



## REQUEST FOR CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

Agenda Date Requested: <u>July 8, 2024</u>
Requested By: <u>Matt Daeumer, Asst. City Manag</u>
Department: <u>Administration/CMO</u>
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Report <input type="radio"/> Resolution <input type="radio"/> Ordinance

Appropriation	
Source of Funds:	<u>038 – EDC Fund</u>
Account Number:	<u>038-6030-565-5007</u>
Amount Budgeted:	<u>\$85,000</u>
Amount Requested:	<u>\$85,000</u>
Budgeted Item:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

**Exhibits:** 2023-24 Agreement w/ Exhibits, 2024-25 Agreement w/ Exhibits, 2023 Ridership Data

### SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATION

The City of La Porte has partnered with Harris County Transit Authority (HCTA) to provide regional bus service in La Porte since 2013. The City has provided a fixed schedule basis along a specific route with vehicles stopping to pick up and deliver passengers to specific locations within the City, as well as selected sites outside the City such as the Social Security Office, Strawberry Clinic, a connector shuttle to Baytown which allows riders to be connected to the Metro Station, and paratransit services. Paratransit services are those services required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for residents with disabilities who are unable to use fixed route transportation systems and are deemed eligible for the service (aka “door to door” services). Harris County administers a federal grant for the cost of providing the service and La Porte provides a match to complete the funding.

Summary Ridership Data:

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
La Porte Routes Only	5,041	6,214	6,870	5,117	3,648	3,740	4,800
Baytown Shuttle	5,322	5,138	6,086	5,024	4,302	4,495	6,210
Total	10,363	11,352	12,956	10,141	7,950	8,235	11,010

La Porte’s share of bus service for the upcoming 12-month service year, which begins upon the signing of the “Agreement,” is \$85,000.00. COVID-19 affected ridership for a few years, however ridership levels for 2023 are almost back to pre-COVID levels. We expected the 2023 numbers to exceed the 2021 and 2022 numbers, and the ridership data we received confirmed the increase in riders. The only change from the previous agreements with HCTA is an increase cost from \$72,000 to \$85,000. HCTA has informed us that the bus contractor raised prices in 2022 by 36% when the County renewed their agreement, and HCTA has been absorbing the extra match for the last two years. HCTA is short on operating funds and is increasing the City’s share.

Although we only budgeted \$72,000 for this service, we can make up the difference with funds within the Economic Development Corporation budget. Harris County has continuously planned to market more aggressively their services in the community. If ridership increases, the funding of this agreement can increase.

If City Council wishes to continue providing bus services to the community, staff recommends approving the Bus Service Agreement with Harris County Transit Authority for local bus service for 12-month period.

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**ACTION REQUIRED BY CITY COUNCIL**

**Authorize the Mayor to enter an Interlocal agreement for bus services between Harris County and the City of La Porte for local bus transit services with an expenditure of \$85,000.00 for the period of twelve (12) months with the approval of Harris County.**

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**Approved for the City Council meeting agenda**

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**Corby D. Alexander, City Manager**

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**Date**