



Transportation Department

Administration

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DATE: October 1, 2021

TO: William O'Reilly, Director
Accounting Division

FROM: Chris Walton, Director
Transportation Department

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Walton".

SUBJECT: Request for Agenda Item, Travel for more than five employees to the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) TRANSform Conference & Expo, November 7-10, 2021, in Orlando, FL

The Transportation Department (BCT) is requesting approval for 13 employees to attend the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) TRANSform Conference & Expo, November 7th to November 10th, 2021, in Orlando, Florida. The EXPO is only held every three years and features demonstrations of new and emerging transportation technologies, equipment, products and services, a variety of buses, railcars, including zero emission electric and fuel cell vehicles and other newly emerging transportation vehicles of different sizes and technology. APTA's national conference and Expo hasn't been held in Florida for over 20 years (1997) and having its location in Orlando offers a unique opportunity to allow a number of BCT staff members to receive the benefits of attending while limiting travel expenditures.

This EXPO offers critical professional development opportunities for Transportation Department staff to assist in meeting the challenges of service increases, the introduction of new service modes, and the implementation of new technologies as a result of the funding made available by the Transportation Surtax. In addition, this provides an opportunity to learn how transit agencies are handling the COVID-19 pandemic and what lessons can be learned about necessary service and safety enhancements moving forward. This one-stop-conference and Expo offers excellent opportunities for staff to learn from industry experts, attend professional development and technical training sessions, gather information about innovative industry research, and network with peers from other transit agencies from the US and around the world.

Specifically, BCT's efforts for the electrification of the bus fleet, the continued development of new technologies and policies for the collection of fares, the implementation of micro-transit opportunities to match the appropriate type of service to customer demand, the creation of a rail network that supports economic development, transit's continued role in sustainability, and the development of successful strategies to increase ridership are all areas where staff

will be able to increase their practical knowledge base to assist BCT in providing our community with new innovative transit services.

In addition to the professional development opportunities, the EXPO provides an outstanding showcase of transit vehicles, products and services. Staff will be able to get a firsthand look at new electric and other alternate fuel buses, rail cars, new fare collection technologies, new onboard safety camera systems, new customer apps, and a variety of other transit related products. Importantly, staff will be able to ask detailed questions of the vendors and learn about their products and how they may work in our operating environment.

2 of the 13 employees (*) are members of the nationally recognized Leadership ATPA program and will be involved in APTA meetings, activities and pre-conference programs beginning Friday, November 5th.

The total travel costs for the following 13 employees are estimated at \$24,090 and budgeted within the Transportation Department's FY2022 funds:

Lina Kulikowski *	Nick Sofoul*	Ripton Richards
Derrick Chan	Jeff Scott	Tara Crawford
Angelica Jones	Arethia Douglas	Lynn Opperman
Cindy Corbett-Elder	Rachel Richardson	Israel Hernandez
Chris Walton		