City of Asheville Staff Report

City Council Meeting Date: August 25, 2026

Staff Resources: Ashley Haire, Transportation Department Director, Jessica Morriss, Assistant Transportation Department Director, Christopher Whitlock, Transit Division Manager

Action Requested: Adopt of a resolution authorizing City Manager to enter into an agreement wherein The Town of Black Mountain provides $26,625 in funding support for the Route 170 for Fiscal Year 2027.

Background:

- Asheville Rides Transit provides daily service between Downtown Asheville and Black Mountain via Route 170.
- Black Mountain has provided $25,000 to support the cost of operating the route for the last three fiscal years and has agreed to provide $26,625 for Fiscal Year (FY) 27.
- The increase of 6.5%, roughly reflects the cost increase of the City's transit contract over last year.
- Ridership on this route has stayed consistent over the life of this agreement with a slight decrease in FY24 due to impacts from tropical storm Helene. Current ridership is showing signs of recovery.
- An executed agreement is necessary to receive and expend the funds for transit operations.
- The total cost of operating the route is approximately $841,464 annually and the City received federal transit grant funding through the Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) program from the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization to pay for 50% of the cost to operate Route 170 for FY26.
- The Town of Black Mountain's contribution will help offset the non-grant funded portion of the operational cost of the route.

Vendor Outreach: N/A. This is an interlocal agreement between the City and the Town of Black Mountain.

Council Vision 2036 Focus Area(s):

- Transportation and Accessibility

Council Priority Recovery Area(s):

- People
- Infrastructure and Environment

Committee(s):

- N/A

Fiscal Impact:

- The revenue is included in the Transit Operating Fund and will offset existing transit service costs.
- The cost for this route is already included in the Transit Operating Fund budget for FY 2027.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement wherein the Town of Black Mountain provides $26,625 in funding support to the City for Route 170 for Fiscal Year 2027 and sign all documents necessary to effect the agreement.

Attachment(s):

- Resolution

City of Asheville Resolution Number 26-___

Resolution authorizing City Manager to enter into an agreement wherein the Town of Black Mountain provides $26,625 in funding support for the Route 170 for Fiscal Year 2027.

Whereas, the City has the authority, pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes Section 160A-461, to enter into interlocal agreements, which must be ratified by a resolution of its governing board; and

Whereas, Asheville Rides Transit provides daily service between Downtown Asheville and Black Mountain via the Route 170; and

Whereas, The total cost of operating the route is approximately $841,464 annually and the City received federal transit grant funding through the Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) program from the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization to pay for 50% of the cost to operate the route for Fiscal Year 2025-2026; and

Whereas, the Town of Black Mountain and the City of Asheville wish to enter into an agreement wherein the Town of Black Mountain provides $26,625 in Fiscal Year 2027 to the City to support the cost of operating the route; and

Whereas, The Town of Black Mountain's contribution will help offset the non-grant funded portion of the operational cost of the route and support the City's overall Transit Operations Fund;

Now, Therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Asheville that:

The City Manager is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with the Town of Black Mountain – wherein the Town of Black Mountain agrees to provide $26,625 in funding support to the City for Route 170 for Fiscal Year 2027 – and sign all documents necessary to effect the agreement.

Read, approved and adopted this 25th day of August, 2026.

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Esther E. Manheimer, Mayor

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Brad Branham, City Attorney

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Magdalen Burleson, City Clerk