City Council Staff Report

Council Meeting Date

- September 22, 2026

Staff Resource(s)

- Ashley Haire, Transportation Director
- Jessica Morriss, Transportation Assistant Director
- Christopher Whitlock, Transit Division Manager

Action Requested

- Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to accept the North Carolina Department of Transportation - Integrated Mobility Division for Federal Transit Administration Section 5303 Metropolitan Planning Program annual funding in the amount of $189,839 for Fiscal Year 2027, and enter into any agreements necessary for grant acceptance.

Background

- The City applies annually to the North Carolina Department of Transportation - Integrated Mobility Division to receive Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5303 funds (Metropolitan Planning Program).
- The City uses the Section 5303 funding to fund existing transit planning activities such as grant management, administration, and reporting; short and long-range transit planning; analyses of transit operations; and required semi-annual DBE program preparation and reporting.
- The funds supplement the Transit Division personnel budget, which includes the Transit Division Manager and additional Transit Division staff positions.
- The total grant funding is allocated at $189,839. Of this anticipated funding, the Federal Transit Administration will contribute an 80% share, totaling $151,871. The remaining 20% match will be divided between the North Carolina Department of Transportation and the City of Asheville, with each entity providing a 10% contribution of $18,983 and $18,985, respectively.

Vendor Outreach Efforts:

- N/A. This is a grant to fund a portion of the Transit Division personnel budget.

Council Vision 2036 Focus Area(s):

- Transportation and Accessibility

Council Priority Recovery Area(s):

- N/A

Committee(s):

- None

Fiscal Impact

- The total grant is $189,839 and includes a 20% match. The Federal Transit Administration will provide 80% of the anticipated funding ($151,871), with the North Carolina Department of Transportation and the City of Asheville each providing a 10% matching contribution of $18,983 and $18,985, respectively.
- This funding and match are already included in the adopted FY 2027 budget.

Suggested Motion

- Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to accept the North Carolina Department of Transportation - Integrated Mobility Division for Federal Transit Administration Section 5303 Metropolitan Planning Program annual funding in the amount of $189,839 for Fiscal Year 2027, and to enter into any agreements necessary for grant acceptance.

Attachment(s)

- Resolution

City of Asheville Resolution Number 26-___

Resolution Authorizing The City Manager To Accept The North Carolina Department Of Transportation - Integrated Mobility Division For Federal Transit Administration Section 5303 Metropolitan Planning Program Annual Funding

Whereas, the City has authority, pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes section 160A-17.1, to apply for and receive grants from the Federal and state governments and their agencies and to enter into contracts for the administration of said grants; and

Whereas, funds for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 are available from the N.C. Dept. of Transportation (NCDOT) through the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5303 Metropolitan Planning Program; and

Whereas, the City of Asheville would receive financial assistance in the amount of $151,871 from the FTA for the cost of transit planning and $18,983 from the NCDOT if awarded such funds; and

Whereas, the City of Asheville would comply with all applicable Federal and State requirements in accepting the grant; and

Whereas, the City of Asheville would provide a 10% local match in the amount of $18,985 which will be budgeted in the Transit Operations Fund budget; and

Whereas, the City of Asheville's Grants Policy requires the City Council to authorize application for and acceptance of any grant of $90,000 or greater;

Now, Therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Asheville that: The City Manager or the Transportation Department Director is hereby authorized to accept grant funds from the N.C. Dept. of Transportation Section 5303 Metropolitan Planning Program of the Federal Transit Administration for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 in the amount of $189,839, and to enter into any agreements necessary for grant acceptance.

Read, approved and adopted this 22nd day of September, 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