



HILL COUNTRY TRANSIT DISTRICT INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT - AMENDMENT

RS-22-129

September 6, 2022

Background

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- ❑ City has an interlocal agreement with Hill Country Transit District (HCTD) to provide public transit services in Killeen
- ❑ City council gave direction on the allocation of ARPA funding for transit services and on July 26, 2022 council approved an interlocal agreement and provided funding for additional route 550 – Silver Flex route and Fixed Route 5
- ❑ Unfortunately, Silver Flex route is underutilized and is averaging 0.9 riders per hour over the last 5 months

Background

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- ❑ For the past 20+ years, the City (CDBG + General Fund) has funded an Elderly Transportation Program (ETP) for persons 62 years + who need transportation assistance.
- ❑ Anticipated budget for FY 22-23 is \$105,000
- ❑ There are 200 participants on the ETP
- ❑ Program gives participants option of type of service-fixed route, special transit or taxi service
- ❑ City utilizes an agreement with Cove Taxi to provide taxi rides for basic transportation services
- ❑ On July 29, 2022, the City was notified that Cove Taxi owners were retiring and closing their operations effective September 30, 2022.

Information

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- ❑ Current ETP through September, provides 8 one-way rides per month for participants on the program
- ❑ Participants apply each year and are selected in priority order of lowest income to highest income
- ❑ Approximately 175 participants are utilizing the taxi service, remaining participants utilize fix route, and special transit
- ❑ Participants utilize the taxi service for medical appointments, grocery shopping and other daily needs.

Information

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- ❑ City staff has reached out to all transportation providers and no organization has expressed interest in providing this personalized service via taxi
- ❑ City staff reached out to HCTD to start a conversation to see if they could possibly provide a similar service and stay within their federal funding guidelines

Hill Country Transit District Option

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- ❑ Operate like a dial and ride program – participants call 24 hours in advance to schedule their ride
- ❑ Rides will be shared (in same vehicle) with other participants on program
- ❑ Participants will still receive 8 one-way rides per month
- ❑ This will be a change from what participants are accustomed to, but this option will still provide basic transportation services

Alternatives

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- ❑ Do not approve the amendment to the interlocal agreement allowing for additional transportation services for the ETP participants through HCTD
- ❑ Amend the interlocal agreement with HCTD allowing for additional services encompassing the ETP

Recommendation

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- Staff recommends amending the interlocal agreement with HCTD for increased services for Killeen residents ages 62+ that are on the ETP and that the City Manager or designee be authorized to execute any change orders as permitted by state and local law.