

GULF COAST RAIL DISTRICT

HOUSTON ★ TEXAS

6922 Katy Road
Houston, TX 77024
Phone 713-843-5451
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INVOICE NO.	INVOICE DATE	AMOUNT DUE
	11/8/2023	\$ 7,500.00

To: Waller County
Attn: Ms. Cindy Jones
836 Austin Street, Suite 203
Hempstead, TX 77445

Item	Quantity	Description	Unit Price	Total
	1	General Purpose Fund - 2024		\$7,500.00

Terms: Due Upon Receipt

TOTAL \$7,500.00

Cindy Jones

From: Patke, Lisa <L-Patke@tti.tamu.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 9:35 AM
To: Cindy Jones; McKenzie Kelley; Trey Duhon
Cc: Parker, Katherine
Subject: GCRD Annual County Payment Request and Invoice | Waller
Attachments: GCRD Resolution 23-16 Fee Structure.pdf; Invoice2024.Waller.pdf

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November 8, 2023

The Honorable Carbett "Trey" Duhon III
Waller County Judge
836 Austin Street, Suite 203
Hempstead, Texas 77445

Dear Judge Duhon:

The Gulf Coast Rail District (GCRD) is continuing its mission to improve the region's safety and mobility, particularly at grade crossings and as it relates to rail transportation. The GCRD Board and its committees recently met to develop the 2024 agenda, which includes securing project funding, identifying passenger commuter corridors that can be pursued short term, working with member entities, state, regional, community, and railroad partners through the newly formed GCRD committee, The Houston Area Rail Transformation (THE HART). THE HART is the Greater Houston region's collaborative and programmatic approach to leverage private and public funding opportunities for railroad projects in the region and is GCRD's mechanism to implement roadway/railway improvements. The West Belt Improvement Project (Phase 1) was awarded \$36.9 million through the Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant Program administered by the Federal Railroad Administration. The City of Houston was the sponsor; however, the history of this project began with the Gulf Coast Rail District before 2012. Our collaborative efforts through THE HART committee helped to make this application a success!

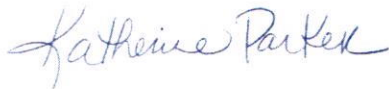
In July of 2023, the GCRD Board adopted a fee structure policy for current and future member entity contributions to the Gulf Coast Rail District. The policy determines contribution for counties by population and non-county entities by annual revenue. Attached is the policy and current contribution amounts. Waller County's new contribution request is \$7,500 for GCRD General Purposes in 2024. The GCRD Board has

developed a budget for its basic operations and is seeking financial assistance from Waller County Commissioners Court for its seventeenth year of activity.

As you are aware, this is a crucial time for the Houston region to focus on passenger transport. Much of the product supporting the economic growth in Texas and the U.S. is moving by rail to and from facilities along the Gulf Coast. Even more will move by truck on already congested roads. Effective passenger transport options can help address that challenge cost-effectively; it is also critical that we reduce the interfaces with at-grade rail and help facilitate freight movement.

Judge Duhon, your assistance in securing \$7,500 from Waller County to support Gulf Coast Rail District activities will be greatly appreciated. We look forward to continuing dialog with you and your staff to achieve these critical objectives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Katherine Parker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Katherine Parker
Executive Director
713-843-5451 phone
Katherine.Parker@gcrd.net



RESOLUTION NO. 23-16

RESOLUTION ADOPTING A GULF COAST RAIL DISTRICT FEE STRUCTURE POLICY FOR EXISTING AND NEW MEMBER ENTITIES

Whereas, The Gulf Coast Rail District (GCRD) began discussions to establish a proposed fee structure policy in January of 2021; and

Whereas, the policy will provide a structural guide to annual contributions for the Gulf Coast Rail District and establish contribution levels for counties by population and non-county entities by annual revenue; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GULF COAST RAIL DISTRICT THAT THE ATTACHED FEE STRUCTURE POLICY FOR EXISTING AND NEW MEMBER ENTITIES IS HEREBY ADOPTED. THIS POLICY SHALL BE REVIEWED AT LEAST EVERY FIVE YEARS.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 11th day of July 2023 at a regularly called meeting of the Gulf Coast Rail District.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

Dr. Carol Lewis

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Carol Abel Lewis, Ph.D., Chairperson
Gulf Coast Rail District

DocuSigned by:

Jon Keeney

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Jon Keeney, Secretary
Gulf Coast Rail District



GULF COAST RAIL DISTRICT FEE STRUCTURE

BACKGROUND

The Legislative and Funding committee began discussions concerning the proposed fee structure in January of 2021 to establish a policy for current and future member entity contributions to the Gulf Coast Rail District (the "District"). In the past, member entity contributions were agreed upon at the time each entity joined the Gulf Coast Freight Rail District. There has not been a standard policy or agreements related to annual contribution amounts to the District for current or new members. The current annual contributions have remained the same since the District's inception in 2007.

PROPOSED CHANGE

In order to provide a structural guide to annual contributions for the District, the Legislative and Funding Committee is proposing contribution levels be determined for counties by population and non-county entities by annual revenue. This policy shall be reviewed at least every five years.

Current Annual Contribution Amounts

Waller County - \$5,000
 Galveston County - \$5,000
 Montgomery County - \$5,000 (last payment 2018)
 Harris County - \$75,000
 Fort Bend County - \$35,000
 Port Houston - \$96,000 (\$24,000 per quarter-last payment March 2017)
 City of Houston-Executive Director position, office space, website cost and maintenance approx. \$126,000

PROPOSED COUNTY CONTRIBUTION LEVELS EXAMPLES

Population size	Amount	County Population*
less than 500K	\$7,500	Waller (54K), Galveston (351K)
501,000-750, 000	\$15,000	Montgomery (621K)
751,000 – 1.5 M	\$35,000	Fort Bend (800K)
over 1.5 M	\$75,000	Harris (4,735,000)
	\$126,000	City of Houston (2,300,000) **

**City of Houston-ED position, office space, website cost and maintenance approx. \$126,000

NONCOUNTY CONTRIBUTION LEVELS EXAMPLES

Entity	Amount	Annual Revenue
Port Houston	\$ 15,000, plus in-kind contribution	\$651,274,000 ¹
METRO	\$ 25,000	\$1,008,440,496

¹ Source: PHA-ACFR-2022.pdf (porthouston.com), Operating Revenues

² Source: METRO FY 2022 ACFR, METRO Digital Asset Library (resourcespace.com), Revenues comprised of Transportation fares and Sales tax revenues