



**DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
WORK SESSION  
Tuesday, January 20, 2026**

**A G E N D A**

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- 2:00-3:00 p.m.      Community Services Update**
- **2026 Link On Demand expansion**
  - **Direct Recipient for Small Urbanized Area**
  - **Community Services Department Briefing**

## Agenda Item

**Date:** January 20, 2026  
**To:** Douglas County Board of County Commissioners  
**Through:** Douglas J. DeBord, County Manager  
**From:** Jennifer L. Eby, AICP, Director of Community Services  
**CC:** Rand M. Clark, CCAP, NCRT, Assistant Director of Community Services  
**Subject:** **2026 Link On Demand expansion.**

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### **SUMMARY**

Staff is prepared to provide the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) with an overview of plans to expand Link On Demand (Link) in 2026.

### **BACKGROUND**

Douglas County, along with Via Transportation, Inc. and the City of Lone Tree, partnered together to expand Link microtransit services to Highlands Ranch on May 27, 2025. Link has provided over 50,000 trips to the Highlands Ranch region since its expansion. The Integrated Transit and Multimodal Study proposed a phased approach to continue the expansion of Link to the Town of Parker, Town of Castle Rock, City of Castle Pines, and the unincorporated community of Sterling Ranch. In September 2025, the BCC met with elected officials and staff from Castle Rock, Castle Pines, Parker and the Regional Transportation District (RTD) to discuss future expansion and funding of Link. As a result, Parker has agreed to \$250,000 in support for Link expansion to areas of Parker in 2026. Castle Rock will be considering a \$400,000 contribution in February.

### **DISCUSSION**

Staff have prepared a plan to expand the Link pilot project in 2026. Phase 1 calls for expansion of existing Link services to the east, through Stonegate, and into the northwestern and central portions of Parker in April 2026. Phase 2 will bring Link services south, from the central zone in Lone Tree, into Castle Rock by the end of the summer.

The total cost to fund Link in 2026 will be \$6.3 million. Cost per region is as follows:

2026 Link Service Costs	
Western Zone – Existing Highlands Ranch	\$2,700,000
Eastern Zone – Stonegate	\$ 400,000
Eastern Zone – Parker	\$1,200,000
Southern Zone – Castle Rock	\$2,000,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,300,000</b>

Funding for this project comes from a variety of sources. Parker and Castle Rock will each contribute 20% of the cost to provide service within their jurisdictions in 2026. The remainder of the cost will be made up of County controlled grants and County general fund dollars allocated in the 2026 budget.

2026 Link Revenue	
County General Funds	\$4,350,000
County controlled grants	\$1,300,000
Town of Parker	\$ 250,000
Town of Castle Rock (requested)	\$ 400,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,300,000</b>

### **NEXT STEPS**

Staff requests BCC approval to move forward with expansion of Link in 2026 as proposed.

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**From:** Jennifer L. Eby, AICP, Director of Community Services  
**CC:** Rand M. Clark, CCAP, NCRT, Assistant Director of Community Services  
**Subject:** **Direct Recipient for Small Urbanized Area.**

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### **SUMMARY**

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has designated portions of the City of Castle Pines, the Town of Castle Rock, and neighboring portions of unincorporated Douglas County as the Castle Rock Small Urbanized Area (SUZA). Staff requests authorization from the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) to notify the jurisdictional entities of the County's willingness to assume the role of Direct Recipient and initiate the process to receive FTA 5307 funding.

### **BACKGROUND**

The SUZA was recently established by the FTA based on population data obtained during the 2020 census. As a result, the SUZA is eligible to receive funding for transit services under the Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Program. FTA requires a Direct Recipient Study (Study) be completed to evaluate the capacity of the SUZA to receive and administer funding through a Direct Recipient. This Study was completed in November 2025 and provides a roadmap for how the SUZA can prepare to receive and utilize funding.

### **DISCUSSION**

The Study outlined a variety of criteria to evaluate each jurisdictions' capacity to serve as the Direct Recipient. That Study states, "The capacity assessment demonstrates that Douglas County is best prepared at this time to assume the initial administrative and financial responsibilities required of an FTA Direct Recipient. The County's established financial management systems, procurement policies, and experience managing federal grants provide a strong foundation for compliance."

The Study recommends that the entity identified to become the Direct Recipient begin working with the FTA Region 8 staff to initiate the designation process. Next steps will include working with jurisdictional partners to select a governance framework, develop administrative and compliance infrastructure, and adopt a service plan for the SUZA. FTA representatives have indicated that this process is expected to take 18 months. Moving forward in a timely manner is imperative. If SUZA administrative infrastructure is not in place in 2027, the FTA funding allocated for the SUZA will be at risk for claw back by the Governor of Colorado.

### **NEXT STEPS**

Staff requests authorization from the BCC to notify the jurisdictional entities of the County's willingness to assume the role of Direct Recipient and initiate the process to receive FTA 5307 funding.

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**From:** Jennifer L. Eby, AICP, Director of Community Services

**CC:** Rand M. Clark, NCRT, CCAP, Assistant Director of Community Services  
Tiffany Marsitto, Community Services Supervisor

**Subject:** **Community Services Department Briefing**

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### **SUMMARY**

Community Services will provide the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) with a briefing on various department projects including updates on 2025 report of Homeless Engagement Assistance and Resource Team (HEART), and discussion of direction for the Faith Based Roundtable in 2026.