

## **Agenda Item 1.4.2**

### **BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS BRIEFING PAPER**

#### **Topic: Regional Transportation District Partnership Program Grant Application**

**Presented by: Julie Liggett, Grants and Special Projects Coordinator,  
Open Space**

**Date: 4/29/2025**

☐ For Information

☐ For Discussion/Board Direction

☒ Consent to  
Place on Business/  
Hearing Agenda

#### **Issue:**

Jefferson County Open Space (JCOS) staff requests the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) consider approval to apply for up to \$840,000 in Regional Transportation District (RTD) Partnership Program grant funding to support implementation of the WesTracks Shuttle Program. If awarded, staff requests that the grant be accepted, and for the Chair to execute the grant agreement and all related documents, and authorize a supplemental budget increase of up to \$1,050,000 to accommodate the grant and matching funds.

#### **Background:**

RTD established the Partnership Program to help communities meet local mobility needs through transportation pilots of their own design. The program has a dedicated annual budget to support partnership projects and has established an equitable standardized process for intake and evaluation.

The intent of the Partnership Program is to fund additional transit deployment or other mobility services operated by the project sponsor or their procured contractor.

#### **Discussion:**

This project was initiated in 2023 by Commissioner Kerr and Councilmember Watson from Denver. Since then, the Commissioner, Jefferson County and Denver staff have been working together to plan this shuttle concept to enhance access to outdoor recreation and tourism-based opportunities in the central foothills area west of Denver. The intent of this shuttle program is to

improve equitable access to park and recreation opportunities; reduce parking congestion at trailheads and within downtowns; and enhance the use of climate-conscious infrastructure, such as public transportation and electric shuttles, in the Denver metro area.

The proposed shuttle program will provide free and regular transit connections between the Jefferson County Government Center, Matthews/Winters Park Trailhead, Red Rocks Trading Post, downtown Morrison, and the Morrison Natural History Museum, and will integrate seamlessly with existing RTD routes and the City of Golden's Ore Cart. Shuttles will operate at a 15-minute frequency from approximately 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays from approximately Memorial Day to Labor Day. One of the goals of this program is to improve equitable access to recreation opportunities, the shuttle will accommodate bikes and dogs.

JCOS is working to develop three proposals to hire firms to manage, operate, and brand/market a pilot shuttle program in 2026, 2027 and 2028, with a total estimated cost of approximately \$1,050,000 and is seeking to leverage funds from the RTD Partnership Program. Grant funds would be used to launch the pilot program, with each partner entity contributing a share of the required 20% (\$210,000) match. The distribution of match share between participating entities has not yet been determined.

**Fiscal Impact:** ☒ yes ☐ no

JCOS match of up to \$210,000 will be funded in a supplemental budget increase to the 2025 adopted budget from the Open Space funds balance.

- Year(s) of impact: 2026 - 2028
- Existing grant or project: None
- New grant or project: RTD Partnership Program
- Requested in adopted budget: No
- Ongoing or one-time: One-time
- General Fund impact: None
- Staffing impact: N/A
- Match requirements: 20% (\$210,000) match required
- Mandate/Contractual obligation: RTD Partnership Program Intergovernmental Agreement

**SPA Review:** Support, no concerns. Open Space will be receiving grant funds and will use a supplemental budget increase to the 2025 adopted budget from the Open Space fund balance to fund the match portion. Brett

Deady, April 15, 2025

**County Attorney Review:** Anthony Chambers, April 17, 2025

**Facilities Review:** Support, no concerns, Mark Danner, April 15, 2025

**BIT Review:** No impact, Andy Corbett, April 15, 2025

**Fleet Review:** No fiscal impact, Janice Mayer, April 17, 2025

**County Human Resources Review (new FTE only):** N/A

**Recommendations:**

Staff recommends that the Board of County Commissioners consider the recommendation made by JCOS Staff to approve the RTD Partnership Program application for up to \$840,000, to accept the award of the grant if issued for the project, for the Chair to execute the grant agreement and all related documents and for a supplemental budget increase of up to \$1,050,000 to accommodate the grant and that this matter be placed on a future hearing agenda.

**Originator:**

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