



CITY OF DURHAM | NORTH CAROLINA

**Date:** June 26, 2012

**To:** Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager  
**Through:** Theodore L. Voorhees, Deputy City Manager  
**From:** Mark D. Ahrendsen, Transportation Director  
Harmon E. Crutchfield, Assistant Transportation Director  
Pierre Osei-Owusu, Sr. Transportation Planner

**Subject:** State Technology Grant for Passenger Information Systems

### **Executive Summary**

The City has been approved to receive a State Technology grant in the amount of \$181,800. The City match for this is 10% or \$20,200, bringing the total grant project to \$202,000. The City's matching funds have been identified in the current (FY 2013) budget. This grant is to expand the current Passenger Information System by retrofitting several bus shelters with electronic bus arrival and departure information similar to what is currently available at the Durham Station.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that City Council to authorize the City Manager to accept the FY 2012-13 City of Durham and State Technology Grant by executing the grant documents; and to adopt the City of Durham and State Technology Grant Project Ordinance for the transit Passenger Information Systems program.

### **Background**

The City has been approved to receive a State Technology grant in the amount of 181,800. The City match for this grant is 10% or \$20,200, bringing the total grant project to \$202,000. This grant is to expand the current Passenger Information System by retrofitting several bus shelters with electronic bus arrival and departure information, similar to what is currently available at the Durham Station. The Durham Station currently has 16 of these outdoor bus information displays that enable passengers to obtain real-time bus arrival and departure information. This grant would enable DATA to expand the passenger information system to major boarding locations in the fixed route transit system.

### **Issues/Analysis**

Two years ago, the City received federal (ARRA) and State Technology grants to install an automated passenger information system at the Durham Station to provide real-time bus arrival and departure information. Digital Recorders Inc., the project contractor, is in the process of completing the work at the Durham Station. The initial project plan was to extend the passenger information technology system to other major boarding locations throughout the

system when additional funding was identified. Therefore, this State Technology grant will to be used to expand the passenger information system project by retrofitting several bus shelters with electronic bus arrival and departure information systems, similar to what is currently available at the Durham Station. The State Board of Transportation has already approved the grant and the funds should be available for the project upon City Council approval of the attached Grant Project Ordinance.

**Alternatives**

- 1) City Council can adopt the Grant Project Ordinance for the capital funds needed to expand the automated passenger information systems at several of the DATA bus shelters and authorize the City Manager to execute the State Technology grant agreement.
- 2) City Council does not approve the Grant Project Ordinance; the approved State grant would be forfeited. The automated passenger information system would be limited to the Durham Station; thus, limiting the quality of service to customers.

**Financial Impact**

The State is providing 90 percent of the funds for the automated passenger information system project, in the amount of \$181,800. This State portion has already been approved by the North Carolina Board of Transportation and is now available for application by the City. The City's matching funds in the amount of \$20,200 are included in the adopted FY 2013 budget in 5310U051-755300.

**SDBE Requirements**

SDBE requirements are not applicable for the receipt of this grant but would be addressed as part of the bid process for the project.

**Attachments**

FY 2012-13 City of Durham and State Technology Grant Project Ordinance  
Technology Program Grant Agreement