



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 16

Agenda Date: January 16, 2025

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Department of Human Resources

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Renee Frieda

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Ordinance approving an Interlocal Agreement with VIA Metropolitan Transit to continue the City Employee Transit Initiative.

SUMMARY:

This Ordinance authorizes the City Manager or his designee to execute an Interlocal Agreement with VIA Metropolitan Transit (VIA) to continue the VIA EZ Rider Program for City Employees. The term of this contract is two (2) years, beginning January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2026, with an option to extend the contract for up to three (3) one (1) year terms, subject to and contingent upon funding by City Council. The estimated annual expense is approximately \$65,000 in passes (1,083 passes) for a total value of \$325,000.00 for the full term of the Interlocal Agreement.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Since 2008, the City of San Antonio (City) and VIA Metropolitan Transit (VIA) have collaborated to provide the VIA EZ Rider Program as an enhanced benefit to civilian employees. The EZ Rider Program is an annual pass program in the form of a sticker applied to an employee's company identification badges. This pass entitles pass holders to unlimited rides on all of VIA's mainline

bus service at no cost to the employee. Additionally, the program offers the convenience of using existing photo ID and not having to manage monthly passes. This transit benefit excludes special events, VIAtrans, and Special Events service, and Van Pool service.

All regular, civilian City Employees, including full-time, part-time, as well as Mayor and City Council Offices staff are eligible to request a pass. This benefit currently exists for civilian employees only, as peace officers and firefighters ride at no charge if in uniform or if they present their badge. The transit pass costs remain at:

- No cost for a full-time employee earning a base salary less than \$40,000 or a part-time employee earning less than \$19.23/hour
- \$30 for a full-time employee earning a base salary greater than \$40,000, but less than \$70,000 or a part time employee earning more than \$19.23/hour but less than \$33.65/hour
- \$60 for a full-time employee earning a base salary greater than \$70,000 or a part-time employee earning more than \$33.65/hour

The Human Resources Department will distribute VIA transit stickers to be placed on City identification badges. Staff will be informed through flyers and all COSA communication. Human Resources and VIA will work together to communicate the program to employees through the Employee Relations Business Partner, posting flyers at worksites, and in the City newsletter.

In addition, the use of public transportation is a key component to reducing carbon emissions. By promoting the use of public transportation, this initiative offers many other benefits including:

- providing an opportunity for City Employees to reduce their fuel consumption;
- reducing downtown traffic congestion during peak travel hours;
- increasing downtown parking availability; and
- promoting of the City's clean-air initiatives.

ISSUE:

Execution of this new Interlocal agreement with VIA Metropolitan Transit would allow for continued availability of this valuable program to civilian employees.

ALTERNATIVES:

Should this agreement not be approved, Human Resources would no longer be available to provide employees with this benefit. Current EZ Rider passes expire January 31, 2025. Beginning February 1, 2025 employees would be required to purchase monthly passes directly from VIA at their expense.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This ordinance approves an Interlocal Agreement with VIA Metropolitan Transit to continue the City Employee Transit Initiative. The estimated annual expense is approximately \$65,000.00 in passes for a total value of \$325,000.00 for the full term of the Interlocal Agreement. Funds in the amount of \$65,000 are included in the FY 2025 Human Resources General Fund Adopted Budget. Funds for the remaining portion of the Agreement are contingent upon City Council approval of future budget years.

RECOMMENDATION:

In order to maintain the VIA EZ Rider Program for City Employees, staff recommends approval of this ordinance to execute an Interlocal Agreement with VIA Metropolitan Transit for a two (2) term, beginning January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2026. The City will have the option to renew under the same terms and conditions for up to three (3) additional one (1) year extensions.