collins, Loveland, Longmont, Berthoud, 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, demonstrating the demand for transit service between these communities in Northern Colorado. In FY24, CDOT awarded the City of Fort Collins a \$300,000 grant from the Statewide Competitive Pool of the FASTER Transit Program. The grant requires a 50% local match of \$300,000 which will be met using previously appropriated operating funds. 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. The total \$600,000 will contribute to the overall operating cost of approximately \$2.25 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 \$300,000 local match for the FY24 FASTER grant will contribute toward the City of Fort Collins' share.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

Funds to be Appropriated per this Action	
FASTER Grant Funds	\$300,000
Transfer of previously appropriated Operational Funds	\$300,000
Total Funds to be Appropriated per this Action	\$600,000

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

None.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

None.

ATTACHMENTS

First Reading attachments not included.

1. Ordinance for Consideration