



Agenda Action Form Overview

The Board is requested to consider the proposed Inter-Governmental Agreement for the merger between Durham County and the City of Durham for Demand Response Transportation Services and to authorize the Chair of the BOCC to sign and execute the Inter-Governmental Agreement.

Background/Justification

Since 1998, Durham County ACCESS (Demand Response Transportation) and the City of Durham's GoDurham ACCESS (Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Paratransit Program) have provided transportation services successfully through a coordinated model to serve Durham County and City of Durham residents that meet specific eligibility requirements.

Currently both the City and County through an interlocal agreement use the same Contractor to operate both systems, inclusive of providing maintenance of vehicles, insurance, reporting of trips, responsibilities for compliance with local, state and federal rules, full customer service and engagement of technologies.

The merits of the coordinated model have resulted in lower costs, greater access and higher quality of transportation service and the proven results in serving the transportation needs of the City and County residents serves as the basis to formalize an Interlocal Government Agreement to fully merge the two systems into one under the authority of the City. The merger would result in a single point of operation provided by the City's GoDurham Access. Due to the current coordinated system there will be no disruption in service or impact to riders.

Staff and leadership from the North Carolina Department of Transportation, Public Transportation Division (NCDOT-PTD), NC State University Institute for Transportation Research and Education (ITRE), the City of Durham, GoDurham Transportation, Durham Chapel Hill Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHH MPO) Durham County Transportation Advisory Board, as well partners such as the Durham Center for Senior Life and Durham County Department of Social Services have participated in discussion to determine the feasibility of the merger. In addition, Durham County Conducted a public hearing on the proposed merger on June 10, 2019 and unanimously passed a motion to approve the merger.

The Board is requested to approve an initial trial term for the merger beginning October 14 – June 30, 2020 with an intent to extend the term of the agreement within the next fiscal year to a multiyear Interlocal Government Agreement. The Interlocal Governmental Agreement merger consolidates the Durham County Access Demand Response Transportation service and the City of Durham's GoDurham ACCESS into one County-City entity with the County conveying authority to the City to operate and perform the administrative and grant responsibilities.

This Agreement calls for the County to provide to the City, existing sources of County/State and or local resources to fund and provide trips for the demand response transportation servicing rural Durham County residents consistent to the service levels (trips) provided in FY18-19.



The merger transfers to the City the responsibilities to operate the Demand Response Service and administrative duties once performed by County ACCESS staff. Durham County will assist in providing minimum administrative and financial duties inhouse. Durham County under this Interlocal-Government Agreement will not provide any funding to the City for staff.

Due to a reduction in the rural population, Durham County is no longer eligible for funding through the Community Transportation Grant -5311 that for over ten (10) years provided administrative support for staffing. The two positions held within Durham County ACCESS will be eliminated as a Reduction in Force.

The City will follow the established financial and administrative procedures of the County for accounting of grant expenditures and completing required reports and both the County and City have identified staff to take on the administrative and financial responsibilities.

All current and on order Durham County ACCESS vehicles budgeted title, registration will be transferred to the City. The City through its' contractor will be responsible for all liability insurance, cost of maintenance and compliance with local, state and federal regulations.

The City is scheduled to act on the Merger at the City Council Work Session on September 19, 2019 and anticipate full action of the Council on October 7, 2019.

Policy Impact

Merging of the County Demand Response System with the City's Paratransit System is consistent with the recent presentation to the Board and Public Hearing held on June 10, 2019. The merger is also consistent with the regionalization policy that the North Carolina Department of Transportation supports. The merger places the transportation service, operations, customer service as well as the critical need to incorporate new technologies in the hands of a well-established transportation agency. The County continues to maintain a role in the provision of providing demand response transportation to meet the needs of rural county residents. The merged service will also continue to be co-branded with the logos of both the County and City as well as expand the current County Transportation Advisory Board to include City representation.

Procurement Background

Type of purchase

- ☒ Goods
- ☒ Services
- ☐ Architect, Engineer or Surveyor Services
- ☐ Construction and Repair

Did this request for purchase go through a bid process? Yes ☐ No ☒



Durham County Government
Agenda Action Form Supplemental Document – Contract Approval

Goods: Bids required if $\geq \$30,000$, BOCC approval if $\geq \$90,000$

Services: Bids required if $\geq \$30,000$, BOCC approval if $> \$40,000$

Construction/Repair work: Bids required if $\geq \$30,000$, BOCC approval if $\geq \$500,000$

If yes, attach a copy of bid tab and the minority and women business enterprise (MWBE) compliance review form provided by the Purchasing Division.

If no, why?

- ☐ Sole source exemption
- ☐ Cooperative purchasing program exemption
- ☒ State and federal contract exemption (Vehicles Only)
- ☐ Contract is an amendment to an existing contract
- ☐ Other (please explain)

If exempted from bidding, has this request been reviewed and approved by the Purchasing Division in the agenda Legistar system? Yes ☒ No ☐

If no, why?

Fiscal Impact

The County's funding commitment for the provision of trips remains comparable to the funds provided in the FY18-19 budget- \$556,059 and Trips.

The funding sources that the County receives for the Demand Response System will be the sole funding source for this agreement. Durham County as the recipient of state and local funds for Demand Response Transportation will make available to the City all grants and funds for the purpose of purchase of service trips for rural county residents and capital purchases for vehicles. These funds and resources are identified in Attachment A: FY19-20 Budget and are adopted as part of the Inter-Governmental Agreement.

The full level of funding for FY19-20 for the Demand Response Transportation Program provides \$536,388 in total funding for an estimated 20,630 trips. Additionally, \$350,000 is made available for the purchase of six (6) new lift equipped vehicles. Funding sources for the Durham County ACCESS have been stable for the past 10 years.

Funding for the Demand Response Transportation Program is split to account for the funds under Durham County ACCESS for the period of July 1- October 13, 2019 the time period prior to the execution of the merger. The Funding provided to the City covers the period of October 14, 2019 – June 30, 2020.



Durham County

July 1-October 13, 2019

	Budget	Trips
Local Transit Tax	\$ 54,037	2,078
State-Rural Operating Assistance Program	\$ 71,483	2,763
County Contribution	\$ 28,846	1,109
TOTAL Purchase of Service:	\$154,727	5,951

City of Durham

October 14- June 30, 2019

	Budget	Trips
Local Transit Tax:	\$133,291.	
State-Rural Operating Assistance Program	\$177,215.	11,943
County Contribution:	\$ 71,153.	2,737
TOTAL Purchase of Service:	\$381,660.	14,680

Capital:	\$350,000
Total Cap/POS	\$731,660.
TOTAL OP & CAP	\$886,388

Recommendation

The Board is requested to consider the proposed Inter-Governmental Agreement for the merger between Durham County and the City of Durham for Demand Response Transportation Services and to authorize the Chair of the BOCC to sign and execute the Inter-Governmental Agreement.

The merger allows for Durham County ACCESS to become part of an improved, merged transportation system overseen by the City of Durham. For FY2019-20 budget continues the level of County funding and the transfer of associated grant funds to provide the current level of service to all County residents.

Durham County staff will work together with the City to assure a seamless transition that will continue the valuable, safe and quality of demand response service to the citizens of rural Durham County.