

JOB ACCESS REVERSE COMMUTE (JARC) PROJECT – UPDATE

Background

The Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) program provides funding from the Federal Transit Administration to improve transit access to jobs for low income individuals and to improve transit services to non-downtown employment centers. The Pearland Park and Ride service to the Texas Medical Center was approved for JARC funding by the Transportation Policy Council (TPC) in August 2009. The proposed project anticipated a lease/purchase option to acquire the facility to operate the service at that time. Subsequent negotiations with the land owner of that site resulted in that option not being viable.

Current Situation

The first phase of the service would operate from an interim location. The Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO) is requesting a modification to the project's scope and budget to purchase a 12 acre site for the second phase of the park and ride service. The proposed Phase 2 project development would be accomplished in two steps. First there would be a transfer of \$1.15 million (\$920,000 federal) in JARC funds from the initial project's lease/purchase budget to a new METRO land acquisition project budget.

Additional funding is requested in the amount of \$1.644 million (\$1.315 federal) which would be used to purchase the land plus other ancillary costs. A subsequent request for JARC funding is anticipated for the design and construction of the park and ride facility. See the enclosed letter from METRO for more details.

FTA funding to construct the proposed Brazoria County (Pearland) Park and Ride was approved for METRO in the 2006-08 Transportation Improvement Program. Operating costs would be supported by earlier transit funding received by Connect Transportation. Portions of the local match required for the JARC/New Freedom funds will be supplied by the City of Pearland.

Action Requested

Staff requests TAC approval of revisions to the project scope and budget for the Brazoria County/Pearland Park and Ride service. Upon approval by the TAC and TPC the project will be amended into the 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the statewide STIP.