



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: Public Works

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: January 22, 2019

Re: Report: Utilization of Funding Allocated for After-Hours Transit Service

Executive Summary

Staff has prepared for Council consideration a report addressing Council's questions related to the December 17, 2018 letter (attached) submitted to Council from the Public Transit Advisory Commission regarding utilization of the \$20,000 allocated from the FY2017 general fund savings for the purpose of providing after-hours transit service to and/or from City sponsored meetings.

Discussion

There is approximately \$20,000 available in funding for over-time hours for Columbia transit drivers to provide after-hours' service to individuals who request transportation to and/or from City Council, City Board or Commission, or other City sponsored meetings that begin or end after Go COMO's regular service hours, i.e. near or after 7:00 pm, Monday – Friday.

Since the service is being provided as a door-to-door service, similar to Go COMO's Para-Transit service, the required payment for the initial ride to the meeting is \$2.00, but the after-hours rides are provided for free. Per the recommendation of the Public Transit Advisory Commission (PTAC), the service is provided to anyone who requests it as long as it's for the purpose of attending a City sponsored meeting that begins or ends after regular Go COMO service hours.

Drivers will now have overtime scheduled for all weekdays that have City evening meetings. If no rides are requested on a particular day, the drivers will not work overtime on that day. For meetings other than City Council meetings, staff liaisons or meeting organizers must provide scheduled meeting information to Transit staff at least one week in advance to ensure that drivers are scheduled for overtime on that day.

It has been determined that paying drivers' overtime hours is more affordable than providing vouchers for taxi rides, especially when more than one individual has requested an after-hours ride. However, if an individual does request a ride past 10:00 pm, we will provide them with a voucher for a taxi service ride. Since drivers providing this service are scheduled to work the next morning, we cannot request that they work past 10:00 pm.

Paratransit ride customers (or riders in general) can call Paratransit schedulers at 573-874-7290 or email them at ptscheduling@como.gov to request a ride for this purpose. All requests must be made at least 24 hours in advance. The individual requesting the ride must provide all relevant meeting information to the Paratransit dispatcher so they can confirm the meeting on the City Calendar.



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The opportunity to request rides to attend City sponsored meetings after regular Go COMO service hours will be sent to all City Boards and Commissions and will also be posted on Go COMO's website. The process for ensuring that rides are available for City sponsored meetings will also be included in all program outreach efforts.

The \$20,000 funded for this service was allocated from the FY2017 general fund savings so once these funds have been expended, the service will end unless Council wishes to allocate additional funding for the program. Staff will track the number of riders and available funding on a monthly basis.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: \$20,000 was allocated from FY2017 general fund savings. To date, \$61.98 of these funds has been utilized this fiscal year.

Long-Term Impact: None, unless Council decides to continue the program once the \$20,000 has been expended.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impacts

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Social Equity, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Mobility, Connectivity, and Accessibility, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Legislative History

Date	Action
12/17/18	REP113-18-Correspondence from the Public Transit Advisory Commission related to citizen transportation to and from city meetings.

Suggested Council Action

This report is for informational purposes only.