

Memorandum

Memorandum No: 23-117

Date: March 10, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council

From: Ryan Henderson, Interim City Manager



Re: City of Anna Senior Transit Next Steps

Background

Over the past several years, Anna neighbors have reached out to city staff and officials expressing concern about the lack of affordable transportation services to medical appointments outside of the Anna area for senior and disabled residents.

In developing a solution to this issue, staff initially considered a volunteer-led approach by coordinating discussions between the Community Enhancement and Compliance Division and Anna's Pastoral Alliance. After investigating the scope and need for both seniors and disabled riders in Anna, it was decided that the reliance on volunteers would not be a long-term nor sustainable option. City staff then decided to seek feedback on the feasibility of Anna implementing its own transit service for seniors by hosting several virtual meetings with DART, Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), and the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG). Rather than implement a stand-alone transit service that could take 1-2 years to execute, it was recommended that the City consider joining an existing transit district such as the McKinney Urban Transit District (MUTD) which includes the cities of McKinney, Melissa, Celina, Lowry Crossing, Princeton, and Prosper. To join, the City would need to identify funding mechanisms to off-set costs for riders, many of whom are on fixed incomes.

Funding Options

Staff at DART (the service provider for on-demand shared rides for the cities included in the MUTD) expressed a willingness to include Anna as part of the MUTD. However, Anna's ability to secure transit funding is essential to become a member. Once funding is identified and secured, staff at DART and the MUTD will first brief their boards and then will subsequently amend the current Interlocal Agreement (ILA) to include the City of Anna in their service area.

Staff has assessed that two options currently exist for possible transit funding. The City may be eligible for rural transit funding administered by TxDOT. To subsidize ridership programs for seniors, TxDOT offers the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities (5310) Program. If the City of Anna is unable to receive funding designated in the State's 5310 Program, the City may be eligible to utilize Regional Toll Revenue (RTR) funding through the NCTCOG.

Next Steps

City staff will meet virtually on Wednesday, March 15, 2023, with senior officials from NCTCOG, TxDOT, as well as Collin County Commissioners Duncan Webb and Darrell Hale. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss the funding of senior transit implementation. Once the funding mechanism for Anna's transportation needs have been identified, staff will follow-up with a briefing to City Council for policy direction.

c: Kimberly Garduno, Economic Development Coordinator
Kevin Martin, Community Enhancement and Compliance Manager
Joey Grisham, Director of Economic Development
Taylor Lough, Assistant City Manager
Greg Peters, Interim Assistant City Manager
Management Team