



CITY OF IOWA CITY COUNCIL ACTION REPORT

August 1, 2023

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign and the City Clerk to attest the 28E Agreement between the City of Iowa City and Johnson County for the contracting of paratransit service within the corporate limits of Iowa City.

Prepared By:	Geoff Fruin, City Manager
Reviewed By:	Darian Nagle Gamm, Director of Transportation Services
Fiscal Impact:	Expenditures will vary based on the number of rides provided. Sufficient funds are budgeted annually in Transportation Services.
Staff Recommendation:	Approval
Commission Recommendations:	N/A
Attachments:	Resolution 28E Agreement

Executive Summary:

This resolution approves the 28E agreement for Iowa City to contract with Johnson County for paratransit services within the corporate limits of Iowa City for FY2024 through FY2028.

Background / Analysis:

Iowa City has contracted with Johnson County for several decades to provide federally required paratransit service along with our fixed route transit system. This agreement extends the contractual agreement another five years through FY 2028. While the agreement is largely the same as the previous five-year agreement, there are a couple notable changes.

During the fare-free transit pilot, rides completely within Iowa City (origin and destination) will also be fare-free and Iowa City will not receive revenue to offset those trip costs. Further, this agreement allows other jurisdictions (i.e. Coralville and the County) to voluntarily charge a fare for trips that cross from Iowa City into their jurisdiction. For example, Coralville will be permitted to charge a fare for a ride that begins in Iowa City but ends in Coralville. Coralville and Johnson County have confirmed with State and Federal officials that such charges are authorized.

Secondly, Iowa City currently provides thirteen vehicles to SEATS to help provide paratransit service. SEATS has expressed that a fourteenth vehicle is needed to overcome vehicle maintenance downtime and prepare for an expected growth in ridership. While ridership is still well below pre-pandemic peaks it is rising and there is a concern that fare-free trips will place more stress on the vehicle fleet. Thus, the language has provisions that specify that a fourteenth vehicle may need to be procured by Iowa City during this contractual period.