



## MEMORANDUM

To: Medford City Council

From: Todd Blake, Director of Traffic & Transportation

CC: Breanna Lungo-Koehn, Mayor  
Fiona Maxwell, Chief Procurement Officer

Date: October 30, 2024

RE: Authorization of Future Bluebikes Contract Exceeding Three Years

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*This memorandum summarizes the request to authorize a future contract with the operator of Bluebikes for a period exceeding three years, as required by section twelve of Chapter 30B of the General Laws.*

The City's contract with Lyft, the operator of Bluebikes, will expire in Fall 2025. The Metropolitan Area Planning Council ("MAPC") intends to issue a request for proposals on behalf of all the municipalities part of the Bluebikes system to select a new operator in 2025. MAPC will select one operator to manage the entire system to ensure that it continues to operate regionally. Each municipality will then have the opportunity to contract with the selected operator separately or enter into a joint contract.

It is the intention of the Bluebikes municipalities to enter into a five-year contract with two, two-year options to renew with the future operator. Entering into a longer-term contract will encourage the future operator to provide a higher level of service to users and help secure more funding through the system's title sponsorship, which will then allow the service to continue growing throughout the region.

Pursuant to section twelve of chapter 30B of the General Laws, City Council approval is required in order for the City to enter in a contract under that law for a period exceeding three years. Here, we are asking the City Council to approve a contract with the future Bluebikes operator for a period not to exceed nine years total, as described above, inclusive of renewal options. While the City Council may now authorize the full, anticipated contract length of nine years, the City Council has the discretion under chapter 30B, section 12, to authorize a different contract duration. Further, authorization by the City Council of the full, requested contract duration does not require the City to contract with the future Bluebikes operator for that entire period of time. For example, the City still retains discretion to decline to renew the contract for either one (or both) of the recommended renewal periods.

We further request that the above be voted upon by the end of December 2024. Thank you for your time and consideration. I will be available to answer any questions.