

BACKGROUND AND REQUEST:

CityBus requests an amendment to program Section 5310 and Section 5339 funds.

Section 5310 Funds

Section 5310 funds are Federal Transit Administration, FTA, special federal funds that assist transit providers and non-profit groups in meeting the transportation needs of older adults and people with disabilities. These funds are given to State DOTs and in turn the State DOTs distributes the funds through grant awards.

INDOT awarded CityBus \$25,946 in FY 2019 and \$482,988 in FY 2020 funds. These funds will be used for four projects and they are:

Description	Federal Share	Local Share	Total Cost
Paratransit Buses (4)	\$329,956	\$84,271	\$414,227
Travel Training	\$53,988	\$13,497	\$67,485
Operating, 2A/2B Route Expansion	\$30,000	\$36,277	\$66,277
Operating, Route 9 th St./Wabash Ave.	\$95,000	\$112,426	\$207,426
Total	\$482,988	\$238,200	\$721,188

Paratransit Vehicles

Procurement of four (4) CNG paratransit vehicles to replace 2015 (#446 and #447), 2017 (#448) and 2019 (#449). The vehicles have met or will meet FTA's replacement criteria as stated in FTA's Circular 5100.1 when replaced.

Travel Training

The Travel Training program began in 2009 under a New Freedom grant. The trainer's primary responsibility is providing assistance to individuals who have never used public transit. The trainer teaches members of the community of all ages and abilities in a variety of formats on how to ride the bus. Training is provided in person on a bus, in person at the transfer terminal, or over the phones. A majority of the riders that seek training are elderly and/or disabled. The training also includes informational CityBus tables at community events, retirement communities, university residence halls, and other education centers.

Operating, 2A/2B Route Extension

Continuation of extended evening service on the interlined 2A Schuyler and 2B Union routes for four hours per evening Monday through Friday. The 2B Union serves the Northend Community Center that houses a dozen organizations that serve the community (like the Tippecanoe Senior Center) and organizations helping individuals with cognitive and physical disabilities.

Operating, New Route 9th Street/Wabash Avenue

New route to North 9th Street to Tippecanoe County Work Release facility, the Tippecanoe County Jail, and the Wabash Avenue neighborhood just south of downtown Lafayette. Currently these areas are not served, and requests for service are regularly received. The new service will allow persons, especially in the Wabash Avenue neighborhood, to get to/from work, medical appointments and grocery shopping. Providing bus service to the Wabash Avenue neighborhood was identified in the Coordinated Human Service Transit Plan (page 58). These federal funds will be used to support the new services to the Wabash Avenue neighborhood.

The CityBus Board of Directors authorized the amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program for the FY 2020 funds on June 24, 2020 and the FY 2019 funds on October 28, 2020.

Section 5339 Funds

Section 5339 funds are FTA funds that are allocated through a nationwide competitive process. The funds target bus replacement/related equipment and bus facility infrastructure improvements. CityBus applied for and received approval to use these funds to expand its compressed natural gas (CNG) fueling station.

A new CNG fueling station was installed in 2015. Over the last five years the number of CNG-powered vehicles has risen from the original five in 2015 to 40 as of May 2020. CNG buses now comprise over half the fleet.

While the fueling station facilities are well within their useful lifespan, the rapidly growing fleet has led to a premature strain on the system and it currently operates beyond its anticipated capacity. The compressor and dispenser cannot adequately meet the demand of the growing fleet, significantly slowing the fueling process and requiring additional time and labor hours for maintenance staff to refuel buses at the end of each day. Expanding the CNG station is necessary to increase the refueling capacity of the system and reduce the inefficiencies associated with the existing fueling process.

The station expansion will include adding a third compressor and related equipment, upgrade the existing transfer switch to accommodate the additional fueling load, construct a new weather shelter for refueling the buses (which will include the necessary dispenser) and upgrade the valve panel, controls, and suction pipe extension.

The total project cost is \$1,500,000. The federal share of Section 5339 funds is \$1,200,000 with the local share at \$300,000.

The CityBus Board of Directors authorized the amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program on August 23, 2020.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of this amendment to the Policy Board.