City Council Agenda Item Request
Submit to Clerk's Office
No later than 30 days before proposed Council meeting

1. **Date submitted to Clerk's Office:** July 25, 2025

2. **Primary contact person and Department requesting agenda item:** Ashley Haire, Transportation Director; Jessica Morriss, Transportation Assistant Director; Christopher Whitlock, Transit Division Manager

3. **Requested Council meeting date:** August 26, 2025

4. **Subject:** Transit Passport Program Agreement with Buncombe County.

5. **Action Requested:** Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute an interlocal agreement with Buncombe County for the purpose of providing reduced transit fares for County employees through the Asheville Rides Transit Passport Program for Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027.

6. **Note if time sensitive and why:** Yes, an interlocal agreement is necessary in order to invoice the County on a quarterly basis.

7. **Potential fiscal impact(s) - if known by staff at the time of request:**
    - The County shall be charged $0.52 for each cardholder boarding City transit buses. The County shall be required to pay the City no more than Three Thousand One Hundred Twenty-Five dollars and zero cents ($3,125.00) per year.
    - The revenue helps offset the non-grant funded portion of the operational costs for the City's transit system.

8. **Identify all vendor outreach for Minority & Women Owned Business Enterprises (MWBE).**
    - N/A. This is an agreement between the City of Asheville and Buncombe County.

9. **Identify all Boards, Commissions and Council Committees with tentative dates - add in the vote and recommendation from each Board:** N/A

10. **Identify key issues:**
    - The Asheville Rides Transit Passport Program is an employer-based discount fare program. Employees of businesses/organizations that participate in the program are able to ride ART for free. The City then invoices the business/organization quarterly for the number of employee rides that occurred.
    - Participating organizations include, Biltmore Farms, Biltmore Company, UNCA, Deerfield Retirement Community, Omni Grove Park Inn, New Belgium, and others.
    - The Agreement establishes a cooperative arrangement between the City and the County for the purpose of allowing full-time and part-time employees who hold a County Employee ID Card (cardholders) to ride the City's transit buses an unlimited amount of times for up to a two (2) year period.
    - Because this agreement is intergovernmental, our City Attorney's office has determined that Council authorization is necessary.
    - For the duration of the Agreement, the County shall be charged $0.52 for each cardholder boarding a City transit bus. The County shall be required to pay the City no more than Three

Thousand One Hundred Twenty-Five dollars and zero cents ($3,125.00) per year. This has been the historical arrangement between the City and County for several years.

- The revenue helps offset the non-grant funded portion of the operational costs for the City's transit system.