

MOTION:

SECOND:

**RE: AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT FUNDING FOR FY2020 I-66 AND I-395
 COMMUTER CHOICE PROJECTS**

ACTION:

WHEREAS, the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission ("NVTC") has issued a call for projects for the FY2020 I-66 Commuter Choice program; and

WHEREAS, management has identified and prioritized eight suitable projects; and

WHEREAS, the I-395 Commuter Choice program is expected to issue a call for projects in the Spring of 2019 with projects beginning in Fall of 2019; and

WHEREAS, management will advise the Commission of projects proposed for the I-395 Commuter Choice program; and

WHEREAS, management will advise the Commission on the selection of any proposed projects; and

WHEREAS, Commission authorization is required of all applications; and

WHEREAS, execution of a funding agreement is necessary to receive any project funding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission does hereby authorize the Executive Director to apply for and accept funding from the FY2020 I-66 and I-395 Commuter Choice programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission does hereby endorse management's prioritization of proposed projects.

Votes:

Ayes:

Nays:

Abstain:

Absent from Vote:

Alternate Present Not Voting:

Absent from Meeting:



January 3, 2019

TO: Madam Chair Anderson and PRTC Commissioners

FROM: Chuck Steigerwald
Director of Strategic Planning

THROUGH: Robert A. Schneider, PhD
Executive Director

SUBJECT: Authorization to Apply For and Accept Funding For FY2020 I-66 and I-395
Commuter Choice Projects

Recommendation:

Authorize the Executive Director to apply for and accept funding for FY2020 I-66 and I-395 Commuter Choice projects and endorse management's prioritization of projects.

Background:

In November 2018 the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission ("NVTC") issued a call for projects to be funded under next year's I-66 Commuter Choice program. NVTC has an estimated \$20 million to disburse and has developed an evaluation and selection process for proposed projects. This process includes the formation of an evaluation working group, which PRTC staff has been a participant in. Project applications are due to NVTC by January 15, 2019. Funding for selected projects would be available July 1, 2019.

Management has identified eight projects that should be eligible for I-66 Commuter Choice funding. Final cost estimates and some elements of project design are being developed, but authorization is being requested at this time to allow management to meet the January 16th application deadline for projects.

OmniRide's proposed projects are centered on service adjustments to account for additional commuter parking capacity at the new Haymarket Commuter Lot and the planned opening of 900 spaces at the University Boulevard Commuter Lot. It should be noted that current

Commuter Choice policy is that applications for transit operating assistance are for two years at a time and after the first five years of 100% funding the funding percentage decreases with projects eligible for up to eight years of transit operations funding.

Applicants have been asked to prioritize their proposed projects so that agency or jurisdictional priorities can be considered in the evaluation process.

The following are the proposed projects listed in order of management's priority:

1. Continued funding for the Gainesville/Pentagon OmniRide Express route. Fully funded by the first I-66 Commuter Choice program of projects for the first two-and one-half years. This project would continue full funding at the current service level of ten trips, extend the route to serve the the University Boulevard Commuter Lot, and fund marketing and promotion . Estimated funding request \$650,000 (two years of full funding).
2. Funding for the Haymarket/Rosslyn OmniRide Express route. This project would seek full funding for the Haymarket/Rosslyn route that began service on December 17, 2018. Included in the project would be extension to the University Boulevard Commuter Lot, and marketing and promotion. Estimated funding request \$700,000 (two years of full funding).
3. Consultant assistance for marketing and promotion of slug lines in the I-66 corridor. This project would include the development of a marketing plan, design and production of promotional materials, management of social media accounts, and general assistance with the development of slug lines at area commuter lots. Estimated request for funds \$200,000.
4. Additional trips on the Gainesville/Pentagon OmniRide Express route. This project would provide an additional eight trips (four AM, four PM), extend service from the Pentagon to L'Enfant Plaza, and purchase three vehicles. Estimated funding request \$2,500,000 (two years of full funding).
5. Additional trips on the Gainesville/Washington OmniRide Express route. This project would provide four new trips (two AM and two PM) between the Cushing Road Commuter Lot and downtown Washington, DC and the purchase of two new vehicles. This service adjustment includes the truncation of routing to 14th Street instead of L'Enfant Plaza. L'Enfant would now be served by the Gainesville/Pentagon route. Estimated funding request \$1,400,000 (two years of full funding).
6. One additional strategic bus to ensure service continuity and quality. Estimated funding request \$500,000.
7. New Field Support Specialist position to ensure service continuity and quality. Estimated funding request \$80,000.

8. Additional trips on the Haymarket/Rosslyn OmniRide Express route. This project would seek funding for two additional trips (one AM, one PM) and the purchase of one vehicle. Estimated funding request \$800,000 (two years of full funding).

Management has recently learned that the I-395 Commuter Choice program will likely be issuing a call for projects this Spring. Selected projects could be implemented as early as Fall of 2019, coincident with the opening of the I-395 toll lanes for revenue service. Management will return to the Commission to advise on any projects that OmniRide proposes for funding from the I-395 Commuter Choice program.

Management will also provide updates to the Commission as the project selection process progresses. If one or more of the projects is selected for funding it will be necessary to execute funding agreements for Commuter Choice projects. The related resolution will authorize the Executive Director to execute a funding agreement without returning to the Commission for further authorization under a subsequent resolution.

Fiscal Impact:

None. Commuter Choice would provide 100% funding for selected projects.