

Agenda Item # 20
Date 6/28/23

June 23, 2023

Dodge County Board of Supervisors
435 N Park Street
Fremont, NE 68025

RE: Fremont Transit Program

Dear Dodge County Board of Supervisors,

The Fremont Area Transportation Taskforce (comprised of the members detailed at the bottom of this letter) has been working to address transportation issues arising from a recent decision by the Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging (ENOA) to end its transportation services in Dodge County effective June 30, 2023. As some of you are aware, this group spearheaded a community meeting on April 14, 2023, and there were over 80 individuals in attendance to discuss transportation challenges for area families. At this meeting it was decided that the City of Fremont would start working on applying for the NDOT-5311 Rural Transportation Program Grant. To date the City of Fremont has applied for the grant, have secured three vans, the job openings have been posted and the projected start date for these services would be by the end of August 2023.

As part of this grant there is a local cash match that is required. The match that is needed for two years is \$124,000 and the City of Fremont has committed to providing 50% of that match. We are requesting a commitment of \$31,000 for year one and \$31,000 for year two in order to provide this service initially in Fremont (plus a 2 miles radius) and eventually throughout Dodge County pending demand and capacity.

We are reaching out to this body for your commitment and support in order to provide the Fremont community (comprising 74% of Dodge County residents) with needed transportation services. Once again, it is the hope of this taskforce that in the near future services will be expanded to serve all Dodge County residents.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your service to Dodge County.

Sincerely,

Terra Uhing, Three Rivers Public Health Department
Christy Fiala, Fremont Area United Way
Melissa Diers, Fremont Area Community Foundation
Shawn Brown, Methodist Fremont Health Foundation
Michelle Padilla, Fremont Family Coalition