

Agenda Item

Date: August 25, 2025 - 2:30 p.m.

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, NCRT, CCAP, Assistant Director of Community Services

Janet Herman, P.E. Director of Public Works

Zeke Lynch, P.E. Assistant Director of Public Works Engineering

Subject: Link On Demand Update and Discussion

SUMMARY

Staff have prepared an update for the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) regarding the Link on Demand (Link) transit service and are prepared to discuss options for expansion in 2026.

BACKGROUND

Douglas County, along with Via Transportation Inc. (Via) and the City of Lone Tree, partnered together to expand Link services to Highlands Ranch on May 27, 2025. Since this expansion, Link has provided over 12,000 trips in the Highlands Ranch region. The BCC has requested staff provide options to expand Link services to additional regions of the county.

Discussion

Currently, funding for Link is provided by County Capital Improvement Program (CIP) dollars. Future expansion is likely to require additional funding from multiple sources. The County has been awarded a \$500,000 grant from the Denver Regional Council of Governments annually for two years to conduct a transit pilot project. These funds require a formal Request for Proposals (RFP) and could be leveraged with other sources to support Link expansion.

Staff have met with Via representatives to consider various models of service that would support the efficient expansion of the Link service area. Via is prepared to review multiple options with the BCC. Feedback provided will be used to draft a RFP for 2026 Link expansion.