THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: May 23, 2023

Subject: Expending and disbursing Fiscal Years 2020-21 and 2021-22 Federal Transit Administration Grant funds

Staff Resource(s): Ken Putnam, Transportation Department Director
Jessica Morriss, Transportation Department Assistant Director
Amber Wagner, Transit Planning Manager

Action Requested: Adoption of a (1) resolution authorizing the City Manager to expend and disburse Federal Transit Administration Grants apportioned to the Asheville Urbanized Area for FY 2020-21 and 2021-22 from the Section 5307 Urban Transit Funding, Section 5307 Job Access Reverse Commute, and Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Programs; and to execute all necessary agreements between the City of Asheville and applicable transit Subrecipients for the disbursement of approved funds; and (2) an associated budget amendment, in the amount of $4,705,799 for previously unbudgeted pass through funding.

Background:

- Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant funds are apportioned to the Asheville Urbanized Area (AUZA) annually by the Federal Transit Administration and are disbursed by the City of Asheville, as the Designated Recipient, to the regional transit agencies (Subrecipients), including Buncombe County, Henderson County, Haywood County, etc.
- This action would authorize the expenditure and disbursement of City and Subrecipient transit grant funds for FY 2020-21 and 2021-22 from three annual programs that support existing transit services.
    - *Section 5307 Urban Transit Funds* - these funds are allocated annually to the Asheville Urbanized Area (AUZA) and are split between the City and Subrecipients based on a formula determined by the French Broad River MPO (FBRMPO).
    - *Section 5307 Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC)* - the total amount of funds for this program originates from a 10% set-aside of Section 5307 Urban Transit funds. Each year, agencies must apply to the FBRMPO for JARC Funds. The City typically receives JARC funds to offset some of the cost of the Route 170, and more recently the S3.
    - *Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities* - these funds are allocated annually to the AUZA. Each year, agencies must apply to the FBRMPO for 5310 funds. The City typically applies and receives funds to offset some of the cost of the City's paratransit contract.
- The City Attorney's Office and Purchasing Division have determined that a City Council resolution specifically authorizing the disbursement of funds to each Subrecipient, the amount being disbursed to each, and the execution of agreements, is necessary in order to provide reimbursements to Subrecipients.

The following tables outline the amounts being disbursed to each entity by program for FY 2020-21 and FY 2021-22.

Section 5307 Urban Transit Funds

FY21 Section 5307 Urban Transit Funding	
Subrecipient	**Allocation Amount**
JARC Set-Aside	$343, 962 *includes $32,681 from FY20 rolled over to FY21.
City of Asheville	$1,194,293

FY21 Section 5307 Urban Transit Funding	
Buncombe County	$801,798
Haywood County	$233,648
Henderson County	$571,792
Total	**$3,145,493**

FY22 Section 5307 Urban Transit Funding	
Subrecipient	**Allocation Amount**
JARC Set-Aside	$408,394
City of Asheville	$1,566,884
Buncombe County	$1,051,941
Haywood County	$306,540
Henderson County	$750,179
Total	**$4,083,938**

Section 5307 Job Access Reverse Commute Funds

FY21 Section 5307 JARC Funds			
Subrecipient	**Project**	**Amount Funded (50%)**	**Local Match (50%)**
City of Asheville	Black Mountain Transit Route 170	$303,962	$303,962
Friends of Land of Sky	Recovery to Career Vanpool Program	$40,000	$40,000
	Total	**$343,962**	**$343,962**

FY22 Section 5307 JARC Funds			
Subrecipient	**Project**	**Amount Funded (50%)**	**Local Match (50%)**
City of Asheville	Black Mountain Transit Route 170	$254,720	$254,720
City of Asheville	Additional JARC services (S3 - fixed route)	$153,674	$153,674
	Total	**$408,394**	**$408,394**

Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities

FY21 Section 5310 Funds			
Subrecipient	**Project**	**Amount Funded**	**Local Match (varies)**

FY21 Section 5310 Funds			
City of Asheville	ADA Paratransit	$190,306	$47,577
Buncombe County	SEDTAP	$128,544	$32,136
Council on Aging ARPA 5310	Call-A-Ride and SWS	$30,432	N/A
Madison County ARPA 5310	Expanded transportation to Mars Hill	$23,707	N/A
City of Asheville	Program Administration	$41,443	N/A
	Total	**$414,432**	**$79,713**

FY22 Section 5310 Funds			
Subrecipient	**Project**	**Amount Funded**	**Local Match (varies)**
City of Asheville	ADA Paratransit	$223,741	$55,935
Buncombe County	SEDTAP	$57,720	$14,430
Land of Sky Regional Council	Senior Companion Program	$136,620	$136,620
Buncombe County	RIDE Vouchers Program	$42,482	$42,482
Madison County	Senior Center/Meal Sites Transportation	$33,414	$33,414
City of Asheville	Program Administration	$17,550	N/A
	Total	**$511,527**	**$282,881**

Vendor Outreach Efforts:

- N/A. These funds are apportioned to the Asheville Urbanized Area (AUZA) annually by the Federal Transit Administration and are disbursed by the City of Asheville, as the Designated Recipient, to the regional transit agencies (Subrecipients), including Buncombe County, Henderson County, Haywood County, etc.

Council Goal(s):

- Improve and Expand Core Services

Committee(s):

- N/A

Pro(s):

- This action would authorize the expenditure and disbursement of City and Subrecipient transit grant funds for FY 2020-21 and 2021-22 from three annual programs that support *existing* transit services.
- The authorization will allow the City to process reimbursement requests for the City's Transit Subrecipients.

Con(s):

- None

Fiscal Impact:

- The City's required matching funds are included annually in the Transit Fund operating budget.
- The City's local match for FY 2020-21 and FY 2021-22 Section 5307 Urban Transit funding was previously budgeted; the City's local match for FY 2021-22 JARC and 5310 funds is included in the FY 2023-24 Proposed Budget.
- The City "passes through" funding to each subrecipient and is not responsible for their local match. Some pass through funding was previously budgeted.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to adopt (1) a resolution authorizing the City Manager to expend and disburse Federal Transit Administration Grants apportioned to the Asheville Urbanized Area for FY 2020-21 and 2021-22 from the Section 5307 Urban Transit Funding, Section 5307 Job Access Reverse Commute, and Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Programs; and to execute all necessary agreements between the City of Asheville and applicable transit Subrecipients for the disbursement of approved funds; and (2) an associated budget amendment, in the amount of $4,705,799 for previously unbudgeted pass through funding.

Attachment(s):

- Resolution
- Budget Amendment

RESOLUTION 23- ____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO EXPEND AND DISBURSE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION GRANTS APPORTIONED TO THE ASHEVILLE URBANIZED AREA FOR FY 2021 AND 2022 FROM THE SECTION 5307 URBAN TRANSIT FUNDING, SECTION 5307 JOB ACCESS REVERSE COMMUTE, AND SECTION 5310 ENHANCED MOBILITY OF SENIORS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES PROGRAMS; AND TO EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE AND APPLICABLE TRANSIT SUBRECIPIENTS FOR THE DISBURSEMENT OF APPROVED FUNDS.

WHEREAS, the City has the authority, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 160A-17.1, to apply for and receive grants from other governmental entities and to enter into contracts for the administration of said grants; and

WHEREAS, the City receives annual apportionments from the Federal Transit Administration. These funds are disbursed by the City of Asheville, as the Designated Recipient, to the regional transit agencies (Subrecipients), including Buncombe County, Henderson County, Haywood County, etc.; and

WHEREAS, the City is allocated Section 5307 Urban Transit funds annually for the Asheville Urbanized Area (AUZA) and these funds are split between the City and Subrecipients based on a formula determined by the French Broad River MPO (FBRMPO). The FY 2021 and FY 2022 funding allocations to the City and Subrecipients have been established; and

WHEREAS, each year there is a 10% set-aside of the Section 5307 Urban Transit funds for the Section 5307 Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) program. Each year, agencies must apply to the FBRMPO for JARC Funds; and

WHEREAS, the City is allocated Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities funds annually for the Asheville Urbanized Area (AUZA). Each year, agencies must apply to the FBRMPO for 5310 funds; and

WHEREAS, the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (FBRMPO) holds a competitive annual call for project applications for the 5307 Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) funds and for Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities funds and has awarded the FY 2021 and FY 2022 projects; and

WHEREAS, a resolution authorizing the disbursement of the three annual funding programs to each Subrecipient, the amount being disbursed to each, and the execution of agreements, is necessary in order to provide reimbursements to Subrecipients.

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

The City Council adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to expend and disburse Federal Transit Administration Grants apportioned to the Asheville Urbanized Area for FY 2021 and 2022 from the Section 5307 Urban Transit Funding, Section 5307 Job Access Reverse Commute, and Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Programs; and to execute all necessary agreements between the City of Asheville and applicable transit Subrecipients for the disbursement of approved funds.

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Read, approved and adopted this 23rd day of May, 2023.

_____
City Clerk

_____
Mayor

Approved as to form:

_____
City Attorney

ORDINANCE NO. _____

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

That Section 2 of the City of Asheville Annual Operating Budget Ordinance be amended to provide an appropriation of $4,705,799 to accept and disburse federal transit grants for subrecipients as follows:

TRANSIT MULTI-YEAR FUND

Revenues:

Federal Grants	$3,986,134

Appropriations:

Pass Through Grants	$3,986,134

That this ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon the date of final passage.

Read, approved and adopted this 23rd day of May, 2023.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

_____

City Attorney