## **COLUMBIA COUNTY**

# Transit Department: CC Rider



November 1, 2024

#### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

FR: John H. Dreeszen, Transit Director

RE: Proposed Funding Plan for FY26 - FY27 Biennium

Transit Staff have completed their process for identifying available grant funding, forecasting future budgets, and prioritizing work projects for the FY26 – FY27 Biennium. Staff comes before the Commissioners to present these proposed projects, share the feedback received from our Citizens Advisory Committee and seek approval to electronically sign and submit our Federal and State formula grants.

#### **Our Process**

Once ODOT released their estimates for available funding under FTA 5311, FTA 5310 and ODOT STIF Formula funding for the coming biennium, Staff shared these figures with our Advisory Committee. Collectively, the formula grant funding from these three sources is estimated to increase just 1.5%, from \$2,602,931 this biennium to \$2,638,355 next biennium.

Next, Staff developed "Status Quo" forecasts for FY25, FY26 and FY27, with the combination of FY26 and FY27 representing the forecasted budget for the upcoming biennium. The budget was developed assuming flat revenue, 5% annual expense increases, and a FY25 beginning fund balance of approximately \$1,000,000. The resulting forecast suggests that maintaining current services through the next 2 ½ years will be entirely possible, although the FY27 ending fund balance is anticipated to decline to roughly \$300,000 unless increased revenue sources are identified.

## **Our Proposal**

Staff configured the forecasted expenses into five distinct categories of work, or "projects" as they are referred to in STIF Plans and presented them to the Advisory Committee for consideration and prioritization. The five proposed projects were:



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#1 – Match and Additional Funding for FTA 5311 Grant (1)
#2 – Match and Additional Funding for FTA 5310 Grant (1.2)
#3 – Match for FTA 5339 Grant (1.4)
#4 – Vanpools (1.6)
#5 – Contingency Reserve (1.8)
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After a healthy discussion, Advisory Committee members were asked to individually rank the five projects in order of importance for funding. The resulting averages of rankings are shown next to each project in (red). The Advisory Committee was united in their recommendation that CC Rider's current slate of services should be continued moving forward through the next biennium.

As Staff began exploring the online templates for each Federal Grant, it became clear that Project #1, above, needed to be split to reflect use of FTA 5311 funds across both our Commuter and Dial-A-Ride services. This updated array of projects is detailed on the attached spreadsheet, with the various funding sources for each project listed along the left-most column.

### **Our Request**

Transit Staff have aligned CC Rider's available funding sources and required expenditures over the next biennium and identified a sustainable path forward. The CC Rider Transit Advisory Committee has endorsed Staff's approach and recommends approval to the Board of Commissioners. Staff now requests approval to electronically sign and submit CC Rider's FTA 5311 Rural, FTA 5310 Non-Urban, FTA 5310 Small Urban and ODOT STIF formula grant applications. The grant agreement for FTA 5339 Capital funds will be brought forward for BOC approval at a later date.

Proposed Grant & Earned Revenue Uses FY26 - FY27 Biennium

	Project 1	Project 2	Project 3	Project 4	Project 5	Project 6	
	Commuter Service	Dial-A-Ride Service	Preventive Maintenance	Vehicle Purchase	Vanpools	Operating Contingency	Totals
FTA 5311 Rural Formula ODOT Estimate: \$986,301	\$165,302	\$820,999					\$986,301
FTA 5310 Non-Urban ODOT Estimate: \$374,976			\$374,976				\$374,976
FTA 5310 Small Urban ODOT Estimate: \$10,244			\$10,244				\$10,244
FTA 5339 Capital ODOT Estimate: \$610,980				\$610,980			\$610,980
ODOT STIF Formula ODOT Estimate: \$1,307,750	\$125,372	\$622,674	\$75,615	\$143,820	\$36,900	\$303,369	\$1,307,750
ODOT STIF Carry-Over	\$123,227	\$612,022					\$735,249
Earned & Other Revenue	\$63,520	\$315,480					\$379,000
Revenue Use By Project	\$477,421	\$2,371,175	\$460,835	\$754,800	\$36,900	\$303,369	\$4,404,500