

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

FORT COLLINS CITY COUNCIL

ITEM NUMBER: 22

DATE: February 18, 2003

FROM: Diane Jones

SUBJECT:

Resolution 2003-018 Requesting That Fort Collins Be Named the Designated Recipient for Federal Transit Administration Section 5307 Grant Funding for the Fort Collins Transportation Management Area.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends adoption of the Resolution.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

BACKGROUND:

As a result of data collected from the 2000 census, the US Census Bureau created a new Fort Collins Urbanized Area (UZA). The new UZA encompasses Fort Collins, Loveland, Berthoud, and some adjacent unincorporated areas of Larimer County. Because the new UZA is over 200,000 population, in accordance with their regulations in July 2002, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) formally designated the Fort Collins Urbanized Area as a Transportation Management Area (TMA). This designation makes all transit operators within the TMA potential recipients of FTA Section 5307 Urbanized Areas Formula Grant funds, i.e., the transit operations of Loveland, Fort Collins, and Berthoud. Fort Collins previously was the only eligible operator for these funds.

The FTA Section 5307 funds are allocated to TMA's nationwide according to a formula which takes into account the relative population, population density, and certain transit operational factors. The allocation strategy for these funds among the three transit operators in the Fort Collins TMA has already been developed and agreed upon among the agencies. In order for funds to flow, however, FTA requires that a local agency must be named as designated recipient for the TMA. A "designated recipient" is the local agency through which the Federal Transit funds flow to operators. It is an administrative function, involving processing applications for funds, submitting projects on behalf of the operators to the MPO for the Transportation Improvement Program, and receiving and distributing the funds. This activity requires staffing familiar with the Federal rules and regulations.

Prior to the creation of the Fort Collins TMA, the City of Fort Collins was the designated recipient for FTA Section 5307 funds allocated to Transfort. All of the requisite staff and processes are in place to perform the required functions. No other agency in the TMA, including the MPO, has previously had this responsibility.

Upon adoption of the FY2003 appropriations legislation now before Congress, the FY2003 FTA grant funds will be available for application and dispersal. Much of the money coming to the TMA is for operating assistance, and can be received immediately. In order to avoid delay in the process, a designated recipient must be named and be functioning in short order.

The alternative which has been considered to naming Fort Collins, is naming the North Front Range MPO as designated recipient. However, the MPO has no in-house staff capability for this function and this capability would need to be developed at cost. City staff has been informed by the MPO staff that if the MPO was named as designated recipient, for the short term, the MPO would need to look to Fort Collins to actually do the work. This would add a layer of bureaucracy, likely affecting the efficiency of the process with no value added. The most efficient and effective solution is to continue using Fort Collins in this capacity directly. Because the decisions on fund distribution are being made through a separate process, there is no risk to the other operators.

The FTA has indicated that the recipient designation is to be done by consensus of the affected agencies. The City of Loveland, by unanimous vote, has elected to support Fort Collins as the designated recipient. Berthoud and Larimer County have yet to take formal action.

RESOLUTION 2003-018
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS
REQUESTING THAT FORT COLLINS BE NAMED THE DESIGNATED RECIPIENT
FOR FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION SECTION 5307
GRANT FUNDING FOR THE FORT COLLINS TRANSPORTATION
MANAGEMENT AREA

WHEREAS, in July 2002 the Federal Highway Administration ("FHWA") and the Federal Transit Administration ("FTA") formally designated the Fort Collins Urbanized Area as a Transportation Management Area ("TMA"); and

WHEREAS, the boundaries of the TMA include the City of Fort Collins, City of Loveland, Town of Berthoud, and certain adjacent unincorporated portions of Larimer County; and

WHEREAS, the FTA allocates Section 5307 capital and operating transit assistance to urban areas according to a formula based on population, population density, and transit operating data, with such funds to be expended for transit service within the TMA; and

WHEREAS, the Fort Collins TMA Section 5307 Funds will be divided among Fort Collins, Loveland, and Berthoud according to a mutual agreement among the three entities; and

WHEREAS, Federal regulations require that a local agency be named as the Designated Recipient, prior to the FTA funds being granted, for the purpose of processing the FTA funding; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Collins has functioned as the Designated Recipient for FTA funds intended for Fort Collins prior to the creation of the Fort Collins TMA and possesses the knowledge, processes, and expertise to perform the Designated Recipient function for the TMA; and

WHEREAS, identifying the Designated Recipient of the Fort Collins TMA requires the concurrence of the agencies within the boundaries of the TMA; and

WHEREAS, to date, the City Council of the City of Loveland has formally endorsed Fort Collins as the Designated Recipient for the TMA and the other entities comprising the TMA have yet to take a position with regard to the Designated Recipient.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS that the City Council hereby requests that the City of Fort Collins be named as the Designated Recipient for the Fort Collins TMA.

Passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council held this 18th day of February, A.D. 2003.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk