Requested Council Meeting Date: September 6, 2016
Council Bills No. 2016-139
Item: Operating Assistance Grant Agreement

Originating Department: PUBLIC WORKS –OPERATIONS

Attachments: 1) Council Bill No. 2016-139
2) Grant Agreement

Operations: Robert Lolley
Department Head: Nicholas A. Heatherly
Finance Department: Leslie Haase
City Attorney: Peter C. Edwards
City Manager: Samuel L. Anselm

Recommended Action: Approval for the City of Joplin to execute a Public Transit Operating Assistance Grant Agreement.

Background:
The City of Joplin has operated the Metro Area Public Transit System (MAPS) since 1998 and the Sunshine Lamp Trolley since 2007. MAPS provides curb-to-curb public transit to residents of the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPO) and the Sunshine Lamp Trolley provides deviated fixed route service within the City of Joplin.

Discussion:
MAPS and the Sunshine Lamp Trolley are funded by a combination of rider fares, donations, and the financial participation of other communities in the MPO. Additionally, the Federal Transit Administration reimburses the City for capital and operational expenses at 80% and 50% respectively. These FTA funds require a local match to qualify. The funds being offered by the State of Missouri are unique in that they do not require local matching funds. The State is offering $17,682 in grant funds for the State's FY2017.

Recommendation: Staff recommends that Council bill 2016-139 be passed on an emergency basis Per Section 2.12 (1) of the Home Rule charter which will provide for public health, safety, welfare in that this program provides valuable service to Joplin citizens and acceptance of the grant is time sensitive to keep the services.