

**CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA**



Agenda Date:	February 3, 2020
Action Required:	Resolution
Presenter:	Garland W. Williams, Charlottesville Area Transit Director
Staff Contacts:	Garland W. Williams, Charlottesville Area Transit Director John Blair, City Attorney
Title:	Resolution Supporting Afton Express Transit Service

Background:

The Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission and the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission (CSPDC) have been working on securing funding for a Demonstration Transit Service connecting Staunton-Augusta County-Waynesboro (SAW) area to the Charlottesville area.

Discussion:

The CSPDC is applying for a Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation grant to establish a Demonstration Transit Service connecting the SAW area to the Charlottesville area beginning in Fiscal Year 2021 and ending in Fiscal Year 2024. The grant would fund park and ride lots in Staunton, Fishersville, and Waynesboro and serve stops at Fifth Street Station Parkway, the University of Virginia, the University of Virginia Medical Center, and downtown Charlottesville.

The grant requires a local Charlottesville area match of approximately \$104,529 over a four fiscal year period. The University of Virginia has committed to contribute \$69,655, and Albemarle County has committed to contribute \$17,437. The City of Charlottesville is being asked to commit to contribute \$17,437 over a four fiscal year commitment. On December 19, 2019, the Regional Transit Partnership unanimously voted to recommend that the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County commit to fund this project in the amount of \$17,437 from each jurisdiction.

Budgetary Impact:

If awarded, the City's contribution to the Transit Demonstration Service would be \$770 in Fiscal Year 2021, \$5,443 in Fiscal Year 2022, \$5,547 in Fiscal Year 2023, and \$5,677 in Fiscal Year 2024.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Council approve the Resolution in support of the grant application.

Alternatives:

Council could not adopt the Resolution.

Attachments:

Resolution

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR
THE AFTON EXPRESS TRANSIT SERVICE GRANT APPLICATION**

WHEREAS, the Strategic Highway Research Program II (SHRP II) Interstate 64 Corridor Plan developed by the Charlottesville Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization in December 2017 identified in Goal # 1: “further integrate transit into the corridor through supporting research and development of inter-regional transit options; and

WHEREAS, the SHRP II Interstate 64 Corridor Plan identified that 4,597 workers from Augusta County and the Cities of Waynesboro and Staunton travel daily into the Albemarle-Charlottesville area; and

WHEREAS, the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission developed an I-81/I-64 InterRegional Public Transportation Feasibility Study (Feasibility Study) that identifies a plan to provide public transit services connecting stops in Staunton, Fishersville, Waynesboro, Charlottesville and Albemarle County with eight daily trips on Mondays through Fridays; and

WHEREAS, the Feasibility Study’s recommended services estimate a removal of at least 21,000 single occupant vehicle trips per year from the corridor travel; and

WHEREAS, the cost to run this service from Fiscal Year 2021 through Fiscal Year 2024 is estimated at \$1,145,297, which includes a required local match of \$209,058 for this period; and

WHEREAS, each of the local governments and the University of Virginia are being requested to provide a portion of the required local match; and

WHEREAS, the City of Charlottesville’s portion of the required match is a total of \$17,437 over the Fiscal Years 2021 through 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Charlottesville City Council recognizes the need to reduce single occupant vehicles within the Interstate 64 corridor reducing carbon emissions, reducing traffic congestion and destination parking, improving travel times and improving traffic safety.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT for purposes of public necessity, convenience, and general welfare, the Charlottesville City Council hereby supports the recommended Afton Express Transit Service Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Charlottesville City Council supports the total contribution of \$17,437 toward the local match to provide the Afton Express Transit Services for Fiscal Years 2021 through 2024.