

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairperson and Members of the Board of Directors

FROM: R. Josh Nylander, IT Director
Magan Waltari, Procurement & Contracts Manager

DATE: February 17, 2022

SUBJECT: Consideration of Entering into an Interlocal Agreement with City of Bellingham for Use of Fiber Network

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Directors Enter into a new interlocal agreement with the City of Bellingham (COB) for usage of their fiber optics network. This is a ten (10) year agreement with an associated usage fee of \$2,500 annually.

BACKGROUND

Since 2012, WTA has utilized COB's fiber optic network for network connectivity between WTA's various locations (MOAB, BTS, CTS and offsite data center). The ten (10) year agreement expires in March. WTA and COB would like to enter into a new agreement for ten (10) years. The agreement will set a flat fee of \$2500 annually for usage and is flexible to accommodate changing needs of their network.

FISCAL IMPACT

Total interlocal is for \$25,000 over ten (10) years. The annual \$2,500 is included in the 2022 budget.

ATTACHMENTS

The interlocal was not finished by the time the agenda was published but a draft will be provided at the meeting.

hitting the right balance point and considering the overall approach. He affirmed we are well-aligned with State and Federal priorities. Long range plans need to be adaptable – less like service plans and more like an adaptable model as a framework.

The WTA 2040 Plan is located under “Business” and “Plan” at www.ridewta.com. Chairperson Lilliquist requested that the Plan be more easily discoverable on the website by the public. Mr. Wilder stated that the separate website will be integrated into the main www.ridewta.com account. He thanked the Planning team, Executive staff, Fehr & Peers, the Board, and the public who engaged very well.

MOTION BY FLEETWOOD, SECONDED BY DONOVAN THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVES THE DRAFT WTA 2040 LONG RANGE TRANSIT PLAN WITH CHANGES RECOMMENDED BY STAFF.

The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

G.2 Consideration of Entering into an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Bellingham for Use of Fiber Network

Recommendation: That the Board of Directors enter into a new interlocal agreement with the City of Bellingham (COB) for usage of their fiber optics network. This is a ten (10) year agreement with an associated usage fee of \$2,500 annually.

Josh Nylander, IT Director, gave an overview of this item. He stated that this is a renewal of an agreement we have had with the City over the last 10 years to use their extensive fiber optic network. This allows us to connect our main base on Bakerview with our Cordata Station, Bellingham Station, and our co-location data centers on the waterfront. It has been a great partnership as we share other infrastructure. Last time, we utilized a service contract; this time, an interlocal agreement. He stated that we pay a flat fee of \$2500 annually to the City for their maintenance and upkeep of that system and for our ability to share and utilize their network. The interlocal is with the City of Bellingham now for their final review, thus a draft today. We do not expect any significant changes. The current agreement expires March 2022, and neither party wishes to terminate the agreement. Mr. Reardanz asked that the motion be amended to include “in substantially the form as presented”.

Mr. Nylander stated that we are not the only user of the system. We are one of many paying into the pool to maintain this network. Mayor Fleetwood added that details about the price can be answered by Eric Johnston, City of Bellingham Public Works Director. Chairperson Lilliquist stated that the City may approve this on their Consent Agenda.

MOTION BY FLEETWOOD, SECONDED BY DONOVAN THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVES ENTERING INTO A NEW INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM FOR USAGE OF THEIR FIBER OPTICS NETWORK IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE FORM AS PRESENTED.

The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

H. REPORTS TO BOARD

H.1 WTA Legislative Report

Mr. Reardanz presented for Maureen McCarthy, Marketing and Communications Manager. He stated that the State Transportation package is the main update. Essentially, Move Ahead Washington's main emphasis is focusing on transportation and climate accessible transit. It includes \$16B over 16 years. On the transit side, there is \$3B including:

- support grants which help agencies across Washington State,
- a capital aspect (which would be \$5M to renovate Bellingham Station),
- an increase in special needs grants,
- three new bus & bus facility grants (which mirror a federal grant of the same name),
- a green transit grant, and
- a tribal transit grant.

Legislation is moving forward to codify programs, but dollars are in the supplemental budget. Formulistic things will be in the bi-annual budget. Procedurally, the Senate voted it out. There is a House Transportation Committee meeting this afternoon. Mr. Reardanz stated that he is participating via a WSTA panel. This is on the WSTA Legislative priorities of preserving and maintaining investment by incentivizing zero emission vehicles and enhancing effective/efficient transit service. In that transportation package, over 25% is multi-modal (transit, bike, ped, etc).

Next steps are the House Transportation hearing this afternoon. Then supplemental budget aspects for financing. If it passes, then to the Governor for signature. The Legislative Session will wrap up in March.

Chairperson Lilliquist asked if this is a bipartisan effort. Mr. Reardanz answered that it is mainly a Democrat package. Republicans issued a letter in response. There are significant capital investments. However, it was a joint effort between the House and Senate, which is different from the approach last year.