




PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT MEMORANDUM
#28-2023

DATE: June 5, 2023

TO: Honorable Mayor Meredith Leighty and City Council Members

THROUGH: Heather Geyer, City Manager 
Jason Loveland, Interim Deputy City Manager 

FROM: Brook Svoboda, Director of Planning & Development 
Becky Smith, Planning Manager
Sara Dusenberry, Senior Planner

SUBJECT: RTD Partnership Program

PURPOSE

To provide City Council with an overview of the RTD Partnership Program and recommendation on moving forward.

BACKGROUND

The RTD Partnership Program aims to provide funding for additional services to meet a community's mobility needs. RTD will provide 80% of the project costs for three years, with local jurisdictions providing the remaining 20%. There is no set project cost limit, but not more than 30% of the \$2 million (\$600,000) set aside for the program can be awarded to a single subregion. In total, there are five subregions that are based on travel sheds. Northglenn falls into both the northwest and northeast subregions, as Interstate 25 splits the two travel sheds.

The application window for the program is set to open in June and last about 30 days. Once applications are received, they will be reviewed by the Subregional Service Council (SSC) and prioritized for the selection committee. The selection committee consists of RTD staff and a representative from each SSC. The application requires an understanding of local needs, where gaps or complementary services may exist, equity analysis, and readiness to start by April 2024. Additionally, the project must meet the "community" category of RTD's service standards, which places performance thresholds on fixed routes and demand response routes. The metrics require 10 boardings per hour at \$14 per person for fixed routes, and two boardings per hour and \$30 per person for demand response routes.

Currently, the partnership program is quite limited. The amount of funds available is unlikely to be substantial enough to prop up a long-term, effective service. Additionally, RTD's role in the program is solely financial and they are unable to provide any additional services. Due to this limitation, all projects must be operated by a third party. The timeline set for the program also suggests a project needs to be ready to go or nearly at that point by the time of application. The metrics for evaluation, as discussed above, also require a high level of analysis prior to applying to determine if that criterion can be met each year. Finally, there is no guarantee of funds past the three years of the program, so a community must be prepared to fully take over the service financially or lose the service.

BUDGET/TIME IMPLICATIONS

No project has been identified for the program, so costs are currently unknown. Should a project be identified, the program requires a 20% local match.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff does not recommend moving forward with the program at this time. Due to the limitations discussed above and analysis required to develop a project and apply, it will be challenging for Northglenn to take advantage of the program. The biggest hurdle staff faces is the analysis and support of a potential project. A project could be developed in the time allotted, but it would be without significant analysis and public outreach to fully determine need and if this is the optimal service to provide. Additionally, the gap and equity zone analysis would likely be inadequate for an application. Currently, it seems more advantageous for the City to wait to apply during a later cycle, if at all. This will allow the City to complete the upcoming multi-modal transportation plan that will include a focus on public transit and determination of community needs and recommendations for addressing those concerns. The plan should also include the level of analysis the program application requires, making any future applications much more competitive.

STAFF REFERENCE

If Council Members have any questions, please contact Brook Svoboda, Director of Planning & Development, at bsvoboda@northglenn.org or 303.450.8937.