

VILLAGE OF LOMBARD
REQUEST FOR BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACTION
For Inclusion on Board Agenda

 X Resolution or Ordinance (Blue) _____ *Waiver of First Requested*
_____ Recommendations of Boards, Commissions & Committees (Green)
_____ Other Business (Pink)

TO: PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FROM: David A. Hulseberg, Village Manager *DAH*

DATE: November 9, 2010 (B of T) Date: November 18, 2010

TITLE: Lombard Circulator – Letters Informing of Suspension of Further Activities and Seeking Future Funding Commitments

SUBMITTED BY: Department of Community Development *WLL*

BACKGROUND/POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

The Department of Community Development transmits for your consideration a resolution authorizing the signature of the Village President on letters relative to the denial of Year Two funding for the Lombard Circulator. One letter to the RTA expresses the Village’s intention to postpone action on the Lombard Circulator until two full years of funding have been secured. The second letter requests future funding support from the RTA, DuPage County, and state legislators for innovative transportation projects such as the Lombard Circulator.

Staff recommends approval of this resolution.

Please place this item on the November 18, 2010 Board of Trustees agenda.

Fiscal Impact/Funding Source:

Review (as necessary):

Village Attorney X _____ Date _____

Finance Director X _____ Date _____

Village Manager X *DAH* _____ Date 11/11/10

NOTE: All materials must be submitted to and approved by the Village Manager's Office by 12:00 noon, Wednesday, prior to the Agenda Distribution.



MEMORANDUM

TO: David A. Hulseberg, AICP, ICMA-CM, Village Manager

FROM: William J. Heniff, AICP, Director of Community Development *WH*

DATE: November 18, 2010

SUBJECT: Resolution and Letters Regarding the Lombard Circulator

Staff has been informed that the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) has denied the Village's application for funding Year Two of the proposed Lombard Circulator service. RTA staff represented that denial of the grant funding by the RTA Board for this and other submitted projects was taken in order to fill a funding gap in their existing ADA paratransit services. Given the lack of funding commitment, staff is recommending that further action on the Circulator be suspended until such time that two full years funding is secured. Attached is a draft resolution authorizing the signature of the Village President on letters to the RTA, DuPage County, and state legislators indicating the Village's intention to postpone further action on the Circulator and to ensure future funding commitments from the RTA, DuPage County and/or other funding sources.

BACKGROUND

The Circulator project and proposal was initiated in 2006 to address local public transportation needs beyond those already established by fixed route services. Over the past year, staff has worked closely with the RTA, Pace, Pace's paratransit service provider, and DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference to develop a schedule that coordinates with Metra commuter rail service, identify bus stops, and draft an operating agreement between the Village and Pace. As of now, the Circulator could operate within six weeks of the date of a signed contract, provided that funding is in place.

Initial funding was provided by DuPage County and RTA for the first year of the program. DuPage County included additional second-year funding in its draft operating budget and has verbally represented a funding commitment to Lombard. In June 2010, the Village of Lombard submitted an application to the Regional Transportation Authority's Innovation, Coordination and Enhancement (ICE) grant program to fund Year Two of the Lombard Circulator. The Village Board adopted a resolution of support in September, 2010 to facilitate this funding effort. The Village has requested the maximum 50 percent operating cost match (\$394,671) and 20 percent capital cost match (\$150,895). This is comparable to what was previously requested and approved by the RTA for Year One funding. However, with no funding contributions from the RTA for year two operations, staff does not believe that starting service will benefit the community.

ACTION REQUESTED

Please place this item on the November 18, 2010 Village Board agenda for consideration. Staff recommends that the Corporate Authorities approve a resolution authorizing the signature of the Village President two letters: one to the RTA indicating the Village's intention to postpone action on the Lombard Circulator until two full years of funding have been secured, and one requesting future funding support from the RTA, DuPage County, and state legislators for innovative transportation projects such as the Lombard Circulator.

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RESOLUTION
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**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SIGNATURE OF THE VILLAGE
PRESIDENT ON A LETTER TO THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION
AUTHORITY RELATIVE TO THE DENIAL OF YEAR TWO FUNDING FOR
THE LOMBARD CIRCULATOR**

WHEREAS, the Regional Transportation Authority has denied funding for Year Two of the proposed Lombard Circulator; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Lombard does not have sufficient financial resources to fund Year Two absent the Regional Transportation Authority's contribution; and

WHEREAS, the Corporate Authorities wish to send a letter, attached as Exhibit A, to the Regional Transportation Authority indicating the Village's need to postpone the Lombard Circulator until such time that two full years of funding is available to start and operate the program; and

WHEREAS, the Corporate Authorities also wish to send a letter, attached as Exhibit B, to the Regional Transportation Authority, DuPage County, and state legislators requesting their continued support of the Lombard Circulator in the future; and

WHEREAS, the Corporate Authorities deem it to be in the best interest of the Village of Lombard to send such Letter.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF LOMBARD, DUPAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, as follows:

SECTION 1: That the Village President be and hereby is authorized to sign on behalf of the Village of Lombard said Letter as attached hereto.

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2010.

Ayes: _____

Nayes: _____

Absent: _____

Approved this _____ day of _____, 2010.

William J. Mueller
Village President

ATTEST:

Brigitte O'Brien
Village Clerk

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VILLAGE OF LOMBARD

255 E. Wilson Ave.
Lombard, Illinois 60148-3926
(630) 620-5700 Fax (630) 620-8222
www.villageoflombard.org

November 18, 2010

Village President
William J. Mueller

Village Clerk
Brigitte O'Brien

Trustees

Greg Alan Gron, Dist. 1
Keith T. Giagnorio, Dist. 2
Zachary C. Wilson, Dist. 3
Dana L. Moreau, Dist. 4
Laura A. Fitzpatrick, Dist. 5
William "Bill" Ware, Dist. 6

Village Manager
David A. Hulseberg

"Our shared Vision for Lombard is a community of excellence exemplified by its government working together with residents and businesses to create a distinctive sense of spirit and an outstanding quality of life."

"The Mission of the Village of Lombard is to provide superior and responsive governmental services to the people of Lombard."

Joseph Voccia
Regional Transportation Authority (RTA)
Special Programs Division
175 W Jackson Blvd, Ste 1550
Chicago, IL 60604

Re: Lombard Circulator

Dear Mr. Voccia:

We are disappointed to learn of the Regional Transportation Authority's decision to exclude the Lombard Circulator Year Two of Service from the 2011 ICE Program of Projects. Although DuPage County is still willing to contribute its share of the program cost, unfortunately, the Village will not have the remaining \$700,000 necessary to provide for a second year of bus service.

Accordingly, the Village is forced to postpone further action on the Circulator until such time that two full years of funding is available to start and operate the program. Although we still have our ICE grant from the RTA for Year One, a single-year bus service has numerous risks that would make the service unviable. Such a short operating period would not allow adequate time for the Circulator to gain recognition and ridership, which would leave the Village uncertain as to whether or not the project was successful. The one-year nature of the service would itself be a deterrent to ridership, as potential customers may not wish to become dependent upon a service that will have a built-in expiration date.

We hope that in the future we are able to secure two consecutive years of funding which will allow us to finally bring this innovative (and needed) bus service to the Village of Lombard.

Sincerely,

VILLAGE OF LOMBARD

William J. Mueller
Village President



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Honorable Daniel J. Cronin
313 S Main St
Lombard, IL 60148-2631

Honorable Robert A. Biggins
114 W Vallette St
Elmhurst, IL 60126-4451

Honorable Chris Nybo
PO Box 915
Lombard, IL 60148-0915

John Gates, Jr. Chairperson
Regional Transportation Authority
175 W Jackson Blvd Ste 1650
Chicago, IL 60604

Re: Lombard Circulator – Implementation Funding

Dear Gentlemen:

Over the past four years, the Village of Lombard has been active in seeking unique and cost effective ways to enhance and serve the public transportation needs of the community. To that end, the Village undertook a comprehensive approach to examining our transit needs and to develop and implement effective solutions to this issue. Working closely with local business entities and the public, the result of this effort was the creation of the Lombard Circulator. The Circulator would provide for a flexible-fixed route demand response bus service through the community and would link the Village's population and employment centers. Additionally, the service would supplement the existing Pace and Metra operations currently enjoyed in the community. Pace has also identified unique service operations such as the Lombard Circulator as part of their long-range service strategies.

The Village secured commitments from DuPage County and the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA), through its ICE grant process, to provide for a first year of funding. These contributions, along with the Village funding and planning efforts, were envisioned to provide for the start of and operations of the program. The Village also received support from DuPage County for a second year of funding for the program, as identified in their 2011 Operating Budget. However, the RTA Board has chosen to exclude the Lombard Circulator Year Two of Service from the 2011 ICE Program of Projects. Although DuPage County is still willing to contribute its share of the program cost, unfortunately, the Village will not have the remaining \$700,000 necessary to provide for a second year of bus service.

Given this direction by the RTA, the Village is forced to postpone further action on the Circulator until such time that two full years of funding is available to start and operate the program. Although we still have our ICE grant from the RTA for Year One, a single-year bus service has numerous risks that would make the service unviable. Such a short operating period would not allow adequate time for the Circulator to gain recognition and ridership, which would leave the Village uncertain as to whether or not the project was successful. The one-year nature of the service would itself be a deterrent to ridership, as potential customers may not wish to become dependent upon a service that will have a built-in expiration date.

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November 18, 2010
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At this point in time, we respectfully request your active support in the future for restoration of funds for necessary and innovative grant programs as previously provided by the RTA or other funding commitments that will provide for the implementation of the Lombard Circulator project.

Sincerely,

VILLAGE OF LOMBARD

William J. Mueller
Village President

c: Patrick Durante, Director, Regional Transportation Authority
Joseph Voccia, Regional Transportation Authority
Mark Avery, DuPage County, 421 N County Farm Rd., Wheaton, IL 60187-3992