



REQUEST FOR CITY COUNCIL ACTION

MEETING DATE: FEBRUARY 22, 2011

TITLE: REQUEST APPROVAL TO APPLY FOR FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION GRANT FOR NEW TRIPS VEHICLES

Brian Fisk

Director of Community Services

Sean Joyce

City Manager

RECOMMENDED ACTION

1. Approve Community Services' request to apply for a Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 Grant to purchase three new Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) vehicles for the TRIPS program and, contingent on Grant approval, authorize staff to prepare a budget adjustment for FY11-12 reflecting costs and revenues detailed in the Financial Impact section of this report.
2. Adopt RESOLUTION NO. - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FEDERAL FUNDING UNDER FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION SECTION 5310 (49 U.S.C. SECTION 5310) WITH THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The California Department of Transportation has issued a request for proposal to fund transportation needs of the elderly and persons with disabilities.

The TRIPS program has been in operation since 1999 and provides low cost, door-to-door wheelchair accessible transportation for Irvine senior citizens age 65 and older, and persons with disabilities 18 years of age and older who are unable to drive vehicles due to permanent physical or cognitive impairment. The program is operated and administered by the Community Services Health and Human Services division which also oversees Senior and Disability Services.

As the community continues to grow and age, Community Services has experienced an increase in demand for transportation services to the senior centers for Irvine's older adult population. To address the ongoing and increased demand for services, Community Services would like to apply for a Federal Transit Administration Grant to fund replacement of two existing TRIPS vehicles and purchase one new vehicle. The

new vehicles would help meet demand for transportation assistance to Lakeview Senior Center for social, educational, outreach and nutrition services.

Staff requests City Council approval to apply for approximately \$300,000 of Federal Transit Administration Grant funds for the purchase of the three CNG TRIPS vehicles, each with an estimated life span of seven years or 100,000 miles. If grant funds are awarded, there would be no additional General Fund costs for the two replacement vehicles and a \$200,000 savings would be generated since the City is scheduled to pay for vehicle replacement in FY11-12.

Funding for the third CNG TRIPS vehicle to meet increased demand would require an increase in the General Fund commitment of \$41,000 in net cost to the General Fund (appropriations less revenues to be adjusted annually for inflation). The increase in appropriations would fund the cost of two part-time paratransit drivers at an annual cost of \$30,600 and annual vehicle maintenance, operations and replacement cost of \$18,000. Annual estimated costs would be \$48,600, with annual estimated revenue of \$7,600 based on 4,000 additional one-way rides at \$1.90 per ride.

As part of the grant application, the Federal Transit Administration requires a resolution authorizing Federal funding under Federal Transit Authority Section 5310 with the California Department of Transportation, presented as Attachment 1.

COMMISSION/BOARD/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Not applicable.

ANALYSIS

The TRIPS program provides Irvine residents age 65 and older, and persons with disabilities 18 years of age and older, transportation services to locations within Irvine and surrounding areas for essential needs, including grocery shopping, medical appointments, work, school, senior centers and social activities.

One of the highest demands of the TRIPS program is ride requests to Lakeview Senior Center between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Over the past three years, TRIPS has seen an increase in peak time service requests to Lakeview Senior Center, and the program is no longer able to accommodate all peak hour requests. The program offers three shuttles per day (Monday through Friday) to and from Lakeview Senior Center; a fourth shuttle is needed to accommodate current ride demand during peak hours.

The Federal Transit Administration Grant will fund capital purchases of vehicles and equipment to help communities meet transportation needs of elderly and disabled persons in areas where public mass transportation services are otherwise unavailable, insufficient or inappropriate. Grantees are responsible for operating costs, drivers, maintenance and replacement of all project equipment. The average cost for yearly maintenance and replacement of an additional CNG TRIPS vehicle is estimated to be

\$18,000, and driver support for two part-time paratransit drivers is estimated to be \$30,600 per year.

Community Services seeks City Council approval to apply for grant funds to purchase three new CNG TRIPS vehicles (two replacements and one new). Two of the vans will replace currently operating TRIPS vehicles at no additional General Fund cost and would create a \$200,000 savings in fleet replacement for FY11-12. The third van will meet increased client demand, with a net cost to the General Fund of \$41,000 to support maintenance, replacement and driver costs.

The grant application is due March 4, 2011 and if awarded, the vehicle procurement process would begin in September 2011.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

1. The City Council could approve Community Services request to apply for two replacement vehicles at no additional General Fund cost; or
2. The City Council could deny Community Services' request to apply for grant funds for any new TRIPS vehicles.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The financial impact of this recommendation is an annual increase of \$41,000 in net cost to the General Fund (appropriations less revenue to be adjusted annually for inflation). The increase in appropriations would fund the cost of two part-time paratransit drivers for an annual cost of \$30,600 and annual vehicle maintenance, operations and replacement cost of \$18,000. Annual estimated costs are \$48,600 with annual estimated revenue of \$7,600 based on 4,000 additional one-way rides at \$1.90 per ride.

In addition, there would be a one-time fleet replacement cost savings in FY11-12 of approximately \$200,000 for replacement of two currently operating TRIPS vehicles.

If the City Council approves the grant application and the grant is awarded, staff will complete a budget adjustment for FY11-12 in accordance with City Financial Policies.

REPORT PREPARED BY Sheila Driscoll, Community Services Superintendent
Corinne Schneider-Jones, Community Services
Manager

Attachment:

1. RESOLUTION 11 - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FEDERAL FUNDING UNDER FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION SECTION 5310 (49 U.S.C. SECTION 5310) WITH THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. __

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF IRVINE, CALIFORNIA AUTHORIZING FEDERAL FUNDING UNDER FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION SECTION 5310 (49 U.S.C. SECTION 5310) WITH CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation is authorized to make grants to states through the Federal Transit Administration to support capital projects for non-urbanized public transportation systems under Section 5310 of the Federal Transit Act (FTA C 9070.1F); and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Transportation (Department) has been designated by the Governor of the State of California to administer Section 5310 grants for transportation projects for the elderly and disabled; and

WHEREAS, the City of Irvine desires to apply for said financial assistance to permit operation of paratransit service in City of Irvine; and

WHEREAS, the City of Irvine has, to the maximum extent feasible, coordinated with other transportation providers and users in the region (including social service agencies).

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Irvine RESOLVES as follows:

SECTION 1. Sean Joyce, City Manager, to file and execute applications on behalf of the City of Irvine with the Department to aid in financing capital projects pursuant to Section 5310 of the Federal Transit Act (FTA C 9070.1F), as amended.

SECTION 2. That Sean Joyce, City Manager, is authorized to execute and file all certification of assurances, contracts or agreements or any other document required by the Department.

SECTION 3. That Corinne Schneider-Jones, Community Services Manager, is authorized to provide additional information as the Department may require in connection with the application for the Section 5310 projects.

SECTION 4. That Corinne Schneider-Jones, Community Services Manager, is authorized to submit and approve request for reimbursement of funds from the Department for the Section 5310 projects.

SECTION 5. That the City Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption of this Resolution and enter it into the book of original Resolutions.

CC RESOLUTION NO. 11 - __

ATTACHMENT 1

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Irvine at a regular meeting held on the 22nd day of February, 2011.

MAYOR OF THE CITY OF IRVINE

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF IRVINE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF ORANGE) SS
CITY OF IRVINE)

I, SHARIE APODACA, City Clerk of the City of Irvine, HEREBY DO CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Irvine, held on the 22nd day of February, 2011.

AYES: 0 COUNCILMEMBERS:

NOES: 0 COUNCILMEMBERS:

ABSENT: 0 COUNCILMEMBERS:

CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF IRVINE