



CITY OF NOVI CITY COUNCIL
APRIL 22, 2024

SUBJECT: Consideration of recommendation from the Older Adults Needs Committee to subsidize senior transportation medical rides through People's Express for residents age 55+ and for any individual with a limiting disability who cannot drive beginning July 1, 2024.

SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT: City Manager
Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services/OAS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Older Adult Needs Committee was formed by City Council in January 2023 to advise Council on the needs of older adults in Novi, identify best practices for service delivery needs, as well as to formulate and recommend plans to meet the critical needs of older adults and adults with disabilities.

The Committee has previously recommended City Council contract a 3rd party provider covered under the Oakland County transportation millage to expand transportation to include more hours and days of service and potentially open services to all residents. On March 18, 2024, City Council approved a resolution requesting Oakland County amend its agreement with People's Express (PEX) to add transportation services to the City of Novi.

The current fare structure for Novi Senior Transportation includes free rides for individuals 55+ or adults under 55 with a limiting disability within the City limits and \$5 per one-way rides between the City limits and a 10-mile radius boundary. Fees within the City limits were waived by City Council in 2018.

Oakland County sets the pricing on fares for PEX. Individuals 55+, people with disabilities, low-income individuals, and veterans receive a discounted fare of \$2 per one-way ride. Out-of-boundary rides are an additional \$1.25 per mile. The fare for general public riders is \$4 per one-way ride, with out-of-boundary rides costing an additional \$2.50 per mile.

The Older Adult Needs Committee met on April 15 to discuss a recommendation to City Council on the waiver of rider fees. The Committee is recommending rider fees

should be waived for medical rides through People's Express for residents age 55+ and for any individual with a limiting disability who cannot drive.

If City Council directs staff to pursue this option, an agreement would be developed with PEX in which PEX would invoice Novi for the rides given. Based on previous ride totals in these categories, the annual expense is estimated at approximately \$15,000-20,000; funds for these rides are allocated in the proposed FY2024-25 PRCS/OAS budget (i.e., the previous operating expenses for the City's transit service) .

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Consideration of recommendation from the Older Adults Needs Committee to subsidize senior transportation medical rides through People's Express for residents age 55+ and for any individual with a limiting disability who cannot drive beginning July 1, 2024.