

November 4, 2024

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



STAFF

Annabelle Phillips, Assistant Director, Transfort

SUBJECT

Resolution 2024-129 Authorizing the Execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement Between the City of Fort Collins and the Colorado Department of Transportation for Funding of Transfort FLEX Service.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to authorize the City Manager to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement (the "IGA") with the Colorado Department of Transportation ("CDOT"). This IGA will result in the receipt by Transfort of \$300,000 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") 2024.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Resolution.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

Transfort's commuter FLEX 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. This demonstrates the demand for transit service between these communities in Northern Colorado.

CDOT has awarded the City of Fort Collins a \$300,000 grant from the Statewide Competitive Pool of the FASTER Transit program for FY 2024. 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 \$300,000. The total \$600,000 will contribute to the overall annual 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 contributes to the City of Fort Collins' share.

At the same time as considering this proposed Resolution, Council will also be considering the second reading of a supplemental appropriation of a \$300,000 award and \$300,000 local match. If adopted, the Resolution and Ordinance will assist in maintaining the exceptional service that the FLEX route provides to citizens and surrounding communities.

Council previously approved similar grant agreement resolutions, including Resolution 2022-022 for FY 2022 FASTER FLEX Operating grant funding and Resolution 2023-103 for FY 2023 FASTER FLEX Operating grant funding.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

The City is anticipated to receive \$600,000 in CDOT FY 2024 FASTER Grant funding via the IGA. On second reading, Council is also considering Ordinance No. 143, 2024, which would appropriate the \$300,000 FY 2024 FASTER Grant funds and the \$300,000 needed to meet the full local match requirement.

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

No board or commission recommendations are associated with this Resolution.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

No public outreach was conducted as part of this Resolution.

ATTACHMENTS

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