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: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to amend the existing Paratransit Contract between the City of Asheville and Buncombe County to reflect an increase of $114,618.48 in funding and to sign all documents necessary to effect this amendment.

Background:

- The City of Asheville contracts with Buncombe County to provide the federally-required ADA Paratransit Services.
- Resolution No. 22-100 authorized a total of $1,242,622 in paratransit costs for Fiscal Year 2026 to be added to the contract. However, the actual cost for Fiscal Year 2026 was $114,618.48 more than was originally estimated, for a total of $1,357,240.48.
- Therefore, this request seeks to add $114,618.48 to the contract for Fiscal Year 2026 and bring the total cumulative contract value from $4,215,727.17 to $4,330,345.65.
- The budget increase reflects the growing usage by individuals who meet and qualify under ADA paratransit service guidelines.
- This service is mandated under federal requirements to ensure complementary paratransit service within ¾ of a mile of fixed-route transit services. The City of Asheville extends this service city-wide to all eligible individuals who meet ADA certification.
- This amendment supports the continuation of current/existing paratransit services.
- Ensures sufficient funding to pay for services as required by the contractual agreement.

Vendor Outreach:

- N/A, this is a current contract

Council Vision 2036 Focus Area(s):

- Transportation and Accessibility

Council Priority Recovery Area(s):

- People
- Infrastructure and Environment

Committee(s):

- N/A

Fiscal Impact:

- This resolution includes an increase of $114,618.48, which brings the original FY2026 cost from $1,242,622 to $1,357,240.48 and increases the current existing Paratransit Contract, between the City of Asheville and Buncombe County, from $4,215,727.17 to $4,330,345.65.
- Funding is available in the Transit Operating Budget.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to amend the existing Paratransit Contract between the City of Asheville and Buncombe County to reflect an increase of $114,618.48 in funding and to sign all documents necessary to effect this amendment.

Attachment(s):

- Resolution

City of Asheville Resolution Number 26-___

Resolution authorizing the City Manager to amend the existing Paratransit contract between the City of Asheville and Buncombe County to reflect an increase in funding for Fiscal Year 2026

Whereas, the City is required by the Federal Transit Administration to provide comparable paratransit service within the service area of the Asheville Rides Transit system pursuant of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; and

Whereas, the Federal Transit Administration requires the City of Asheville to enter into a contract agreement incorporating all relevant federal requirements agreed to by the City of Asheville in the master agreement with the Federal Transit Administration; and

Whereas, North Carolina General Statutes section 160A-461 authorizes interlocal agreements and requires that inter-local agreements entered into by the City be approved by the City Council; and

Whereas, the City entered into an inter-local agreement with Buncombe County that establishes that Buncombe County will provide the City's federally-required paratransit services through Mountain Mobility; and

Whereas, Buncombe County's Mountain Mobility service, including the City's required paratransit service, is competitively bid and awarded by Buncombe County in compliance with all federal, state, and local procurement regulations, including all relevant Federal Transit Administration procurement terms and conditions; and

Whereas, in order to avoid a lapse in service and to pay for services rendered for Fiscal Year 2026, it is necessary to amend the existing contract to account for increased costs;

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

The City Manager to amend the existing Paratransit Contract between the City of Asheville and Buncombe County to increase the current existing Paratransit Contract amount by $114,618.48 for Fiscal Year 2026 (raising the new total from $4,215,727.17 to $4,330,345.65), and to sign all documents necessary to effect this amendment.

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