



MEMO TO CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Topic on the City Council Agenda

From: Miranda Carson, Coordination Planner **Meeting Date:** February 16, 2021
Presenter: Caleb Hood, Planning Division Manager **Estimated Time:** 15 minutes
Topic: Valley Regional Transit FY21 Cooperative Agreement

Attached is the FY 2021 Cooperative Agreement between Valley Regional Transit (VRT) and the City of Meridian. Some slight changes have been made from the FY 2020 agreement.

- The cost allocation methodology was updated, shifting slightly the estimate cost per service, but not greatly affecting the total cost.
- An exhibit reflecting the services provided by our contribution to VRT is attached to the FY 2021 Cooperative Agreement.
- Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) funding is available to address direct expenses and economic impacts of COVID-19.

VRT is eligible for CARES act dollars. With CARES funding and the new methodology, the components of service are no longer itemized with specific costs. This provides flexibility to VRT to apply CARES funds where eligible. The CARES funds will largely be covering the Rides-to-Wellness service in Meridian.

With the current Rides-to-Wellness covered by CARES funds still available, the Community Development staff and VRT are proposing a pilot expansion of the Rides-to-Wellness service. This expansion would provide rides to veterans between the City and the Veterans Administration in Boise. With Council approval, funds currently budgeted would be used. The program is also eligible for partial federal funding which VRT would pursue.

The new fixed service in Meridian between the Village and Ten Mile is planned to be delayed to FY 2022. This is due to the impact of COVID-19 on public transit. Community Development and VRT staff agree the launch of the service at this time would not be as successful as waiting. There are financial implications to the delay. \$51,250 was paid to VRT by the City in FY20 and credited to FY21 for the new service. Due to the delay of the new service with Council approval, these funds would be credited to other services in the FY21 year. This is the preference of both Community Development and Finance staff.