I. Call To Order

II. Roll Call

1. Receive a Staff presentation and hold discussion regarding the current San Marcos Transit System to include; past and present operations, Master Plan concepts, and funding mechanisms, and provide direction to Staff.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

2. Executive Session in accordance with § 551.071 - Consultation with Attorney: Discuss and review updates on Senate Bill (SB) 4 ruling.

III. Adjournment.

POSTED ON MONDAY, APRIL 9, 2018 AT 5:15PM

JAMIE LEE CASE, CITY CLERK

Notice of Assistance at the Public Meetings

The City of San Marcos does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to its services, programs, or activities. Individuals who require auxiliary aids and services for this meeting should contact the City of San Marcos ADA Coordinator at 512-393-8000 (voice) or call Texas Relay Service (TRS) by dialing 7-1-1. Requests can also be faxed to 855-461-6674 or sent by e-mail to ADArequest@sanmarcostx.gov
AGENDA CAPTION:
Receive a Staff presentation and hold discussion regarding the current San Marcos Transit System to include; past and present operations, Master Plan concepts, and funding mechanisms, and provide direction to Staff.
Meeting date: April 17, 2018

Department: Community Services

Amount & Source of Funding
Funds Required: N/A
Account Number: N/A
Funds Available: N/A
Account Name: N/A

Fiscal Note:

Prior Council Action: Approval of Interlocal Agreement with CARTS

City Council Strategic Initiative: [Please select from the dropdown menu below]
Public Transit
Choose an item.

Comprehensive Plan Element(s): [Please select the Plan element(s) and Goal # from dropdown menu below]
☐ Economic Development - Choose an item.
☐ Environment & Resource Protection - Choose an item.
☐ Land Use - Choose an item.
☐ Neighborhoods & Housing - Choose an item.
☐ Parks, Public Spaces & Facilities - Choose an item.
☒ Transportation - Multimodal transportaion network to improve accessibility and mobility, minimize congestion and reduce pollution
☐ Not Applicable

Master Plan: [Please select the corresponding Master Plan from the dropdown menu below (if applicable)]
5 Year Strategic Transit Master Plan

**Background Information:**

- Provide an overview of current San Marcos transit system to include; past/present operations, Master Plan concepts, & funding mechanisms

- Define Direct Recipient status and discuss the associated implications including potential outcomes and challenges

- Explore common interests/best practice models from around the country to achieve a seamless transit system
  - Benefits of a collaborative approach
  - Consultant offers experience based concepts and recommendations
  - Baseline for future direction

**Council Committee, Board/Commission Action:**

N/A

**Alternatives:**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Recommendation:**

Provide Direction to Staff.
San Marcos Transit Systems

City Council Work Session
April 17, 2018
Purpose

• Provide an overview of current San Marcos transit systems

• Define Direct Recipient (DR) status and discuss the process to become a DR

• Explore common interests/best practice models to achieve a seamless transit system
  – Benefits of a collaborative approach
  – Consultant – concepts/recommendations
  – Baseline for future direction

• Plan moving forward / Next steps
Texas State University: 2017 - 2027 Master Plan

• Manage University transportation and movement of people to further the mission of the campus. Primary goal is for students/faculty to reach class on time.

• Provide a campus that is conveniently and safely accessible by foot, bicycle, automobile, and bus.

• Recognize the University is a member of the regional community and consider its impact on its neighbors and their access to the campus.

• Provide parking, conveniently located, or served by bus.
TX State Bobcat Shuttle: Current Operations

- 10 Shuttle Routes / 40+ Shuttle Stops
  - 3 On-campus routes / 7 Off-campus routes
  - 27,000 Riders per day
  - 45 Buses

- Service Span
  - Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 10:20 p.m.
  - Friday, 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
  - Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
  - Operational days based on class schedules
TX State Bobcat Shuttle: Current Funding

- Student fees provide approximately $7.5 million dollars annually for transportation services, which include parking & Bobcat Shuttle services.
Context & History: SM Transit System

• Capital Area Rural Transportation System (CARTS) operates transit system in SM utilizing federal rural transit grant funds – 1996 to February 2013

• 2010 U.S. Census determines population of San Marcos, Martindale, & Redwood constitute an urbanized area (UZA) affecting Federal funding allocations
Context & History: SM Transit System (cont.)

- City authorized CARTS to become FTA Direct Recipient of the UZA in March 2013
  – Provided access to Federal urban transit grant funds

- CARTS created an Urban Transit District (UTD) in March 2013
  – Provided access to State transit grant funds

- Completed a 5 Year Strategic Transit Master Plan in August 2014
SM Public Transit: 5-Year Strategic Master Plan

- CARTS contracted w/ Consultant to develop City’s 5-Year Strategic Transit Master Plan in 2014
  - Master Plan recommendations approved by City Council same year

- Operational Restructure Implemented in 2015
  - System changed from “Hub & Spoke” to “Networked” Route Structure
  - Focused on Rider Destinations
  - 19 Transfer bus stop locations
SM Public Transit: 5-Year Strategic Master Plan (cont.)

• **Capital Improvement Recommendations**
  – Replace/Modernize Fleet
  – Install Bus Stop Signage, Bus Stop Shelters & Benches
  – Real-Time Arrival Systems
  – Online Trip Planning
SM Public Transit: Current Operations

• **7 Fixed Bus Routes** / 109 Bus Stops
  – 5,078 avg. Riders per Month
  – Senior Shopper Route on Tuesday & Thursday / 300 avg. Riders per Month
  – 12 Fixed Route buses

• **Complementary Para-transit Service**
  – 1,003 avg. Riders per Month
  – 3 Paratransit vehicles
SM Public Transit: Current Operations (cont.)

• Service Span
  – Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
  – 250 Annual Operational Days
  – Over the last two years, a Federal Grant funding program was used to extend normal service hours by 2 hours longer. These grant funds are not permanent.
SM Public Transit: Current Funding

- **2010 US Census Data – SM Urbanized Area**
  - Population: 52,826
  - Land Area (square miles): 26.58
  - Population Density (people per square mile): 1,987

- **Federal Transit Administration Funding**
  - **FTA 5307**
    - Provide Operating and/or Capital Improvement funds

  - **Allocations based on population and population density only**
SM Public Transit: Current Funding (cont.)

- **FTA 5339**
  - Purchase of buses, bus-related facilities & related technologies
  - **Competitive funding allocations** based on need

- **FTA 5307 STIC**
  - “Small Transit Intensive City” funds are **competitive funding allocations** to small urbanized areas who exceed the performance measure averages of large urbanized areas
  - 6 performance metrics evaluated, each exceeded metric yields $191,000 (Student ridership could earn a maximum of $1,146,000)
SM Public Transit: Current Funding (cont.)

• Federal Transit Funding requires Local funds or “Match”
  – Operating assistance match requirement
    - 50% Federal to 50% Local
  – Capital Improvement assistance match requirement
    - 80% Federal to 20% Local

• City of San Marcos Local Match Contributions
  – FY 2017-2018: $450,000
  – Same “Local Match” for last 3 years
SM Public Transit: Current Funding (cont.)

- **State Transit Funding**
  - FY 2017-2018: $175,000
  - TxDOT apportions State Transit Funding to Urban Transit Districts (UTDs) that are small UZAs
  - State Transit Funds can be used for Federal match requirements
Council Strategic Initiative: Public Transit

• City becomes the Direct Recipient for Federal & State transit funding allocated to the San Marcos UZA

  – **Direct Recipient** – is an eligible entity authorized by a Designated Recipient to receive FTA urbanized area transit funds (FTA 5307, 5339, & STIC). The Direct Recipient is responsible for the financial and technical capacity of a public transit system which utilizes federal, state, and local funds.
Council Strategic Initiative: Public Transit

– **Urban Transit District (UTD)** – is a local governmental body or political subdivision of the state that operates a public transportation system in an urbanized area. In Texas, the UTD is the mechanism that **allows state transit funds** to be allocated to the UZA for the purpose of providing public transportation.

• City researches benefits & challenges of creating an integrated, seamless transit partnership between the City & regional partners.
Process for Becoming a DR

- **City Council Resolution** declaring the City as the Direct Recipient

- **Request formal concurrence** of Council’s Resolution
  - CAMPO, TxDOT, & FTA

- **City Council Resolution** creating an Urban Transit District
Outcomes of Becoming DR

• Exercise more local control
• Ensure more operation transparency
• Financial control
• Better position the City to explore a transit partnership
Transit Partnerships & Model Options

• **Explore transit partnership models** based on the selected consultant’s expertise that historically have been accepted by the FTA & TxDOT
  
  – Direct Recipient enters into Inter-Local Agreement
    
    • Inter-Local Agreement defines Federal Fund Sharing & Public Transit Services for the San Marcos UZA
Transit Partnerships & Model Options

- Direct Recipient with Subrecipient
  - Direct Recipient allocates Federal Funds to Sub-Recipient & both Organizations coordinate Public Transit Services for the San Marcos UZA
  - Assess the operating and financial alternatives for coordinated transit services
  - Evaluate the benefits of a transit partnership
  - Evaluate the challenges of a transit partnership
Timeline and Next Steps

• Next Steps
  – Joint participation with TX State for RFP process for Coordinated Transit Plan
  – Future Council work session on critical decision points
    • Direct Recipient Status
    • Model & Partnership Structure

• Timeline
  – 3 to 6 months—final coordinated Transit Plan Study
  – 4 months—Review ILA with CARTS
Questions & Answers
AGENDA CAPTION:
Executive Session in accordance with § 551.071 - Consultation with Attorney: Discuss and review updates on Senate Bill (SB) 4 ruling.
Meeting date: 4/17/2018

Department: City Clerk’s Office on behalf of the City Council

Amount & Source of Funding
Funds Required: Click or tap here to enter text.
Account Number: Click or tap here to enter text.
Funds Available: Click or tap here to enter text.
Account Name: Click or tap here to enter text.

Fiscal Note:
Prior Council Action: Click or tap here to enter text.

City Council Goal: [Please select goal from dropdown menu below]
Choose an item.
Choose an item.
Choose an item.

Comprehensive Plan Element(s): [Please select the Plan element(s) and Goal # from dropdown menu below]
☐ Economic Development - Choose an item.
☐ Environment & Resource Protection - Choose an item.
☐ Land Use - Choose an item.
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☐ Parks, Public Spaces & Facilities - Choose an item.
☐ Transportation - Choose an item.
☐ Not Applicable

Master Plan: [Please select the corresponding Master Plan from the dropdown menu below (if applicable)]
Choose an item.

**Background Information:**
Click or tap here to enter text.

**Council Committee, Board/Commission Action:**
Click or tap here to enter text.

**Alternatives:**
Click or tap here to enter text.

**Recommendation:**
Click or tap here to enter text.