



Agenda Item Summary

File #: 25-00467

Agenda Date: 7/8/2025

Agenda Item Name:

Regional Transit Service (RTS) FY26 County Service Contracts

Presenter:

Alison Moss, Transportation Planning Manager

Description:

The County must renew its contract with the Regional Transit Service (RTS) for the Fiscal Year 25/26 and FY26/27. At its May 13, 2025 meeting, the Board of County Commissioners directed staff to draft contracts for the following RTS services:

- Transit Services Agreement, including Base Services, service for Routes 52 and 75, increased service for Outside Urbanized Area; Total FY 26 Contract: \$ 1,826,381
- Fare Free program contribution; Total FY 26 Contract: \$190,000

Recommended Action:

Approve contracts for FY25/26-FY26/27 with the City of Gainesville for Transit Services and the Fare Free program, totaling \$ 1,828,607 and \$ 190,000, respectively.

Prior Board Motions:

Direct staff to draft a contract for FY25/26-FY26/27 with the City of Gainesville with the RTS level of services described in Option 2, including Base Services, service for Routes 52 and 75, increased service for Outside Urbanized Area, and increased Fare Free contribution.

Request that the City of Gainesville fund weekend transit service to Grace Marketplace and the Gainesville Regional Airport.

June 17, 2025 Joint City of Gainesville-Alachua County meeting – Request that Staff prepare a revised FY 26 budget including a 50/50 cost share for implementation of a new joint City-County Route 26, serving Grace Marketplace and The Gainesville Regional Airport on weekends.

Fiscal Note:

The Contract for Transit Services is for \$ 1,828,607 and entails a budget increase of \$2,226 from FY25. Funding for this contract would come from the General Fund - Unincorporated Fund in account 008.79.7940.544.34.00, with the account description of other contractual services and Funds 354 (MMTM Fund NW) and 355 (MMTM Fund SW) have a transfer into the General Fund for the Jonesville Express.

The Contract for the Fare Free program is for \$ 190,000 and entails a budget increase of \$75,000 from FY25. Funding for this contract would come from the General Fund - Unincorporated Fund in account 008.79.7940.544.34.00, with the account description of other contractual services.

Strategic Guide:

Social and Economic Opportunity

Background:

The County must renew its contract with the Regional Transit Service (RTS) annually. For the Fiscal Year 2026, County Staff prepared three different options for the Board of County Commissioners' consideration. These included the following options:

- Option 1: Primarily Status Quo/Existing Service – Some reductions due to UF/Gainesville realignments
- Option 2: Existing Service + Increased Service Outside Urbanized Area + Increased Fare Free contribution
- Option 3: Existing Service + Micro transit/Mobility on Demand

The Board supported staff's recommendation, Option 2, and directed staff to draft contracts for Transit Service and the Fare Free program. Additionally, the Board moved to request that the City of Gainesville fund weekend transit service to Grace Marketplace and the Gainesville Regional Airport.

Subsequent to that meeting, on June 17, 2025, a Joint City of Gainesville-Alachua County meeting was held. There, both City and County Commissions discussed and requested staff to review and propose recommendations for joint funding of weekend service on Route 26 serving Grace Marketplace and the Gainesville Regional Airport. In the proposed contract weekend service is provided for Route 26 with 50% of the funding provided by the County and 50% by the City. There is no net change to the service cost to the County from the service option presented on May 13th. This is accomplished primarily with frequency changes on weekend routes and reducing the frequency of Route 43 from 60 minutes to 90 minutes on weekdays. Staff reviewed other on demand options for Route 26, but the weekend ridership is sufficient to support fixed route service as the most cost-effective option.

Following the June 17th meeting, Staff learned about an additional grant fund – Section 5310 – meant to serve two of the County's most vulnerable populations, Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities. Staff propose the following minor revision to Attachment B: County to fund 5311 or 5310 eligible trips not to exceed \$61,579. This entails no budget change, but would permit flexible use of funds for trips 'outside the urbanized area' and those taken by seniors and individuals with disabilities.

The total of the proposed FY26 Transit Services Agreement Contract is \$ 1,828,607, a net budget increase for the County from FY25 of \$ 2,226.