



## City Council Agenda Item

**City Council Meeting Date:** June 4, 2024

**TO:** Dean Albro, City Manager

**FROM:** Richard Fernbaugh, Transit/Airport Administrator  
r\_fernbaugh@ci.lompoc.ca.us

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Wine Country Express Memorandum of Understanding to Continue the Service Through June 30, 2029

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### **Recommendation:**

Staff recommends the City Council authorize the City Manager to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Cities of Lompoc, Buellton, and Solvang, and the County of Santa Barbara for continuation of the Wine Country Express (Service) (attached).

### **Background:**

On July 19, 2019, the City Council approved an MOU extending the operation of the Service through June 30, 2024. The Service provides three round trips of public transit per day from Monday through Saturday from Lompoc to Buellton and Solvang operated by City of Lompoc Transit. The Service provided transport to over 8,500 riders in Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23.

### **Discussion:**

The new MOU for the Service will begin July 1, 2024, and expire June 30, 2029. The MOU maintains the same general language as before. The MOU contains a 25% fare increase, reflecting the fact that there has not been an increase in fares since the service was started in 2008 and all operating costs have risen substantially. New fares are \$2.50 for adults and \$1.25 for seniors and people with disabilities. New monthly pass rates are \$93.75 for adults and \$46.75 for seniors and people with disabilities.

### **Fiscal Impact:**

The change in terms recommended with the MOU do not have any direct additional fiscal impact to the City beyond the obligations of the current MOU. As a component of the City's transit activities, there is no direct fiscal impact to the City's General Fund from the operation of the Service, or the City's obligations under the terms of the MOU. The recommended fare increase will help cover the increased cost of the service.

including service contract cost, fuel, and other operational costs. Further fare increases may be recommended in the future as service costs are reviewed annually.

**Conclusion:**

The new Wine Country Express MOU extends the provisions of the existing service agreement.

Respectfully submitted,

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Richard Fernbaugh, Transit/Airport Administrator

**APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY MANAGER:**

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Michael W. Luther, P.E., Public Works Director

**APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL:**

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Dean Albro, City Manager

Attachment: MOU for the Wine Country Express