

FY2024 Congressional Community Project Funding

Congresswoman Lizzie Fletcher (TX-07)

346 Cannon House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

Information Request

Project Title – Fort Bend County Transit Scheduling and Dispatch System Replacement

Project Description - Fort Bend County Public Transportation seeks funding for a scheduling and dispatching system that includes an Automatic Vehicle Locator (AVL) vehicle tracking system, Federal Transit Administration required Automatic Vehicle Annunciator (AVA) system, Automatic Passenger Counters (APC), Wi-Fi, and related services including information technology support and training. The current scheduling and dispatch system was acquired in 2008. The system lacks the efficiency, reliability, and speed of current technology. The new technology will include features to better optimize scheduling and enable the agency to connect more effectively with passengers through automated confirmation, reminder, and arrival notifications. Passengers will have access to nearly real-time route information via an online portal which will result in a reduction to call center traffic and create a better experience for passengers. By implementing a new system, the transit agency will eliminate the high cost of maintaining the legacy system and operate more efficiently.

Estimated start and completion dates – January 2024 to August 2024

Request Information

Amount of CPF funding requested for project - \$360,000

Total project cost - \$450,000

FY24 President's Budget Request Amount – 0

FY23 Enacted Amount – 0

Can the project obligate all appropriated funds within 12 months after enactment? Yes

Request submitted to another subcommittee this fiscal year? No

Project Recipient Information

Is this funding requested by a governmental or non-profit organization? Government

Recipient Point of Contact - Pamela LeBrane

Recipient Phone Number - 281-243-6702

Recipient Email Address - Pamela.LeBrane@fortbendcountytexas.gov

In which congressional district is the recipient located? TX-22

Recipient Legal Name - Fort Bend County

Address – 301 Jackson Street, Richmond TX 77469

Project Address is the same as Recipient Address? Y

Disclosure and Transparency

Project Information URL: N/A

Request Explanation (Explanation of the request must include purpose and why it is a valuable use of taxpayer funds): Public Transportation is an essential resource that helps bridge the gap of unmet transportation needs for citizens across the county. Services provided by Fort Bend County Public Transportation reach citizens of Congressional District 7, including low-income, seniors, and people with disabilities. Fort Bend County Public Transportation provides over 400,000 trips annually to visitors and residents in the Fort Bend County service area. The dispatch and scheduling system would provide county staff with a more efficient and reliable trip planning and schedule optimization resource. In addition, this all-in-one software will enhance the passenger experience through real-time vehicle location, announcement systems for the elderly and disabled population, and access to an online trip-planning portal.

Supplemental Question

General description and scope of project, including benefits and explanation for why project is a priority. Fort Bend County Public Transportation seeks funding for a scheduling and dispatching system that includes an Automatic Vehicle Locator (AVL) vehicle tracking system, Federal Transit Administration required Automatic Vehicle Annunciator (AVA) system, Automatic Passenger Counters (APC), Wi-Fi, and related services including information technology support and training. The current scheduling and dispatch system was acquired in 2008. The system lacks the efficiency, reliability, and speed of current technology. The new technology will include features to better optimize scheduling and enable the agency to connect more effectively with passengers through automated confirmation, reminders, and arrival notifications. Passengers will have access to nearly real-time route information via an online portal which will result in a reduction to call center traffic and create a better experience for passengers. By implementing a new system, the transit agency will eliminate the high cost of maintaining the legacy system and operate more efficiently.

Public Transportation is an essential resource that helps bridge the gap of unmet transportation needs for citizens across the county. Services provided by Fort Bend County Public Transportation reach citizens of Congressional District 7, including low-income, seniors, and people with disabilities. Fort Bend County Public Transportation provides over 400,000 trips annually to visitors and residents in the Fort Bend County service area. The dispatch and scheduling system would provide county staff with a more efficient and reliable trip planning and schedule optimization resource. In addition, this all-in-one software will enhance the passenger experience through real-time vehicle location, announcement systems for the elderly and disabled population, and access to an online trip-planning portal.

Does the project require an environmental review? If so, what is the status and/or outcome of the review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)? No

Does the project have other public (federal, state, local) and/or private funds committed to meet match or cost-share requirements for costs related to construction, operations, and maintenance? If yes, list sources and amounts of funds – Yes, local funds will be used for 20% of the project.

If the project receives less than requested for the transit infrastructure projects, will the project proceed without waiting for additional funding sources? The project will not be able to start immediately without

the total amount. Fort Bend County anticipates FY2024 formula funds to make up the shortfall if there are no other federal grant opportunities available.

Does the project intend to apply for any DOT discretionary programs before proceeding? If yes, will the project sponsor still proceed if not selected? No

Provide a history of federal funding for the project, if any. Include formula funds and any discretionary grants. FY2006 FTA Urbanized Area Formula Grants – 5307 \$121,918

Where is the project in the construction process? N/A, not a construction project.

Is the project on a state, tribal or territorial transportation improvement plan (STIP) or a transportation improvement plan (TIP) as of 12/31/2022? If yes, provide a link to the plan. Project is not on a STIP or TIP as of 12/31/2022.

Provide the STIP or TIP ID Number and specify which plan the ID Number comes from. N/A, Project is not currently on a STIP or TIP. However, we plan to add project to the TIP.



COUNTY JUDGE

Fort Bend County, Texas

The Honorable KP George
County Judge

(281) 341-8608
Fax (832) 471-1858

March 31, 2023

Congresswoman Lizzie Fletcher (TX-07)
346 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: FY2024 Congressional Community Funded Project for Fort Bend County Scheduling and Dispatch System

Dear Congresswoman Fletcher,

Please accept this letter as assurance that the local match funds necessary to support the request for federal funds under the FY2024 Congressional Community Funded Project for the Transit Scheduling and Dispatch System will be provided from Fort Bend County General Revenue funds should the request be awarded. As proposed, the County will use \$90,000 for the local cash match.

We appreciate the efforts of Congresswoman Fletcher to help us serve and meet the transportation needs of the Fort Bend County community, including our county's low income, seniors and individuals with disabilities population. If you have any questions regarding this request or need additional information, please contact Mrs. Pamela LeBrane at 281-633-7433 or via email at Pamela.LeBrane@fortbendcountytexas.gov.

Sincerely,

KP George
County Judge
Fort Bend County



**FORT BEND SENIORS
MEALS ON WHEELS**

P.O. Box 1488
1330 Band Road
Rosenberg, Texas 77471
281.633.7049
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Executive Director

Robert E. Hebert

March 31, 2023

Dear Grants Committee:

I'm writing to express my support of the transportation services provided by Fort Bend County Public Transportation (also known as Fort Bend Transit) to Fort Bend Seniors Meals on Wheels (FBS). Fort Bend Seniors Meals on Wheels is a non-profit serving Fort Bend and Waller Counties. We have been serving this community since 1974. With the support of the local communities, we have been able to deliver hot nutritious meals to seniors for the past 45 years, and now serve nearly 1,100 seniors each day. We provide these much-needed daily meals in addition to recreation activities, socialization, referral services, and more to the seniors visiting our 12 congregate centers each day. The FBS mission is to enhance seniors' quality of life and allow them to remain independent and stay an integral part of the fabric of the Fort Bend community.

To that end, Fort Bend Transit is an integral part of this mission. Fort Bend Transit allows FBS to offer these services by providing seniors with their daily transportation to our centers. Fort Bend Transit is able to help our seniors remain independent and allow our seniors to interact and participate in community events. The transportation service Fort Bend Transit provides offers comfort to both the seniors and their families knowing they have the ability to attend our centers in a safe manner through their friendly Operators.

In closing, Fort Bend Transit fills a gap in our community that no other organization could easily provide: ensuring seniors travel safely from the comfort of home to a local congregate center daily. Without this service, FBS would not be able to serve as many seniors and would not be able to keep seniors independent and fully involved in the Fort Bend community. We, therefore, offer our full support of Fort Bend County Public Transportation's grant application.

Sincerely,

Bob Hebert, Ph. D.
Executive Director



United Way of Greater Houston

Serving Fort Bend and Waller Counties Since 1974

Committed to helping seniors remain independent by enhancing their quality of life through services and resources