



CITY OF SOUTH BEND

REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Redevelopment Commission Agenda Item

DATE: 4/28/2022

FROM: Caleb Bauer, Deputy Director of Community Investment

SUBJECT: Commuters Trust

_____ Pres/V-Pres

ATTEST: _____ Secretary

Date: _____

APPROVED Not Approved

SOUTH BEND REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Funding Source* (circle one) River West; River East; South Side; Douglas Road; West Washington; **RDC General**

*Funds are subject to the City Controller's determination of availability; if funds are unavailable, as solely determined by the City Controller, then the authorization of the expenditure of such funds shall be void and of no effect.

Purpose of Request: Disbursement of funds for programmatic support for Commuters Trust

Specifics: Requesting \$200K from Redevelopment Commission-controlled Pokagon fund

The Mayor's Challenge was a competition organized by Bloomberg Philanthropies that called on cities to identify bold solutions that address the toughest problems facing cities. South Bend was selected out of over 300 cities as one of 35 "Champion Cities" and spent 6 months piloting different solutions to overcome transportation as a barrier to stable employment. In September 2019, the city launched the next phase of the program under the name Commuters Trust after being selected as one of nine winners of the Mayors Challenge. The Commuters Trust team works directly with transportation vendors across multiple modes, local employers, and community organizations to provide innovative solutions for individuals facing transportation insecurity. In 2021, the program provided over 10,000 free and discounted rides to low-income residents in the South Bend region.

In the next phase of the program, the Commuters Trust team will work with local partners MACOG and the St Joseph County United Way to further develop two core aspects of the program. The United Way will continue to partner to deliver the Community Nonprofit Partner Program (11 Community Partners, 150 participants) and has committed to working to integrate CNPP into their annual funding cycle. MACOG will work closely with the Commuters Trust team as they continue to promote vanpool as an aspect of the employer-partnered program. The recent comprehensive analysis of the region's transportation systems (South Bend + Elkhart) pointed to the difficulties of repeatedly adjusting fixed bus routes to accommodate new business development. At current levels of employer density and long commutes for many South Bend residents (Elkhart, Goshen, Middlebury) more flexible solutions like ride-share and vanpool need to be included (and can qualify for funding) as part of a comprehensive transit approach.

Request includes funding for program support staffing and direct costs (bus passes, Uber/Lyft, vanpool)

EXCELLENCE | ACCOUNTABILITY | INNOVATION | INCLUSION | EMPOWERMENT

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INTERNAL USE ONLY: Project ID: PROJ _____;
Total Amount – New Project Budget Appropriation _____;
Total Amount – Existing Project Budget Change (increase or decrease) \$ _____;

Funding Limits: Engineering: \$ _____; Other Prof Serv Amt \$ _____;
Acquisition of Land/Bldg (circle one) Amt: \$ _____; Street Const Amt \$ _____;
Building Imp Amt \$ _____; Sewers Amt \$ _____; Other (specify) Amt \$ _____