



## CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS

### Finance and Personnel Committee Agenda Communication

**Meeting Date:** March 21, 2022

**Prepared By:** Jim Snider, City Administrator  
Joanie Baxter, Finance Director  
Jon Oliphant, Planning & Development Director

**Agenda Item:** Township/City Urban Area Paratransit Program Financial Consideration

**Explanation:** Washington Township started a program within the last couple of years to provide free ride service to “mobile seniors” within the 61571 zip code. Much of Washington and Morton have been found to be within a mobility “grey area” where there is little to no alternative means of available motorized transportation. The Greater Peoria Mass Transit District (GPMTD) applied for a federal Section 5310 grant to pay for 50% of the operating funds associated with a four-month trial program to provide transit service for handicapped individuals between the ages of 18-59 through CityLift. The grant is for \$100,000 and both the City and Township have committed to \$50,000 local matches. Service would be provided within the urbanized part of the 61571 zip code that does not have paratransit service for this age range and to points in East Peoria and Peoria.

Attached is a map showing the eligible 61571 zip code ridership and a summary of the tentative program provided by the Township. It is proposed that rides within the eligible 61571 zip code be \$2 and rides to service points in East Peoria and Peoria be \$6.

**Fiscal Impact:** The consensus of the City Council on September 20 was to commit to a \$50,000 local grant match, though no particular budget fund was identified. The approval of the General Corporate tax levy on December 20 includes \$100,000 to be used for transportation and/or stormwater initiatives. An intergovernmental agreement will be placed on an upcoming City Council agenda for approval to memorialize the partnership for the initial four-month trial.

**Action Requested:** Staff requests direction on which FY 21-22 budget fund(s) to utilize for payment of the \$50,000 match. Additionally, staff feels it is important to gain direction on any possible future cost contributions. The trial program is to tentatively begin later this summer and continue for four months but there is currently no financial commitment by the City, Township, or other possible funding agencies. Data obtained through the trial will help determine the ridership demand and whether a longer-term continuation of it is warranted.

While no other state and/or federal funding source is in place beyond the trial period, GPMTD staff has shown confidence to the Township that 80/20 funding can be secured for an additional three years. The exact possible City funding request is undetermined at this point. It is roughly estimated that the annual operating cost would be \$700,000. The Township has indicated to staff that it will likely be capped at contributing \$100,000. As a result, should there be interest in considering further financial assistance, the City’s match would not exceed the Township’s contribution. This could potentially be reduced should 80% federal funding be secured.

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**Discussion Topics for Washington Urban Area Para Transit Service**

➤ **The Need**

- There are over 1350 persons living in the 'urban' (within the City) with a disability, our most vulnerable citizens, who have very limited 'urban to urban' transit options
- Agency on Aging provides the only 'urban to urban' service for handicapped, and others of limited means, but service is limited to persons age 60 and over.
- There is no 'urban to urban' disability transit for persons between age 18 to 59 years old

➤ **Eligibility Guidelines**

- Age – 18 to 59
- For Medical, Dental, Therapy, Critical Care in Washington and other Urban Communities (Peoria, East Peoria)
- To Address Senior and Disability Employment Opportunities, Community Support & Day Programs in and beyond the community.

➤ **Ride Charges**

- City Lift Para Transit (Urban) Charges \$2 a ride – Must submit a rider application
- Currently limited to qualifying residents living west of Washington PlazaCountylink (Peoria County para transit charges \$6 a ride

- Washington – Suggest \$2 local urban to urban and \$6 beyond Washington urban to service points in Peoria/East Peoria

➤ **Getting the word out on the para transit service**

- Urgent to get the word out early and ongoing
- Medical Case Workers, Hospitals, Therapy and Other Critical Service

Providers

- City Newsletter
- Township and City Website
- Chamber, Park District publications and websites
- Local newspapers
- Direct Mailings
- Social Media

➤ **Funding beyond the 120 Day Trial**

- Current - 120 day trial with CityLift.
- Current - \$50,000 City, \$50,000 Township \$100,000 Federal 5310

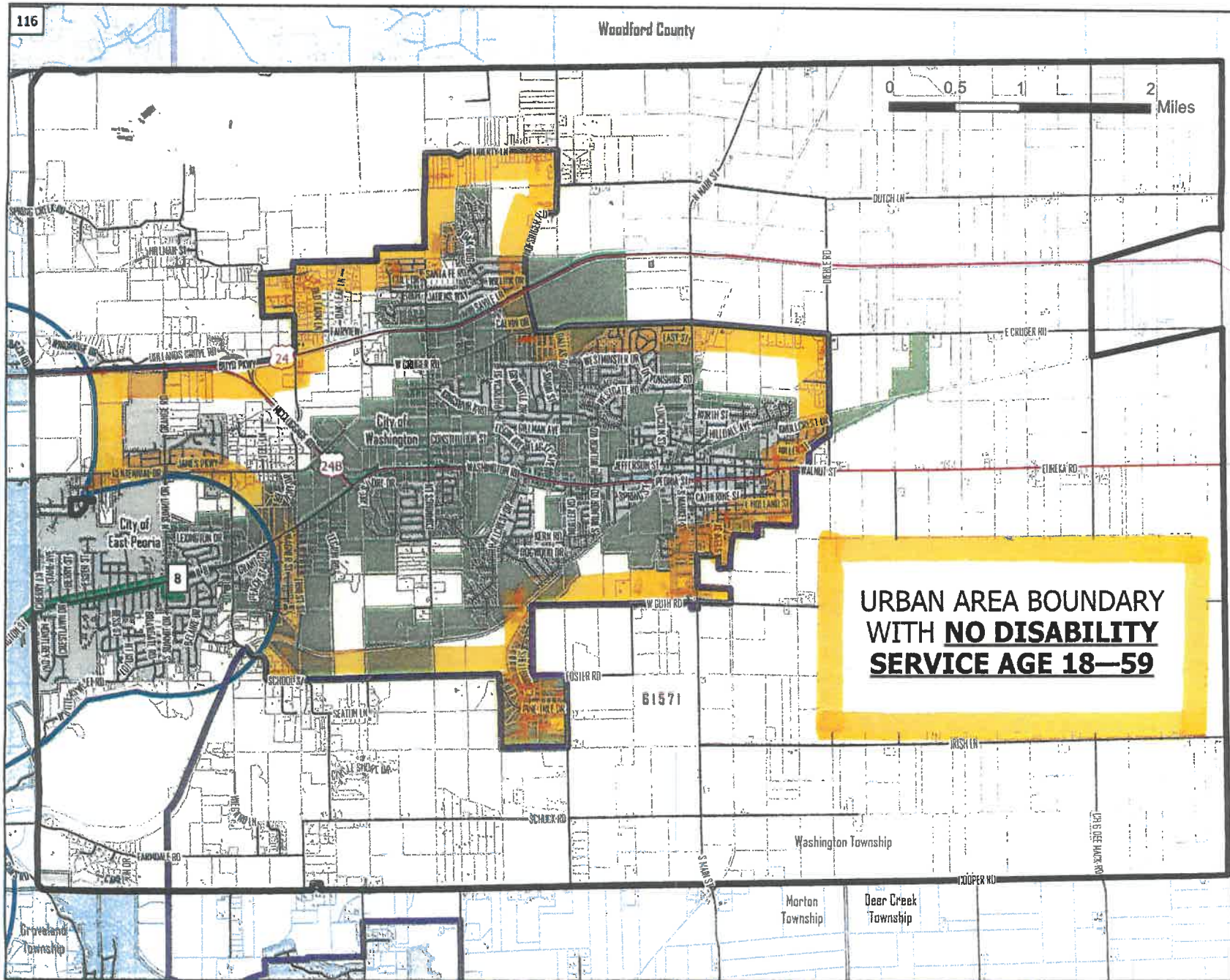
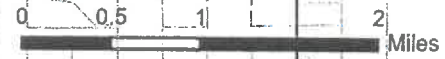
Grant

- Availability of Ongoing Multiyear Grant and local support
- Contact Fed & State representatives for grant search, alternative funding, modifying current grant rules

## **City / Township Urban Handicapped Transit**

**March 21, 2022**

- **Urban Map**
  - **Age 18-59 Handicapped**
  - **Trial service boundary**
  - **All other handicapped rider areas covered (City/Township)**
  
- **Application Process**
  - **Develop simple 1-2 Page App**
  - **Requires physician sign off**
  - **Available from City, Township, GPMTD, Service Points (on line and print)**
  - **Turned in to Township for review, recording and forwarded to GPMTD**
  
- **Initial \$50,000 Payment (City/Township Each)**
  - **Create and hold until grant approved, contract approved, service date announced, and service begins**
  
- **Planning Beyond Successful Transit Trial**
  - **Identify multiyear service funding (government grants and local support)**
  - **Enlist government support to change current service limitations and/or boundaries as well as increasing grant opportunities**
  
- **Advertising New Service**
  - **City Newsletter and Website**
  - **Township Website**
  - **Local News and Papers**
  - **OSF, Unity Point and other communication**
  
- **Other**
  - **Communication with GPMTD to include: Rates to ride, 1-2 page app in house approval, transit vehicle housed location**



**URBAN AREA BOUNDARY  
WITH NO DISABILITY  
SERVICE AGE 18-59**

61571

The County of Woodford Regional Planning Commission, December 30, 2020

Washington Township Service Area

- CityLink Bus Routes
- CityLink 3/4 Mile ADA Buffer
- Urbanized Area Boundary
- City of Washington Boundary
- 61571 - Washington Township

