

Council Summary: Hutchins Mobile Library Initiative

Overview

The Hutchins Mobile Library initiative aims to expand equitable access to library resources, educational programming, and digital services throughout the City of Hutchins. The project addresses long-standing gaps in library access caused by distance, limited transportation, and uneven internet connectivity.

Purpose of the Mobile Library

The Mobile Library will provide direct service to neighborhoods, schools, senior communities, and community events, supporting the City's strategic goals in literacy advancement, digital inclusion, and community engagement.

1. Proposed Vehicle Specifications

A purpose-built mobile library vehicle outfitted with:

- Book lending and returns technology
- Wi-Fi hotspot capabilities
- Workstations for digital learning
- Storage for books, tablets, and educational materials
- ADA-accessible entry
- Climate-controlled interior suitable for year-round programming

2. Preliminary Cost Estimate

Based on the resolution, staff recommends proceeding with procurement of a mobile library vehicle from a qualified vendor **in an amount not to exceed \$280,000**.

This cost covers:

- Vehicle purchase
- Custom interior build-out
- Technology and equipment package
- Exterior wrap/branding

3. Service Area Access Map

A preliminary analysis of library-access distances shows significant portions of

Hutchins—especially residential clusters—fall outside convenient walking or transit access to traditional library services.

The Mobile Library would strategically rotate through underserved zones to maximize accessibility and reduce transportation barriers.

4. Community Needs Assessment Summary

Community input and demographic analysis indicate:

- High demand for children’s literacy programs
- Need for local technology access due to limited household internet connectivity
- Desire for city-hosted educational and enrichment programs
- Support for resources targeted toward seniors and working families
- Strong community interest in more flexible, neighborhood-based service delivery

The assessment demonstrates broad community support and clear need for mobile library services.

5. Draft Program Schedule (Example)

A sample weekly rotation could include:

- Neighborhood stops (2–3 days per week)
- Senior living/community center visits
- Weekend community events
- Seasonal programming (STEM camps, literacy festivals, digital literacy workshops)

This flexible model allows the City to adjust based on community demand and data collected during pilot service.