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The City of Vadnais Heights
800 East County Road E
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Memorandum:

TO: Mayor Fletcher and City Council Members

FROM: Kevin Watson, City Administrator *kw*

DATE: August 8, 2018

SUBJECT: Approved proposal by Newtrax to provide senior bus loop

Recommended Council Action

Approve proposal for senior bus loop by Newtrax on a weekly basis for \$7500.

Background

In February 2018, Newtrax presented a concept to City Council that would provide a weekly bus service for seniors through our community for their weekly errands. The group had found success with a similar bus service through Mahtomedi. At that time, City Council had indicated the general support of a project like this in Vadnais Heights and indicated if White Bear Lake was supportive, we would assist as well.

The attached proposal from Newtrax has been approved by White Bear Lake and Mahtomedi. The proposal was received prior to July 1st but due to some scheduling conflicts it's just now being presented to City Council. The program has started.

It is recommended to fund the program for \$7500. The funding would be made available through the contingency fund.

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Lake Area Senior Bus Loop Proposal

This proposal is between Newtrax, Inc. and the City of Vadnais Heights as of July 1, 2018.

Newtrax, Inc., a local Non-Profit transportation organization in collaboration with the cities of White Bear Lake, Vadnais Heights and Mahtomedi along with the White Bear Lake Area Senior Services, various community organizations and local senior facilities, is providing a transportation program to serve area seniors. This bus circulator (South Loop) has been operating since October 2017 and currently serves 9 local senior facilities. We will launch a 2nd area bus circulator (North Loop) serving an additional 8 senior facilities within the northern part of White Bear Lake, Vadnais Heights and White Bear Township starting in the summer of 2018. Both Loops will have a common connection point at the WBL Senior Center where riders from the south can visit destinations in the north and vice versa. This weekly Loop route runs on Thursdays where a variety of local retail, restaurant, community events, volunteering destinations, have been set up as stops to serve our seniors. This opportunity is currently designed for seniors living in a senior residential facility but we have a goal to also reach seniors living in their own home who otherwise would not have access to local transportation at some point in the near future. Our 12+ passenger buses have lift-gate accessibility for wheelchair riders and for those with walkers. The Thursday "Bus Circular" route operates during the hours of 10:00am-1:00pm which happens to be during the Newtrax midday hours where our buses/drivers have downtime thus allowing more access to our fleet. This program will compliment, not duplicate existing services for seniors. From a financial standpoint, we are suggesting a voluntary rider contribution based on the value it provides our seniors within their budget for transportation. We will reach out to the various senior facilities and area businesses that are involved with this Loop route and ask for their financial assistance. We are also looking to the communities of Gem Lake, Mahtomedi and Vadnais Heights to financially support this endeavor as well. At this time, based on earlier conversations and a presentation to the Vadnais Heights City Council, we are coming with a proposal for your financial support of this transportation program.

Service:

Weekly Senior Bus Loop serving the communities of Gem Lake, Mahtomedi, White Bear Lake and Vadnais Heights

- Weekly senior bus loop serving the aforementioned communities
- Operating on Thursday's from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
- Two loops (one south and one north) each operating with two buses with a common point of the White Bear Senior center
- Buses will be operated by Newtrax which is a State of Minnesota Special Transportation Service (STS) provider that is licensed and insured to provide this transportation.

Financial Support

Total Program Cost	The City of Vadnais Heights funding request
\$27,000	\$7,500/annually

Newtrax is contributing an approximate \$6,300 to the program through the in-kind use of vehicles and administrative duties. We are asking the City of Vadnais Heights to contribute \$7,500 to the total program cost of \$27,000 for the fiscal year starting on July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. We will be going to the City of Vadnais Heights asking for matching funds with the remainder coming from the other communities and users of the program.

Sincerely,

Mike Greenbaum, Executive Director