

AGENDA REPORT

BREVARD COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA	
Section	New Business
Item No.	VI.F.1

Meeting Date
November 15, 2016

SUBJECT:	One Cent Local Option Gas Tax for Public Transportation
DEPT/OFFICE:	 Sara Ann Conkling, Citizen ; affected agency is Space Coast Area Transit

Requested Action:

Respectfully requesting the Board vote to approve a one cent local option gas tax, to be allocated to Space Coast Area Transit, for the purpose of expanding fixed-route and paratransit services to the citizens of Brevard County.

Summary Explanation & Background:

As demonstrated in many previous County Commission presentations, our local public transportation system is excellent in operation, but lacks capacity to make it a viable option for our citizens to get to work. Incremental increases in county general fund allocation over the past several years have been very appreciated and have resulted in incremental improvements in service. The amount of money needed to make our fixed route wait times one half hour or less, so that citizens can use our fixed route system to get to work, and so our disabled and elderly citizens do not risk spending up to an hour outside in our Florida weather waiting for the bus, far exceeds current budgetary capability as regards the county general fund revenue. According to revenue estimates provided by the Florida Department of Revenue, a one cent local option gas tax will provide approximately \$2.5 million annually in additional revenue for public transportation, which will be increased by state and federal matching funds, and fare revenue from increased service. It will also help our county achieve parity in per-capita revenue allocation to public transportation with other, similarly situated counties.

This magnitude of increase would make the substantial, badly needed improvement in our public transportation service, and will be felt particularly by the following groups:

- 1) Anyone dependent on public transportation to get to work, which includes disabled and senior residents who can not drive;
- 2) Our veterans who depend on our fixed route service to get to appointments at the VA clinic, as well as to appointments with social service agencies and medical providers outside the VA;
- 3) Employers who want to increase their pool of potential employees;
- 4) Any business served by public transportation and dependent on customers visiting the business to make purchases;
- 5) Any tourist visiting our county who has an expectation of convenient public transportation services;
- 6) Any resident of Brevard County who wants to age in place in their home;
- 7) Any citizen dependent on paratransit services as these would also increase;
- 8) Anyone in our county who needs the money currently spent on maintaining and putting gas into an automobile for other basic needs;
- 9) Anyone with a sincere desire to decrease our dependence on fossil fuels for environmental or political reasons; and
- 10) Anyone who wants to decrease our need for road maintenance and repair by taking cars off of our roads.

As you all know, implementation of this tax requires a supermajority vote. Please vote to approve it.

Clerk to the Board Instructions:

Exhibits Attached:

Contract /Agreement (If attached): Reviewed by County Attorney Yes No PR

County Manager	Assistant County Manager	Department Director / Extension
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Stockton Whitten	Assistant County Manager
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November 16, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: Stockton Whitten, County Manager

RE: Item VI.F.1., Citizen Request by Sara Ann Conkling for One-Cent Local Option Gas Tax for Public Transportation

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on November 15, 2016, acknowledged the citizen request by Sara Ann Conkling for a one-cent local option gas tax, to be allocated to Space Coast Area Transit, for the purpose of expanding fixed-route and paratransit services to the citizens of Brevard County, but took no action.

Your continued cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SCOTT ELLIS, CLERK

Tammy Rowe, Deputy Clerk

cc: Transit Services Director