



## CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

**FROM:** The Office of the City Manager   **DATE:** September 24, 2018

**SUBJECT:** Approve an interlocal agreement with Trinity Metro to provide for the construction of a sidewalk connection to the north side of the Smithfield Station platform, and establish maintenance responsibilities for the TEXRail improvements.

**PRESENTER:** Caroline Waggoner

### **SUMMARY:**

The City Council is being asked to approve an interlocal agreement with Trinity Metro (formerly Fort Worth Transportation Authority) to address the long-term maintenance of the TEXRail improvements and allow for the construction of a sidewalk between Snider Street and the Smithfield Station north platform.

### **GENERAL DESCRIPTION:**

The city and Trinity Metro entered into an agreement in 2015 which established the framework for commuter rail service in North Richland Hills. Since that time, construction began on the TEXRail corridor, with an anticipated start date for service occurring in late 2018. Trinity Metro is now asking for a follow-up agreement which provides additional detail related the duties and responsibilities of each party as it relates to construction and maintenance of the improvements.

During the course of the TEXRail project, city staff has contemplated various Transit Oriented Development options along Main Street on the north side of the proposed Smithfield Station. The current Trinity Metro plans provide pedestrian connectivity to the station platform on the south side of the tracks, near the Cottonbelt trail and the station parking lot. A north platform is provided in their station design, but is not connected to anything at this time since the adjacent property is not configured to access the train, and Smithfield Road does not have sidewalks north of the railroad tracks on the east side. Planning and Engineering staff have worked with Trinity Metro to provide a six-foot walkway from the terminus of Snider Street to the north station platform (see attached exhibit). The agreement states that the city will reimburse Trinity Metro in the amount of \$50,000 for the construction of this connection, which includes 650 linear feet of 6' wide sidewalk, plus a ramp and structural retaining walls needed to reach the platform grade. The project is much more cost efficient for Trinity Metro's contractor to complete since they are already active on site, and have all necessary railroad traffic control (flagging) clearances. The city did apply for and receive



permission from DART to construct this sidewalk as the city will be required to maintain the sidewalk in the future.

Funds are available in the Snider Street Extension Project (ST1102) to cover the construction of the pedestrian connection.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve the interlocal agreement with Trinity Metro, including the payment of \$50,000 from the Snider Street Extension Project (ST1102) for the sidewalk improvements.