



May 14, 2020

To: Transit Committee

From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer

Subject: Amendment to Cooperative Agreement with the Regional Center of Orange County

Overview

On June 25, 2018, the Board of Directors approved a cooperative agreement with the Regional Center of Orange County to share in the cost of providing paratransit service to Regional Center of Orange County consumers for a two-year initial term with two, two-year option terms. The initial term of the current agreement expires June 30, 2020, and an amendment is required to exercise the first option term and extend the term of the agreement.

Recommendation

Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Amendment No. 1 to Cooperative Agreement No. C-8-1735 between the Orange County Transportation Authority and the Regional Center of Orange County to exercise the first option term to share in the cost of paratransit services provided to Regional Center of Orange County consumers through June 30, 2022.

Discussion

The Regional Center of Orange County (RCOC) is responsible, under the Lanterman Act, to assist people with developmental disabilities. The Lanterman Act is a California law that gives people with developmental disabilities the right to services and supports they need to live a more independent and normal life. Through a contract with the State of California, the RCOC is responsible for arranging and purchasing transportation for its consumers so they can access the services identified in their individual program plan. The RCOC purchases a variety of transportation services for consumers, including Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) fixed-route bus passes, OC ACCESS service, and privately-contracted services.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) permits OCTA to charge a higher fare to social service agencies or other organizations for trips guaranteed to the organization as they may exceed the minimum ADA requirements. RCOC and OCTA have been engaged in a cost-sharing arrangement since 2003 for OC ACCESS transportation provided to RCOC consumers traveling to and from a variety of RCOC rehabilitation or work programs.

OCTA estimated providing 412,000 trips in fiscal year (FY) 2019-20 to RCOC consumers before the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, which accounts for approximately 37 percent of all OC ACCESS trips. Under the terms of the cooperative agreement, RCOC consumers receive subscription service which provides an established travel schedule and eliminates the need to reserve rides within the one to three-day advance reservation window. In addition, RCOC consumers do not pay a fare when boarding. OCTA records all OC ACCESS trips provided to RCOC consumers and submits a monthly invoice to RCOC with comprehensive trip data; this assists RCOC with the reconciliation and reporting requirements established by the State of California.

The agreement also established a negotiated one-way trip rate for service provided to RCOC consumers. This rate may be adjusted based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the January year-over-year change. Utilizing the FY 2019-20 rate of \$8.00 and applying a 3.1 percent CPI increase, the one-way trip rate for FY 2020-21 will be \$8.25, with fare revenue collection estimated at \$3.2 million annually. The FY 2021-22 rate will be based on FY 2020-21 rate adjusted by CPI in January 2021.

The initial term for this agreement expires on June 30, 2020, and an amendment is required to continue to provide this vital service in partnership with RCOC. Staff recommends exercising the first option term in the agreement and extend the term for two years.

Fiscal Impact

The estimated reimbursement associated with Cooperative Agreement No. C-8-1735 is included in the revenue projections for the proposed OCTA fiscal year 2020-21 Budget, Operations Division, Paratransit Services, Account 0030-5246-00000-SD1.


Summary

Based on the information provided, staff recommends the Board of Directors authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Amendment No. 1 to Cooperative Agreement No. C-8-1735 between OCTA and RCOC to exercise the first option term to share in the cost of paratransit services provided to RCOC consumers through June 30, 2022.

Attachment

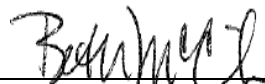
- A. Regional Center of Orange County Cooperative Agreement No. C-8-1735 Fact Sheet

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