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Millage increase could put Hudsonville on The Rapid bus route

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By **Matt Vande Bunte | The Grand Rapids Press**

HUDSONVILLE – City voters this spring could face a millage request to fund a bus route operated by The Rapid. Elected officials next month will consider putting a 0.6-mill tax increase on the ballot in May.

The levy would cost the owner of a \$130,000 home \$39 per year. It would generate an estimated \$133,000 annually to pay for 39 hours of bus service per week, City Manager Patrick Waterman said.

The service would run 7-10 a.m. and 2-6 p.m. weekdays, and 9-11 a.m. and 2-4 p.m. Saturdays. Hudsonville stops have not been determined, but the bus would link to The Rapid route system at the Grandville library, 4055 Maple St. SW.

“You basically could get anywhere The Rapid goes,” Waterman said. Most riders would pay one-way fares of \$1.50 for most trips, or 75 cents for riders age 65 and up, he said.

City Commission this week heard a presentation from **public-transit supporters**. But officials declined to act since a ballot resolution was not on their meeting agenda , **Advance Newspapers reports**.

A city survey last year found that 42 percent of residents would vote yes or lean toward voting yes on a 0.5-mill tax increase to fund public transit via The Rapid. The tax would be opposed by 55 percent, with 3 percent undecided.

Voters may get to decide for real if commissioners put the tax on an upcoming ballot.

“It could be in May,” Waterman said. “That’s what the transit committee wants so it won’t get lost in the shuffle of the primary and general elections (later this year).”



File Photo

Will The Rapid blaze a trail to Hudsonville?