



Austin Transportation Department

P.O. Box 1088
Austin, TX 78767
(512) 974-1150, Fax (512) 974-1171

May 2, 2016

Mr. Brandon Wade
Pflugerville City Manager
100 East Main Street, Ste. 300
P.O. Box 589
Pflugerville, TX 78691

RE: USDOT Smart Cities Grant, Austin Proposal
Request for City of Pflugerville Participation

Dear Mr. Wade:

Thank you for speaking with me by phone regarding Austin's proposal to the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) Smart Cities, Beyond Traffic grant. Austin is one of seven cities competing for this first-of-its-kind funding opportunity. A copy of our round one grant proposal can be found on our city web page at www.austintexas.gov/departments/transportation.

I am writing to formally request that the City of Pflugerville join our team as a collaborator. One element of our proposal is to develop a suburban park-and-ride facility for the 21st Century. Specifically, we want to demonstrate how by using new technologies we can extend transit service beyond the Capital Metro jurisdictional boundaries into cities such as Pflugerville. Based on conversations with your Assistant City Manager, Tom Word, I understand that your city is currently evaluating opportunities for future transit services.

Our proposal would implement scheduled van and carpool service from Pflugerville into the employment centers located in central downtown Austin. Our plan is to pilot a concept that would allow commuters to join a commuting club. Vans and/or electric pool vehicles would be scheduled for regular and convenient departure times from Pflugerville in the morning commute period. The first commute club member to sign up for a departure would register to be the driver and would gain free travel. The remaining members scheduling to leave at a given time would pay a commuting fee similar to a regional vanpool cost. The shuttle would drive directly to a downtown station where an employer would take over driving responsibilities for purposes of distributing people to their final downtown destination or alternative transit option. This would all be facilitated through a networking smartphone application. The system would operate in the reverse for the evening return trip. We are also working on necessary guaranteed ride home options, in case someone has an emergency or misses their return vanpool slot. The details of the program still need to be worked out after we win the grant, but the above description gives a good general overview.

We are looking to a number of national partners to provide the vans, cars, and networking applications. What we need from the City of Pflugerville is help in identifying viable parking facilities that could be used over the next three years from where to launch the proposed pilot

May 2, 2016

service. A facility for up to 200 customers near the center of town such as the Pflugerville ISD stadium or a local retail establishment that has excess parking for most of the day would be ideal. We would want to use a "trailer model" to make other services available at the park-and-ride station for travelers such as a place to drop off and pick up dry cleaning, a place to have packages or groceries delivered, and similar commuter oriented services. The goal here is that a traveler could minimize their after-commute travel in Pflugerville if the goods and services are waiting at the park-and-ride for them when they arrive back at their home-end of the trip.

In our conversation, you mentioned that you would have a chance to pursue a resolution or similar from your city council indicating your interest in participating and partnering with the City of Austin. The resolution can draw its information from this letter and if you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me. Specifically in the "whereas" section, I need the City of Pflugerville to commit to working with the City of Austin to pursue donated parking for use in the proposed pilot. Funds from the grant are not proposed for use in leasing or obtaining parking capacity. If the pilot is successful, future investments by our cities or even Capital Metro might be an option to sustain the service beyond the life of the grant.

Our deadline for submittal of our round two application is prior to the Memorial Day Holiday. This means that I need a commitment from the City of Pflugerville in the form of a letter or resolution no later than May 20th.

I am copying my City Manager as well as our Mayor so that they are aware we have spoken and that I have made a request of the City of Pflugerville.

Sincerely,



Robert Spillar, P.E.
Director, Austin Transportation Department

Cc: Mayor Adler
Assistant City Manager Robert Goode
City Manager Marc Ott

