Southern Methodist University Shuttle Agreement

Committee-of-the-Whole
May 25, 2021
Dan Dickerson, Manager of Innovative Services
Today’s Consideration

• Approval of a resolution authorizing the Interim President & Chief Executive Officer or his designee to execute an extension for the Southern Methodist University (SMU) Site-Specific Shuttle Service Agreement, for the joint provision of a site-specific shuttle service, with a cost to DART not to exceed $381,924 per year for a three-year agreement.
Site-Specific Shuttle Background

- On July 30, 2002 (Resolution No. 020128), the Board approved a three-year Site-Specific Shuttle agreement with Southern Methodist University.
- This began the partnership between DART and SMU and has continued to this day.
- On June 23, 2020 (Resolution No. 200062), the Board approved a one-year agreement which expires July 31, 2021.
**Mustang Express Shuttle Route**

- Connects SMU campus with Mockingbird Station, also connects both locations to nearby apartments
- Monday-Friday year-round, plus Saturday during school year
- Used by SMU students and other DART patrons
- SMU also operates a special shuttle (at no cost to DART) to the Bush Library and Meadows Museum
Ridership Trends

• One of DART’s highest performers when compared to comparable DART shuttle services
• FY20 1QTR SMU pre-pandemic average daily passenger ridership of 871 with a subsidy per passenger of $1.54 (well below comparable DART shuttle service routes)
• FY21 2QTR SMU reported record enrollments, however, 50% are now rotating between in-person on-campus classes and virtual classes
• SMU has reported a record enrollment for the upcoming fall semester with a full on-campus schedule which would necessitate full shuttle coverage
• Shuttle ridership has shown increases with gained confidence in COVID disinfecting, masks and distancing protocols still in place
Financial Arrangements

• Total annual cost of the Mustang Express and special Library shuttle is $1,168,360 per year
• DART contributions will not exceed $381,924 annually for three years
• SMU will purchase annual system passes for students at the rate of $21 for FY21, $22 for FY22 and $23 for FY23 per full time equivalent (FTE)
• In addition, SMU will purchase annual passes for faculty and staff in accordance with the Employer Pass Program rates
Recommendation

- Approval of a resolution authorizing the Interim President & Chief Executive Officer or his designee to execute an extension for the Southern Methodist University (SMU) Site-Specific Shuttle Service Agreement, for the joint provision of a site-specific shuttle service, with a cost to DART not to exceed $381,924 per year for a three-year agreement