



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, March 22, 2016

Council Session

Item E-4

Public Hearing on Section 5311 Operating Assistance Application Regarding Transit Services

Council action will take place under Request and Referrals item H-3.

Staff Contact: Chad Nabity, Regional Planning Director

Council Agenda Memo

From: John Collins PE, Public Works Director

Meeting: March 22, 2016

Subject: Public Hearing on Section 5311 Operating Assistance Application Regarding Transit Services

Presenter(s): Chad Nabity, Regional Planning Director

Background

Since the mid-1970s, Hall County, using Section 5311 Rural Transit Funding, has provided elderly and para-transit services through Senior Citizens Industries, Inc. Over the years, this service has evolved into a full-scale, portal-to-portal transit service, providing transportation to all residents of Hall County through a combination of buses and discounted cab vouchers.

In March of 2012, the City of Grand Island Census Defined Urbanized Area reached a population of greater than 50,000 people and Grand Island was classified as a metropolitan statistical area. This designation changes the funding streams and responsibilities for a number of programs, including those used to provide Transportation Services within the City of Grand Island. With this new designation, Section 5307 Urban Transit Funds became available to the City of Grand Island. On September 25, 2012 the Grand Island City Council authorized the Mayor to send a letter requesting the City of Grand Island be named the recipient of these transit funds. The Governor then approved the request.

On August 26, 2014 City Council approved Resolution No. 2014-259 which allowed for the City to fund transit services within the City through the existing contract between Hall County and Senior Citizen Industries, Inc., until such time the City is ready to authorize a separate contract for the provision of transit services within the City.

Discussion

It is now time for the City to prepare for management of the transit service through Section 5307 funding. This will allow the City to be the direct recipient of such funding, which is approved through the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), from the Federal Government.

The City is to assume management of the transit service on July 1, 2016; therefore a Request for Proposals is currently being developed to solicit vendors for providing transit services.

The chosen transit service vendor will be presented to City Council for contract approval.

This public hearing is being held to notify the public and take comments on the change of funding streams for transit programs within the urbanized area of the City of Grand Island.