THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

**Council Meeting Date:** December 9, 2025

**Subject:** Agreement and contract to purchase transit planning software

**Staff Resource(s):** Ashley Haire, Transportation Director,
Jessica Morriss, Assistant Transportation Director,
Christopher Whitlock, Transit Division Manager

**Action Requested:** Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract with Vertosoft under the The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS) Cooperative Purchasing Agreement for the purchase of Swiftly Real-Time Transit Planning Software under a three-year contract plus two one-year options for a total contract amount of $648,345.

**Background**:

- The City currently utilizes a software called Swiftly to provide various transit-related data and information services that are integral to Asheville Rides Transit (ART) daily operations.
- These services include:
    - GPS-enabled real-time data showing the location of each bus on a route and when the bus is expected to arrive at a stop.
    - This data is pushed out by apps such as Google Maps and Transit App.
    - Trip planning capabilities - riders can enter where they want to go and the software will recommend routes and times.
    - Monitoring and reporting of on-time-performance for the overall system and for each route.
    - Bus operators and dispatchers use Swiftly for navigation and driver training.
- The City's current contract for the use of Swiftly began in January 2023 and will expire at the end of December 2025. Therefore, a new contract is necessary in order to ensure the continued use of the software.
- The TIPS Cooperative Purchasing Agreement allows the City to contract for the required software at a discounted price.

**Vendor Outreach Efforts:**

- None since a cooperative purchasing agreement is being used.

**Council Vision:**

- Transportation and Accessibility

**Committee(s)**: N/A

**Pro(s):**

- Executing this agreement allows City staff to monitor transit performance, provide passengers with trip planning tools, and communicate service issues to the public in real-time

**Con(s):**

- None

**Fiscal Impact**:

- The total contract amount, including potential option years, is $648,345.
    - Year 1 (January 1 - December 31, 2026): $120,069
    - Year 2 (January 1 - December 31, 2027): $118,983
    - Year 3 (January 1 - December 31, 2028): $127,312
    - Year 4 (January 1 - December 31, 2029): $136,223

    - Year 5 (January 1 - December 31, 2030): $145,759
- Funding to support the first year of the contract is already budgeted in the City's FY 2026 Transit Operations Fund.
- Subsequent years will be funded in the Transit Operations Fund.

**Suggested Motion:**

- Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract with Vertosoft under the The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS) Cooperative Purchasing Agreement for the purchase of Swiftly Real-Time Transit Planning Software under a three-year contract plus two one-year options for a total contract amount of $648,345.

**Attachment(s):**

- Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 25-____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH VERTOSOFT UNDER THE INTERLOCAL PURCHASING SYSTEM (TIPS) COOPERATIVE PURCHASING AGREEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF SWIFTLY REAL-TIME TRANSIT PLANNING SOFTWARE

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C.G.S. §§ 160A-20.1, 160A-311, and 160A-312, the City of Asheville has authority to contract to operate a public transportation system; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville has authority pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143-129 for letting of public contracts through competitive bidding group purchasing programs; and

WHEREAS, N.C.G.S. § 143-129(e)(3) exempts purchases made through a competitive bidding group purchasing program from the requirements of N.C.G.S. § 143-129; and

WHEREAS, funding to support the first year of the contract is budgeted in the City's FY 2026 Transit Operations Fund; and

WHEREAS, the required funding to complete the purchase in subsequent years is currently budgeted in the Transit Operations Fund;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THAT:

City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager to execute a contract with Vertosoft under the The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS) Cooperative Purchasing Agreement for the purchase of Swiftly Real-Time Transit Planning Software under a three-year contract plus two one-year options for a total contract amount of $648,345.

Read, approved and adopted this the 9th day of December, 2025.

City Clerk

Mayor

Approved as to form:

City Attorney